



United States
of America

Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 116th CONGRESS, FIRST SESSION

Vol. 165

WASHINGTON, TUESDAY, APRIL 30, 2019

No. 70

House of Representatives

The House met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. PHILLIPS).

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC,
April 30, 2019.

I hereby appoint the Honorable DEAN PHILLIPS to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

NANCY PELOSI,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

MORNING-HOUR DEBATE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 3, 2019, the Chair will now recognize Members from lists submitted by the majority and minority leaders for morning-hour debate.

The Chair will alternate recognition between the parties. All time shall be equally allocated between the parties, and in no event shall debate continue beyond 11:50 a.m. Each Member, other than the majority and minority leaders and the minority whip, shall be limited to 5 minutes.

RECOGNIZING THE CENTER FOR ANIMAL REFERRAL AND EMERGENCY SERVICES AND DR. MARTHA LOW

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. FITZPATRICK) for 5 minutes.

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a veterinary clinic and dedicated doctor in Bucks County, Pennsylvania, both doing their part to protect the health of service dogs in our community.

Service dogs greatly assist members of our community in innumerable

ways, providing companionship, helping individuals with special needs, and serving as therapy dogs.

Recognizing their importance, Dr. Martha Low of the Center for Animal Referral and Emergency Services, also known as CARES, is offering free eye exams to service dogs. These critical exams protect the eyesight of these animals and allow them to work in nursing homes, schools, and other facilities where their services are needed.

I extend my sincerest appreciation to CARES and to Dr. Low. Organized by the American College of Veterinary Ophthalmologists, Dr. Low is one of over 300 doctors who perform this work throughout the United States. We are so grateful for all their work and their service to our community.

RECOGNIZING THE DOMINIC LIPLIS SCHOLARSHIP FUND

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor an extraordinary family and community from Bucks County, Pennsylvania, that is working to make our community a better place.

Earlier this month, Ciarlo Liples threw out the first pitch at the baseball game between Central Bucks West and Pennridge high schools. Ciarlo is the brother of Dominic Liples, an 8-year-old boy who tragically succumbed to brain cancer in 2016.

Ciarlo and his family have since developed a close bond with the CB West team and our entire community. The Liples family has turned their tragedy and grief into strength.

Working with this team, the family helped establish the Dominic Liples Scholarship Fund to award the senior baseball player who represents Dominic's positive attitude and ability.

I applaud the Central Bucks High School West team. We wish them all continued success this season.

I would also like to extend all our gratitude to the Liples family and give Ciarlo and his parents, Ken and Kira, our heartfelt thanks on behalf of everybody in our community.

RECOGNIZING BOWEN'S BARBER SHOP

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a small business in Bucks County, Pennsylvania, for helping kids in our community.

Bowen's Barber Shop in Newtown recently teamed up with the Bucks County Intermediate Unit to give five young men with special needs haircuts for their prom. In addition to their haircuts, these students got the ability to interact and independently communicate with their barber, giving them real-world experience and confidence.

Bowen's has been a longstanding, respected business in Newtown, and I appreciate their contributions to our community.

I thank the owner of Bowen's, Tracey Bowen, for her generosity.

I would also like to extend my gratitude to Merri Kurman and the Bucks County Intermediate Unit transition program for their work in empowering individuals with special needs.

Our community thanks each and every one of these individuals and organizations.

BRING ARTICLES OF IMPEACHMENT AGAINST THE PRESIDENT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas (Mr. GREEN) for 5 minutes.

Mr. GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise because I love my country.

Mr. Speaker, I have in my hand a document styled "Report on the Investigation into Russian Interference in the 2016 Presidential Election," Special Counsel Robert S. Mueller, III.

Mr. Speaker, I rise because this Congress has a date with destiny. Mr. Speaker, the tintinnabulation of history are sounding. The bells of history are reminding us that we have a responsibility to our country that we must take up.

I rise, Mr. Speaker, to announce that I will bring Articles of Impeachment

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



Printed on recycled paper.

H3307

against the President of the United States of America for obstructing a lawful investigation. I do so, Mr. Speaker, because I will not put party above people; I will not put politics above principle; and I will not put this President above the law.

Mr. Speaker, I don't do this because I want to. I do so because I have to. We cannot allow the paralysis of analysis to thwart the obstruction of justice cause that must be brought before the Congress. This is a day that we all must start now to decide what our votes will be because history demands that we all take a stand.

I have not lobbied one person and will not do so. I say to people: Vote your conscience. But if you have read this document, there are a good many people who will conclude that the President has obstructed a lawful investigation.

Mr. Speaker, there are people who cannot say that I was right when I said some 600-plus days ago that the President was engaging in obstruction, and they will not say that I was wrong. But to those people who can't say that I am wrong and will not say that I am right, you know that I kept my word every step of the way, and I am going to keep my word today.

If this House does not bring these Articles of Impeachment before this august body, each Member has the authority and the opportunity to do so. I will not allow history to show that this Congress did not take a vote on the impeachment of a reckless, ruthless, lawless President.

I absolutely believe that we must honor our date with history.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Members are reminded to refrain from engaging in personalities toward the President.

RECOGNIZING RICE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. EMMER) for 5 minutes.

Mr. EMMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Rice Elementary School for being authorized to teach the Primary Years Program as an International Baccalaureate World School.

The International Baccalaureate program takes an interdisciplinary approach, allowing children to learn and collaborate in the classroom. This program provides a unique learning experience to students, expanding their horizons and teaching them about our larger world beyond our own borders.

I congratulate the teachers and administrators at Rice Elementary. I thank them for always going above and beyond for their students and their families.

I am proud to recognize Rice Elementary School as a leader in education in our great State of Minnesota, the Education State, and in Minnesota's Sixth Congressional District.

Congratulations again to the teachers, administrators, and most importantly, the students and their families.

TRIBUTE TO RETIRED CHIEF PETTY OFFICER ALAN DIX

Mr. EMMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor retired Chief Petty Officer Alan Dix from Elk River, Minnesota, for his service to our country.

After serving 24 years in the Navy and being stationed in Iraq, he continues to serve in our community. Chief Petty Officer Dix is responsible for creating the Spirit of Minnesota Tribute Bell.

In partnership with Wells Fargo, Alan and the Minnesota Assistance Council for Veterans led the effort to create the Tribute Bell to thank and honor our servicemembers and veterans for their sacrifices to our great Nation.

Alan currently serves as the chair of the Minnesota Veterans Team Members Network, which is part of the Minnesota Assistance Council for Veterans. The council helps veterans and their families access employment, housing, and legal assistance.

Through this organization, Alan made the Spirit of Minnesota Tribute Bell a reality. The bell embodies the symbolism of respect that our community has toward our military. Because of their courage and valor, we are safer and stronger as a country.

We are thankful for Alan. He reminds us of how important it is to remember and honor those who gave so much to our Nation.

His service and all of his work on behalf of our veterans and their families is greatly appreciated.

RECOGNIZING MITCH EICKHOFF, 2019 SAUK RAPIDS CITIZEN OF THE YEAR

Mr. EMMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mitch Eickhoff for being named the 2019 Sauk Rapids Citizen of the Year. Mitch is a lifelong resident of Sauk Rapids and the Sauk Rapids community. He is also a lifelong public servant.

Through his foundation, FGHC Active, Mitch raises money by organizing 5K runs and other community events for organizations like the Sauk Rapids Fire Department, Tanner's Team Foundation, and Anna Marie's Alliance.

Mitch's charitable efforts also extend well beyond the borders of Minnesota's Sixth Congressional District and the State of Minnesota. Mitch has raised money to support the Burn Violence Survivors—Nepal, which helps with the recovery process for burn victims in South Asia. He has also supported communities in Malawi, Africa, raising money for healthcare, education, and the environment.

Mitch's work to serve people in our community and beyond deserves recognition. Our district and our constituents all benefit from his passion to serve others.

I thank Mitch for making an exceptional impact on our community.

RIGHTEOUS AMONG THE NATIONS RECOGNITION

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California (Mr. PETERS) for 5 minutes.

Mr. PETERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today, a day before Yom HaShoah, or Holocaust Remembrance Day, to recognize the late Cornelis and Wilhelmina de Ru.

In 1940, Nazi forces invaded the Netherlands, and days later, the Dutch were forced to surrender. Throughout the next 5 years, the de Ru family risked everything to save the life of a young Jewish teenager, Maurits Kopuit. He was only one of two survivors in his family.

The de Rus understood the great risk involved in shielding Maurits, yet they displayed unyielding courage in their effort to save a fellow citizen.

During the Holocaust, the Nazis systematically killed 6 million Jews. However, throughout this nightmare, there were a few like the de Rus who refused to allow dark forces to prevail.

This past Sunday, Mr. and Mrs. de Ru were named Righteous Among the Nations for their heroic efforts to protect Mr. Maurits Kopuit from the Nazi regime during World War II.

Righteous Among the Nations is a special designation by Yad Vashem, the World Holocaust Remembrance Center, that conveys the gratitude of the State of Israel and of the Jewish people for those who took risks to save Jews during the Holocaust.

As of January 2018, Yad Vashem had recognized over 26,000 people from 51 different countries with the Righteous Among the Nations designation. Their names appear on the Mount of Remembrance in Jerusalem. It is an unprecedented tribute by victims to those who stood by their sides.

Next week marks the 74th anniversary of the Nazi army's surrender. We must never forget the consequences of remaining silent in the face of evil and intolerance.

Please join me in honoring the de Rus' selfless actions and commemorating all those whose lives were lost.

HONORING THE LIFE OF STAN SMITH

Mr. PETERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the late Stan Smith, an exemplary historian from Rancho Bernardo whose help made the San Diego Veterans History Project possible.

Stan's brother, Charlie, was killed during the invasion of Sicily in 1943 during World War II. This prompted Stan himself to join the U.S. Navy and later prompted his interest in recording veterans' accounts of their service during World War II and the Vietnam war.

Stan began helping my office in 2013 and worked with us for 3 years before going to help the San Diego Veterans Museum.

□ 1015

He recorded more than 100 oral histories of San Diego County veterans in

the 7 years since he began, ensuring that their stories would never be forgotten.

Stan understood the importance of passing history down from one generation to the next and thanking the men and women who, like Stan, served our country.

We are deeply grateful for Stan Smith's commitment to recording veterans' stories. His work has ensured that their stories will never be lost. Please join me in honoring Stan Smith and his children, who plan to carry on the work their father started.

Mr. Speaker, if there are any San Diegans who are interested in becoming involved with the Veterans History Project, I hope they will contact my office.

CONGRATULATING RESMED

Mr. PETERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate ResMed, a medical device company located in my district, for receiving the 2019 Duane Roth Renaissance Award.

Duane Roth was a champion of life sciences and tech entrepreneurship. He was a beloved community leader who defined San Diego's innovation ecosystem and economic diversity.

Every year, the Duane Roth Award is given to a company whose inventions and breakthroughs have improved the world around us. ResMed has combined groundbreaking sleep and respiratory medicine with technology to increase the accessibility and availability of treatment for those with sleep apnea and other chronic diseases. This year, ResMed is recognized for its commitment to improving quality of life, reducing the risk of chronic disease, and increasing access to healthcare.

ResMed exemplifies the innovation and discovery of San Diego, and I am proud to celebrate a San Diego company that has worked tirelessly to better healthcare on this well-deserved honor.

DANIEL DESNOYERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California (Mr. KHANNA) for 5 minutes.

Mr. KHANNA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to tell the sad story of Daniel Desnoyers, who took his own life because he did not have the money to buy the basic drugs that he needed for his mental health issues.

Daniel Desnoyers was a young man who struggled with depression and psychosis, mental health issues that show no physical symptoms but take a deep psychological toll on those whom they afflict.

Daniel did the right thing. He purchased health insurance through the New York health insurance marketplace from Fidelis, a subsidiary of massive international conglomerate Centene Corporation.

In March, Daniel went to the pharmacy to refill his prescription for risperidone, an antipsychotic medication that he needed. He was informed

by the pharmacy that he no longer had health insurance and the 1-month refill would cost him \$250.

Now, to some people, \$250 may not seem like a lot of money, but to Daniel it was. According to a 2018 study by the Federal Reserve, 40 percent of Americans would not be able to cover an unexpected \$400 expense. Daniel, unfortunately, was one of them.

So he did not buy the medicine, and he began to ration his antipsychotic medicine, taking it every other day until he could get his insurance back. He contacted his provider, Fidelis, at the beginning of April when he learned that they had canceled his plan because he missed a \$20 payment.

Fidelis didn't immediately reinstate the plan. Instead, the company informed him that his coverage would not resume until May 1. This meant another month without a refill of his prescription, another month without the medicine Daniel needed to function. His ration of medicine had run out.

On April 9, filled with thoughts of suicide—a listed side effect for antipsychotic drug withdrawal—Daniel superglued his seatbelt shut, posted a farewell message on Facebook, and drove his truck into the river, ending his life.

Daniel Desnoyers died at the age of 29 because he was late paying \$20 to a corporation that pulled in more than \$60 billion in 2018.

Something is deeply wrong in this country where we let a young man die because he cannot afford medicine that he needs and when his insurance is taken away because of a \$20 missed payment. Daniel died because we have a system that puts profits over patients.

A healthcare system that does not guarantee basic care for all people is a healthcare system that is broken. Medicare for All could have prevented Daniel's death, and it could prevent the death of so many others. LLOYD DOGETT's pharmaceutical bill that would hold these pharmaceutical companies accountable could have prevented Daniel's death.

Twenty-eight million Americans are still uninsured, and millions more are saddled with high deductibles and high premium plans which lead them to forgo the care they need. Medicare for All is the plan that will guarantee every American the basic care that they have a right to.

Daniel Desnoyers wasn't a perfect man and he didn't lead a perfect life, but he tried, and our Nation owes it to him and others like him to make sure that they have the medicine they need to live with dignity.

I will continue to fight for Daniel, for his father, for his family, and for all Americans.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair

declares the House in recess until noon today.

Accordingly (at 10 o'clock and 21 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1200

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mrs. LEE of Nevada) at noon.

PRAYER

Reverend Hardy Kim, Sunnyvale Presbyterian Church, Sunnyvale, California, offered the following prayer:

Holy God, we give You thanks for this day filled with vibrant life, proving Your ongoing care for all creation.

We thank You for the Members of this House, for the gifts they bear, the communities they represent, and the varied spiritual journeys that have formed them. Grant each of them understanding of Your divine truth, that they might wisely lead us along paths of righteousness.

Remind us all today to do justice, love kindness, and to walk humbly before You. Moreover, bless the leaders in this diverse gathering. By them, make our Nation one body, ready to do Your will—with eyes to look upon the suffering in compassion, voices to speak love and affirmation to the dehumanized, hands and feet to go out and establish Your peace and justice for all, not just a few.

Offering ourselves and these prayers into Your divine care, we pray.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House her approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentlewoman from Indiana (Mrs. BROOKS) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

WELCOMING REVEREND HARDY KIM

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the gentleman from California (Mr. KHANNA) is recognized for 1 minute.

There was no objection.

Mr. KHANNA. Madam Speaker, I am proud to rise today to introduce today's guest chaplain, the Reverend

Hardy Kim of Sunnyvale Presbyterian Church, which is in my district.

Since 1956, Sunnyvale Presbyterian Church has stood for peace and justice in Silicon Valley. Pastor Kim began his service there 2 years ago, hoping to unite our diverse community and delivering spiritual comfort to the least fortunate.

His work is important for those families struggling to find affordable housing and keep up with the rising cost of living often overlooked in Silicon Valley's soaring wealth.

He also is an immigrant success story. He came here with his parents from South Korea to Detroit and later received a bachelor's degree from Harvard and a law degree from the University of Michigan. After a year as a Presbyterian mission volunteer in Belfast, Northern Ireland, he felt called to church ministry.

I have been honored to participate in dialogues he has led in the community on immigration and gun control. I have learned a lot from him about history. He recently told me that our separation of powers—such an important concept today—is inspired in part by the Presbyterian Church, and that one of my favorite Presidents, Woodrow Wilson, apparently remarked that the highest honor of his life was not being President of the United States, but it was being an elder in the Presbyterian Church.

Pastor Kim has become a reliable and trusted voice in Silicon Valley. I am very proud to introduce him to the House and honored that he would grace us with the opening prayer.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will entertain up to 15 further requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

POWAY SHOOTING

(Mrs. DAVIS of California asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. DAVIS of California. Madam Speaker, on Saturday, as members of our Jewish community in San Diego and all over the world observed the final day of Passover, a 19-year-old chose hate. He stormed into the Chabad of Poway synagogue, shooting at the congregation, leaving beloved community member Lori Gilbert Kaye dead and three more wounded.

The congregation's brave rabbi, Yisroel Goldstein, reflected: "I do not know why I had to witness scenes of a pogrom in San Diego County like the ones my grandparents experienced in Poland. . . . I don't know why I had to see my good friend . . . hunted in her house of worship."

This Thursday, Madam Speaker, is Israel's Yom HaShoah, a day to commemorate the Holocaust and the 6 mil-

lion Jews who were murdered for being Jewish.

We are reminded of the hate, bigotry, and intolerance that we continue to face today, whether it be in San Diego, Sri Lanka, Christchurch, or Pittsburgh.

Hate and violence had no place then and still do not today. We need to say "never again" and act.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF SENATOR RICHARD LUGAR

(Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana. Madam Speaker, today, I rise to honor the life and legacy of a truly great Hoosier who dedicated his life to making the world a better and safer place for generations to come. Senator Richard Lugar passed away over the weekend, with his dear family by his side, at the age of 78.

The Richard G. Lugar Plaza in Indianapolis is just one tribute to the truly great statesman and public servant role model he was to so many people, including to myself. He served our Navy proudly. He was the mayor of Indianapolis and the longest tenured Member of Congress from Indiana.

He worked brilliantly and in a bipartisan fashion not only on security issues but also compassionately on those issues that impacted Americans every day, including food security both at home and around the globe, education for young people, energy independence, and free trade. He skillfully navigated foreign policy matters and earned a Medal of Freedom for successfully convincing the former Soviet Union to dismantle their weapons at the end of the Cold War.

No matter the topic at hand, he always made time for the next generation, to teach and inspire young Hoosiers to serve their country and to remind all of us that we have more in common as Americans than we do differences.

We will miss his wisdom and his gentle smile dearly, but his legacy will endure for generations to come.

CLIMATE CHANGE

(Mr. HIGGINS of New York asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. HIGGINS of New York. Madam Speaker, this week, the House will pass major legislation to reassert America's leadership on climate change.

America's leadership on this issue cannot be more urgent and needed. The current administration has ignored the consensus of scientists and the need to act in a responsible manner.

Nearly 50 years ago on the first Earth Day, tens of millions of Americans demanded change from their government. Later that year, seven major pieces of legislation were signed into law—the Clean Water Act, the Clean Air Act, and the Safe Drinking Water Act—with overwhelming bipartisan support.

Last week was Earth Day, and I saw firsthand that my community of western New York continues to lead to confront this challenge. With students finding ways to reduce the carbon footprint, Re-Tree Western New York celebrated 30,000 new tree plantings, and the Western New York Land Conservancy is preserving green space for generations to come.

Now Congress needs to follow this example and restore America's leadership role on the environment.

MONTH OF THE MILITARY CHILD

(Mr. GREEN of Tennessee asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. GREEN of Tennessee. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Month of the Military Child. I married the daughter of an Army retired combat veteran. She was born just after her father got to Vietnam. My children are, of course, military children.

Several years ago, I was on a friend's Facebook page. He had died fighting for our country in Afghanistan. The last post on his Facebook page read: "I love you and miss you . . . Daddy."

Her dad had signed up to go to war, but she never did.

Who will teach her to dance?

Who will drop her off at college?

Who will walk that young girl down the aisle?

Our military children's sacrifices can never be properly measured and never compensated, but we must do all we can to honor them.

GOODNESS IN ACTION IN TUCSON, ARIZONA

(Mrs. KIRKPATRICK asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. KIRKPATRICK. Madam Speaker, I am standing here today to recognize my southern Arizona community. While in Tucson for the work period, I saw goodness in action. The city of Tucson, the county, Catholic Community Services, and other local churches and nonprofits came together with open arms and hearts to welcome and care for the hundreds of families seeking asylum across our southern border.

With limited resources and fleeting time, southern Arizonans stepped up to provide shelter, transportation, food, clothing, and childcare. City volunteers ran with little children who hadn't played in weeks and weeks.

The families fleeing their birthplace journeyed to the United States for a safer and better life for their children. Their stories are gut-wrenching, and the response I have seen and heard from the Tucson community has been unparalleled.

No walls or cages, I saw goodness in action. We must come together like Tucson to find humane and proactive solutions to help these families.

HONORING LIAM MAGATHAN

(Mr. WATKINS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. WATKINS. Madam Speaker, today, I rise in honor of Liam Magathan of Meriden, Kansas, whom I awarded last week the Silver Congressional Award Medal.

Liam is a student at the University of Kansas. Through years of hard work, dedication, and personal sacrifice, Liam has achieved this prestigious honor.

I want to let Liam know how much I look up to him and how the world would be a better place if more people were like him.

Keep up the good work, my friend. You are bringing pride upon yourself, Kansas, and the United States of America.

MOURNING THE LOSS OF
REVEREND HOWARD HAYWOOD

(Mr. KENNEDY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. KENNEDY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to join Myrtle Baptist Church, the Newton community, and the entire Commonwealth of Massachusetts in mourning the loss of Reverend Howard Haywood.

A little over a year ago, I walked into Myrtle Baptist with my family, and Reverend Haywood welcomed us with a warm embrace that few could match. It was that physical, emotional embrace that countless congregants and visitors will never forget.

With eight generations of his family calling Newton home, the reverend liked to talk about how the city shaped him. If anything, our city stands kinder, stronger, and more just because of him.

A journeyman bricklayer and construction worker for five decades, he literally built Massachusetts into what it is today. Yet he still felt like he had more to offer, so he spent the little free time he found fighting for affordable housing and civil rights for his fellow citizens.

To his wife, Katy; his daughter, Kristen; his son, Howard, Jr.; and the entire Haywood family, please know how grateful we are that you shared this magnificent man with all of us.

□ 1215

RISING FOR LORI SMITH AND
COLORECTAL CANCER SCREENING

(Ms. HOULAHAN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. HOULAHAN. Madam Speaker, today I rise for Lori Smith of Pennsylvania, a member of my community who passed away last month after a very long and hard-fought battle with stage IV colorectal cancer.

When she first received her diagnosis, Lori learned that several of the symp-

toms that she had been experiencing had been there for over a decade. So, Lori stood up. She harnessed the power of social media and advocacy to share her story with the world, to stand up and fight for her life and the lives of all those affected by this insidious disease.

We met with Lori's husband, Kenny, here in Washington to hear of her brave fight and of their tireless work to make sure that other families never have to go through the pain that they went through.

That was March 19. Lori passed away on March 20.

I refuse to let Lori's death and the thousands of cancer-related deaths go unnoticed. I cosponsored H.R. 1570, the Colorectal Cancer Screening Act, which would waive Medicare's cost-sharing requirements for preventive screening of colonoscopies.

I urge the House and the Senate to pass this bipartisan and lifesaving legislation.

As we continue to search for a cure, the greatest tool at our disposal is always early diagnosis. No one in our country should ever have to forego lifesaving screenings.

And to all my fellow Americans battling cancer, I will not stop fighting for you.

STAGGERING COST OF INSULIN

(Mr. RUSH asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. RUSH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to highlight the staggering cost of insulin.

A study published last September estimated that manufacturers could charge between \$7 and \$11 for insulin and still make a profit. In reality, Madam Speaker, the list price today is \$275 a vial.

This is an unconscionable markup on a critical, lifesaving drug, as diabetes is the primary cause of death for 85,000 Americans each and every year.

While insurance covers some of the costs, insulin is, all too often, unaffordable for the 17,000 Medicare beneficiaries in my district who depend on it to survive. That is because it can cost a senior on Medicare living in my hometown over \$1,400 a year to pay for their diabetes medication.

To combat this issue, I introduced the Insulin Access for All Act. My legislation ensures that Medicare and Medicaid recipients pay nothing out of pocket for their insulin.

I urge my colleagues to join with me in reducing the cost of insulin for all Americans.

TEENAGE SUICIDE

(Mr. CÁRDENAS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. CÁRDENAS. Madam Speaker, I have the honor of helping an American

citizen familiarize herself with our United States Capitol—with her United States Capitol. Sophia is here with her eighth grade class from St. Philip The Apostle Catholic School in Pasadena, California.

I felt it important for her to understand that we do listen, so I asked her before I gave this speech: What comes to mind? What issue would you like me to mention?

She thought, and she thought, and she said: Teenage suicide rates are way too high.

You had better believe it, America. They are. And there are many things we can do, both locally and here in Washington, to make sure that we curtail that and make sure that young people don't find themselves in the position to do such a thing to themselves, their family, and their community.

I pledged to Sophia that many of us here in Washington are committed to doing what we can to make sure that suicide rates in general, but specifically suicide rates amongst young people, are curtailed and they hopefully stop and come down to zero soon.

I thank Sophia for visiting us, and I thank her teachers and all of those who brought her here today.

THANKING USO FOR ITS COMMITMENT TO AMERICAN SERVICE-MEMBERS

(Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, the USO is on Capitol Hill today for a service project where volunteers can assemble care packages for servicemembers who are currently deployed.

More than 2,000 care packages will be assembled today as part of the Force Behind the Forces campaign.

The USO strengthens America's military servicemembers by keeping them connected to family, home, and country throughout their service to the Nation.

The USO has more than 200 locations around the globe. It serves 4.9 million Active-Duty Guard, Reserve, and members of their families.

For more than 75 years, the USO has been by the side of America's military servicemembers. From the moment they join, through their assignments and deployments, and as they transition back to their communities, the USO has been there.

The USO has delivered more than 2.6 million care packages since the Care Package Program was established in 2003. In 2018, the USO delivered 120,000 care packages to servicemembers across the globe.

Madam Speaker, I thank the USO for its dedication to our servicemembers and their families. As a military family, as an individual who has visited theaters of war, I see what a difference this makes, and I thank them for their service.

CLIMATE CHANGE

(Ms. DEAN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. DEAN. Madam Speaker, climate change is already exacting a dramatic toll: extreme weather, unprecedented migration, and untold suffering.

Meanwhile, the administration denies basic science, and President Trump wants to pull the United States out of the Paris Agreement.

But the American people—and the world—reject this approach. As Pope Francis has written: “We must regain the conviction that we need one another, that we have a shared responsibility for others and the world, and that being good and decent are worth it.”

When everyone from the Pope to the Pentagon warns us that we are in a crisis, it is clearly time to act.

This week we consider H.R. 9, the Climate Action Now Act. This legislation will keep us in the Paris Agreement, along with more than 180 other countries; require the President to develop real emissions plans; and recommit the United States to global climate leadership.

My eldest son and daughter are expecting a child, and I have a 7-year-old granddaughter. I want them to know clean air and pure water.

I also want them to understand that we did everything we could to protect this wondrous planet for them and for generations to come.

I thank Representative CASTOR for her leadership, and I urge Members to support the bill.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair will postpone further proceedings today on motions to suspend the rules on which a recorded vote or the yeas and nays are ordered, or votes objected to under clause 6 of rule XX.

The House will resume proceedings on postponed questions at a later time.

ENCOURAGING GREATER PUBLIC-PRIVATE SECTOR COLLABORATION TO PROMOTE FINANCIAL LITERACY FOR STUDENTS AND YOUNG ADULTS.

Mr. FOSTER. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the resolution (H. Res. 327) encouraging greater public-private sector collaboration to promote financial literacy for students and young adults, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 327

Whereas personal financial literacy is essential to ensuring that individuals are prepared to make informed decisions about

budgeting, financial planning, wealth accumulation, higher education loans, 529 savings plans, managing credit cards, and managing other debt;

Whereas often young people are ill-equipped to handle major financial decisions in an increasingly complex financial marketplace;

Whereas personal financial management skills begin to develop during childhood;

Whereas, according to the report of the Girl Scout Research Institute entitled “Having it All: Girls and Financial Literacy”, only 12 percent of girls feel very confident about making financial decisions;

Whereas the move away from traditional pensions and toward defined contribution plans requires more financial education, so workers need to be equipped with the financial aptitude to not only save and accumulate assets, but also to turn those assets into lifetime income;

Whereas the Council for Economic Education found that only 22 States require high schools to offer some type of personal finance course and only 17 States require that course for high school graduation;

Whereas a longitudinal research study by the University of Arizona found that high school and college students who have been exposed to ongoing financial education show an increase in financial knowledge;

Whereas the 2015 National Financial Capability Study, developed in consultation with the Department of the Treasury and President’s Advisory Council on Financial Capability, updates key measures from the 2009 National Financial Capability Study of American adults and deepens the exploration of topics that are highly relevant today, including student loans and medical debt;

Whereas the Federal Reserve System offers publications in English and Spanish that provide consumers tips on a broad range of topics, from avoiding mortgage foreclosure scams to managing a checking account;

Whereas a study conducted by Daniel Fernandes, John G. Lynch, Jr., and Richard Netemeyer entitled “Financial Literacy, Financial Education and Downstream Financial Behaviors” found that it “is best to provide assistance just before a decision is made in what is known as ‘just-in-time education’”; and

Whereas on September 6, 2018, the U.S. House of Representatives passed, by a vote of 406 to 4, H.R. 1635, the Empowering Students Through Enhanced Financial Counseling Act, which helps improve financial aid counseling for students receiving a Pell Grant or a Federal loan; Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) emphasizes the importance of raising awareness of individual financial capability by providing relevant information, financial workshops, and other decision-making tools to consumers of all ages;

(2) supports the efforts of Federal financial agencies to partner with organizations that are focused on developing opportunities for minorities and women to place talented young minorities and women in industry internships, summer employment, and full-time positions;

(3) supports the efforts of the Federal financial agencies to provide consumers with relevant information and decision-making tools regarding important financial decisions; and

(4) urges the Department of the Treasury to consult with the Financial Industry Regulatory Authority and implement future national financial capability studies.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. FOSTER) and the gentleman

from Arkansas (Mr. HILL) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Illinois.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. FOSTER. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks on this legislation and to insert extraneous material thereon.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Illinois?

There was no objection.

Mr. FOSTER. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, I rise in support of H. Res. 327, a bipartisan resolution we introduced in April in honor of Financial Literacy Month.

I would like to start by thanking my friend Congressman FRENCH HILL from Arkansas, who should truly be considered as an original cosponsor of this resolution for working on this legislation with me.

The aim of this resolution is simple but important. It encourages collaboration between the public and private sector to promote financial literacy for students. It emphasizes the importance of financial literacy for consumers of all ages, and it supports efforts of Federal agencies to expand financial education resources.

This year alone, approximately 15.1 million students will be in grades 9 through 12 and almost 20 million students will be enrolled in colleges and universities.

That is a lot of young people who will soon be entering a complex financial marketplace where they will have to quickly make important financial decisions. These include decisions about paying for college, credit cards, financing a car or a home purchase, preparing for unexpected emergencies, and saving for retirement.

However, without an understanding of basic financial concepts, these young people will not be well equipped to make these decisions.

At a time when student loan balances stand at \$1.5 trillion and a majority of private workers have access to defined contribution plans and not traditional pension benefits, it is even more important for young people and workers to be financially literate.

Part of the problem is that too few schools incorporate financial education into their curriculum. According to the Council for Economic Education, only a third of States require high school students to take a course in personal finance. In those States, most schools teach the subject as one portion of another course of study—such as math, economics, or social studies—while only five States require a semester-long, standalone personal finance course.

Studies show that financial illiteracy carries significant cost. Consumers who fail to understand the concept of

compound interest spend more on transaction fees, run up bigger debts, and incur higher interest rates on loans.

We also need to work on making financial literacy tools available for everyone. Unfortunately, levels of financial literacy are lower among the less educated minorities and women.

Just 19 percent of high school graduates possess basic financial knowledge and skills. Perhaps even more troubling, according to a survey by the Consumer Federation of America and the Financial Planning Association, 21 percent of respondents, including 38 percent of those with income below \$25,000, reported that winning the lottery was “the most practical strategy for accumulating several hundred thousand dollars for their own retirement.”

This is a tragedy in the making, and we can do better.

While Americans are not expected to manage their own legal cases or medical conditions, they are expected to manage their own finances.

We teach our children to wear seat belts. We teach them to say no to drugs. We should also be teaching them the financial literacy skills that they will need to successfully navigate the financial marketplace.

We want to give young people and all consumers the tools they need to survive. One of the ways in which we can do that is by having Federal agencies partner with schools, local and State governments, workplaces, community organizations, nonprofits, and financial service providers.

Whether it is giving students immersive opportunities to see how money and banking work in the real world or helping train and equip teachers with the curriculum and materials they need to succeed in the classroom, Federal agencies should be bold and innovative in their approaches and leverage the ways in which technology can be used to further these laudable goals.

We cannot afford to have future generations of Americans grow up without learning these fundamental skills. For that reason, I urge all my colleagues to support this resolution.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. HILL of Arkansas. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I thank Madam Speaker for the opportunity to speak on this important resolution, H. Res. 327, and I want to thank my good friend from Illinois, Dr. FOSTER, for his passion on this measure to benefit, particularly, the young people in this country.

Certainly, as the most prominent Ph.D. in the House of Representatives and a pioneering entrepreneur, he knows the value of financial literacy.

And I am proud, as a former community banker and investment manager, somebody who dealt with families, their kids, and older Americans for 30 years in finance, to partner on this very important promotion of financial literacy for students and young adults.

It is wonderful that it is a bipartisan effort by our committee.

And it is truly unfortunate, Madam Speaker, that only 25 States require high school students to take a financial literacy class in order to graduate. As a result, many children and adolescents grow into adults who don't know how to properly save, spend, and budget.

I am proud that Arkansas is one of those 25 States, Madam Speaker, as we enacted our requirement back in 2005. But, going back even further to 1962, Arkansas, through the leadership of Bessie Moore, a remarkable educator in our State, created something called Economics Arkansas, which, every summer, puts on financial literacy training for all of our teachers, K through 12, so that they understand to put financial literacy in all the classrooms.

It was a lot of fun last week when we were in the district to go to Robinson Senior High School in Little Rock and see them compete for the Stock Market Game, which is a major component in financial literacy training, through Economics Arkansas.

□ 1230

So not everyone, every student is as lucky as an Arkansan, because two-thirds of Americans can't pass a financial literacy test, Madam Speaker. Forty-four percent do not have enough savings to cover a \$400 emergency, and 33 percent have not saved for their retirement.

Financial illiteracy has broader economic costs, higher debt, limited savings. For many, this limits their homeownership. This means they don't have a stable retirement. And for many of our young adults, this critical knowledge creates the burden that we have seen in student loan lending in this country where families are not treating higher education debt as seriously as they treat buying that first house.

Why is that, Madam Speaker? It is because of the lack, in my view, of financial literacy at the high school level, at our admissions offices in colleges, and that is why it was terrific, bipartisan, that this time last year in the last Congress, in September, we passed, with over 400 votes in this House, a measure that requires financial literacy training for students seeking a student loan, for students accepting a Pell grant. That is the kind of good work that this House has been doing.

I want to again thank my friend, Mr. FOSTER, for his work. As we close Financial Literacy Month, I can't think of a better topic, and I can't think of a better friend to share that work with.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. FOSTER. Madam Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. DAVID SCOTT).

Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding me this time.

The first thing I want to say is thank you to Mr. FOSTER and thank you to Mr. HILL for providing sterling, bipartisan leadership on this, Madam Speaker, what I feel is one of the most pressing needs facing our Nation today, and that is to equip our young people with the financial education, the financial acumen of navigating what is becoming even a greater, more complex financial system.

Madam Speaker, let me just bring this glaring statistic to drive home this point to you, the Congress, and the American people.

According to the Council for Economic Education, just 17 States out of the 50 States of our great Nation require students to take even one course in personal finance. Just 22 States require high school students to take a course in just basic economics, and then that course is interloped into others and not even in and of itself.

Yet the financial decisions that our young people are asked to make are immense, carrying lifelong consequences to consider in the decision, first of all, of whether to go to college or not, how to go to college, how to pay for it, and how to pay for the increasing costly debt for this college education.

Consider the challenges that can come from balancing a starting or beginning wage against the student loan debt or saving for retirement. Or consider many of the basic kitchen table choices that families must make each and every day to put food on the table, to buy or not to buy an automobile, just the simple electricity bill. They would have to make definite choices.

Consider the advantages that are afforded to consumers who do have access to credit, how important that is. How do you acquire that access, and how do you maintain that access for credit?

We are, indeed, a financial consumer economy, but we are basically a credit-based economy, and our young people must gravitate and be able to grapple with this in a responsible way.

In our increasingly complex financial marketplace, the value of financial education has never been higher. Personal education is badly needed.

To reduce debt, we would look at the debt that so many of our young people start out with year after year even finishing college. How do you manage that? How do you make those choices?

Financial literacy is the key to financial security not just of the individual, because if we don't have financial security for the people of our Nation, we don't have financial security for the future of this great Nation. That is why this is one of the most important issues that this Congress faces today.

I am so proud to join with my Republican friend and my Democratic friend in showing the bipartisan way that we must go to solve this problem and make sure that this generation and every generation coming after them have the best financial education.

Mr. HILL of Arkansas. Madam Speaker, I am prepared to close. I have no other speakers on this important matter.

I just want to continue to thank my colleagues on the other side of the aisle and our lead sponsor, Dr. FOSTER, for his thoughtful elevation of the importance of financial literacy for all of our students and their families.

Madam Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. FOSTER. Madam Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

I would like to again thank my colleague, Congressman HILL, for his assistance in support of this resolution, and I urge my colleagues to join us in supporting this important resolution to show Congress' commitment to ensuring our Nation's students have the essential financial literacy skills they need to thrive and excel in today's economy.

Madam Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. FOSTER) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 327, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the resolution, as amended, was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

NATIONAL SENIOR INVESTOR INITIATIVE ACT OF 2019

Mr. FOSTER. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1876) to create an interdivisional taskforce at the Securities and Exchange Commission for senior investors.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 1876

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "National Senior Investor Initiative Act of 2019" or the "Senior Security Act of 2019".

SEC. 2. SENIOR INVESTOR TASKFORCE.

Section 4 of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (15 U.S.C. 78d) is amended by adding at the end the following:

"(k) SENIOR INVESTOR TASKFORCE.—

"(1) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is established within the Commission the Senior Investor Taskforce (in this subsection referred to as the 'Taskforce').

"(2) DIRECTOR OF THE TASKFORCE.—The head of the Taskforce shall be the Director, who shall—

"(A) report directly to the Chairman; and

"(B) be appointed by the Chairman, in consultation with the Commission, from among individuals—

"(i) currently employed by the Commission or from outside of the Commission; and

"(ii) having experience in advocating for the interests of senior investors.

"(3) STAFFING.—The Chairman shall ensure that—

"(A) the Taskforce is staffed sufficiently to carry out fully the requirements of this subsection; and

"(B) such staff shall include individuals from the Division of Enforcement, Office of Compliance Inspections and Examinations, and Office of Investor Education and Advocacy.

"(4) MINIMIZING DUPLICATION OF EFFORTS.—In organizing and staffing the Taskforce, the Chairman shall take such actions as may be necessary to minimize the duplication of efforts within the divisions and offices described under paragraph (3)(B) and any other divisions, offices, or taskforces of the Commission.

"(5) FUNCTIONS OF THE TASKFORCE.—The Taskforce shall—

"(A) identify challenges that senior investors encounter, including problems associated with financial exploitation and cognitive decline;

"(B) identify areas in which senior investors would benefit from changes in the regulations of the Commission or the rules of self-regulatory organizations;

"(C) coordinate, as appropriate, with other offices within the Commission, other taskforces that may be established within the Commission, self-regulatory organizations, and the Elder Justice Coordinating Council; and

"(D) consult, as appropriate, with State securities and law enforcement authorities, State insurance regulators, and other Federal agencies.

"(6) REPORT.—The Taskforce, in coordination, as appropriate, with the Office of the Investor Advocate and self-regulatory organizations, and in consultation, as appropriate, with State securities and law enforcement authorities, State insurance regulators, and Federal agencies, shall issue a report every 2 years to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs and the Special Committee on Aging of the Senate and the Committee on Financial Services of the House of Representatives, the first of which shall not be issued until after the report described in section 3 of the National Senior Investor Initiative Act of 2019 has been issued and considered by the Taskforce, containing—

"(A) appropriate statistical information and full and substantive analysis;

"(B) a summary of recent trends and innovations that have impacted the investment landscape for senior investors;

"(C) a summary of regulatory initiatives that have concentrated on senior investors and industry practices related to senior investors;

"(D) key observations, best practices, and areas needing improvement, involving senior investors identified during examinations, enforcement actions, and investor education outreach;

"(E) a summary of the most serious issues encountered by senior investors, including issues involving financial products and services;

"(F) an analysis with regard to existing policies and procedures of brokers, dealers, investment advisers, and other market participants related to senior investors and senior investor-related topics and whether these policies and procedures need to be further developed or refined;

"(G) recommendations for such changes to the regulations, guidance, and orders of the Commission and self-regulatory organizations and such legislative actions as may be appropriate to resolve problems encountered by senior investors; and

"(H) any other information, as determined appropriate by the Director of the Taskforce.

"(7) SUNSET.—The Taskforce shall terminate after the end of the 10-year period be-

ginning on the date of the enactment of this subsection, but may be reestablished by the Chairman.

"(8) SENIOR INVESTOR DEFINED.—For purposes of this subsection, the term 'senior investor' means an investor over the age of 65."

SEC. 3. GAO STUDY.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 2 years after the date of enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General of the United States shall submit to Congress and the Senior Investor Taskforce the results of a study of financial exploitation of senior citizens.

(b) CONTENTS.—The study required under subsection (a) shall include information with respect to—

(1) economic costs of the financial exploitation of senior citizens—

(A) associated with losses by victims that were incurred as a result of the financial exploitation of senior citizens;

(B) incurred by State and Federal agencies, law enforcement and investigatory agencies, public benefit programs, public health programs, and other public programs as a result of the financial exploitation of senior citizens;

(C) incurred by the private sector as a result of the financial exploitation of senior citizens; and

(D) any other relevant costs that—

(i) result from the financial exploitation of senior citizens; and

(ii) the Comptroller General determines are necessary and appropriate to include in order to provide Congress and the public with a full and accurate understanding of the economic costs resulting from the financial exploitation of senior citizens in the United States;

(2) frequency of senior financial exploitation and correlated or contributing factors—

(A) information about percentage of senior citizens financially exploited each year; and

(B) information about factors contributing to increased risk of exploitation, including such factors as race, social isolation, income, net worth, religion, region, occupation, education, home-ownership, illness, and loss of spouse; and

(3) policy responses and reporting of senior financial exploitation—

(A) the degree to which financial exploitation of senior citizens unreported to authorities;

(B) the reasons that financial exploitation may be unreported to authorities;

(C) to the extent that suspected elder financial exploitation is currently being reported—

(i) information regarding which Federal, State, and local agencies are receiving reports, including adult protective services, law enforcement, industry, regulators, and professional licensing boards;

(ii) information regarding what information is being collected by such agencies; and

(iii) information regarding the actions that are taken by such agencies upon receipt of the report and any limits on the agencies' ability to prevent exploitation, such as jurisdictional limits, a lack of expertise, resource challenges, or limiting criteria with regard to the types of victims they are permitted to serve;

(D) an analysis of gaps that may exist in empowering Federal, State, and local agencies to prevent senior exploitation or respond effectively to suspected senior financial exploitation; and

(E) an analysis of the legal hurdles that prevent Federal, State, and local agencies from effectively partnering with each other and private professionals to effectively respond to senior financial exploitation.

(c) SENIOR CITIZEN DEFINED.—For purposes of this section, the term “senior citizen” means an individual over the age of 65.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. FOSTER) and the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. HILL) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Illinois.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. FOSTER. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on this legislation and to insert extraneous material thereon.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Illinois?

There was no objection.

Mr. FOSTER. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, I am proud to support H.R. 1876, the Senior Security Act of 2019, a bipartisan bill introduced by Congressman GOTTHEIMER and Congressman HOLLINGSWORTH.

The financial exploitations of senior citizens is a major problem today, and with the aging of the baby boomer generation, it will only get worse in the coming years.

By 2030, one in five persons in the U.S. is projected to be 65 or older. That would equal approximately 75 million people who are senior citizens.

It is also estimated that nearly one in five Americans over the age of 65 have been a victim of financial exploitation. This can take many forms, including being steered towards inappropriate investment, paying unreasonably high fees for financial services, or outright fraud.

Senior citizens are often targeted because they are more likely to suffer from problems of memory and judgment, making them vulnerable to fraud. Exacerbating the issue is that the overwhelming majority of incidents of elder financial exploitation go unreported to authorities.

The Senior Security Act would help combat elder financial abuse by creating a task force in the SEC to identify the challenges that senior investors encounter and areas in which senior investors would benefit from changes to SEC regulations.

The bill also requires that the GAO conduct a study on the financial exploitation of senior citizens. The GAO study would give us an important comprehensive look at this issue, including a breakdown of the economic costs of financial exploitation of senior citizens, answers to how often this happens, why such abuses often go unreported, and factors that contribute to an increased risk of exploitation.

Americans work hard over their lifetime in order to save for retirement and be financially safe and secure when they get older. Unscrupulous people and companies would take advantage of these senior citizens and rob them of

their hard-earned money. Those people and companies should not be able to get away with such egregious behavior.

This bill would allow us to more effectively combat this growing problem. For that reason, I want to thank the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. GOTTHEIMER) and the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. HOLLINGSWORTH) for bringing this bipartisan initiative forward. I urge all Members to vote “yes.”

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. HILL of Arkansas. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, I rise in support, as well, of H.R. 1876, the Senior Security Act, and I want to thank my friends and colleagues, the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. GOTTHEIMER) and the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. HOLLINGSWORTH), for their collaboration and work on this important bipartisan legislation, all focused on protecting our seniors.

Madam Speaker, America's capital markets are open. They are innovative, and they are essential for our families. That is how we live the American Dream. We can grow a nest egg that helps us for our retirement, helps put our kids or grandkids through college, or helps buy a home.

But as Americans age, they become more critical to the success of those open, transparent, and vibrant capital markets because those Americans over 50, Madam Speaker, roughly, have 77 percent of the financial assets in our country.

So when bad actors violate our laws and regulations, commit fraud, or exploit our senior Americans or their families, the integrity of those transparent and open markets and the opportunity of that American Dream are threatened.

To that end, protecting senior investors and preventing such behavior within our financial system is a shared goal. H.R. 1876 protects senior investors and will help the SEC reduce increasing instances of financial exploitation. It will create an interdivisional task force at the SEC to examine and identify challenges facing senior investors.

I have to say, Madam Speaker, over two decades of working in the investment world and working with the SEC and working with FINRA, the regulatory body for broker-dealers and investment advisers, their efforts of sweep exams and the education of the responsibilities of investment advisers are critical.

□ 1245

This will give them more tools to identify what the gaps are today.

I would add, in my career, that gap extends way beyond financial advisers to CPAs, lawyers, people in a position of trust that advise and guide over Americans.

It is shocking for us to report that \$36 billion each year are lost to financial scams in this country and that one

out of five seniors have reported being victims of exploitation.

Many States are taking action on their own. According to the National Conference of State Legislators: “The number of bills introduced by State legislators to combat elder financial exploitation increased by over 57 percent in 3 years.”

So this bipartisan bill is a very important step in generating awareness at the Federal level of the need to strengthen protections for our senior investors.

Madam Speaker, protecting seniors and ensuring the integrity of our capital markets are things that I believe we all stand behind on this House floor. It is our duty to protect our constituents, particularly the most vulnerable, and that is why I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 1876.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. FOSTER. Madam Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. GOTTHEIMER), the co-author of this legislation.

Mr. GOTTHEIMER. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman for allowing me to speak on behalf of this bipartisan legislation. I also want to thank my good friend, Congressman TREY HOLLINGSWORTH, for being a great partner on this important legislation.

Since I took office, I have been committed to helping seniors save their hard-earned money for retirement, to helping them cut their taxes and afford their prescription drugs, and to protecting Social Security and Medicare so that, at the end of the day, they can afford to stay in New Jersey and enjoy their lives with their kids and their grandkids.

Unfortunately, there are millions of seniors across the country who have been the victims of financial scams and abuses that have cheated them out of their rightful retirement and are now putting that all at risk. Here are a few disturbing facts.

According to a report from the Senate Special Committee on Aging, older Americans lose approximately \$3 billion each year to financial scams and abuse.

Scammers claim to be a child or a grandchild on the phone. Thousands pose as IRS agents, others as tech support people and representatives; and then, in the end, they are just going after personal data and bank information.

A separate survey from the Investor Protection Trust found that approximately 7 million Americans have reported being victims of exploitation. They scare and intimidate seniors, and many seniors don't even report it. Only 1 in every 24 cases of elder exploitation actually gets reported.

My mom was even a victim of one of these scammers.

It is appalling. It is offensive. It is unacceptable. Thankfully, we are here today to do something about it.

Today, the House of Representatives is considering our bipartisan legislation, the Senior Security Act, to help

protect vulnerable seniors from predatory scams and financial abuse.

The bipartisan Senior Security Act will help stop financial predators from scamming seniors out of their savings by finding ways to strengthen protections and safeguards for seniors and by creating a senior investor task force at the Securities and Exchange Commission to focus on how seniors are being targeted by fraudsters and to help stop those who seek to take financial advantage of our seniors.

New Jersey's seniors have given us so much. We should always have their backs and help protect them from those who would seek to do them harm and take advantage of them.

Madam Speaker, again, I would like to thank my colleague, Mr. HOLLINGSWORTH, for his commitment to protecting seniors, and I urge my colleagues to support this commonsense, bipartisan legislation.

Mr. HILL of Arkansas. Madam Speaker, I appreciate the work of the sponsor, Mr. GOTTHEIMER, and his important personal testimony about his family and the importance of this bill.

Madam Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. HOLLINGSWORTH), the minority sponsor of this bill and my good friend.

Mr. HOLLINGSWORTH. Madam Speaker, I, too, rise in support of this legislation.

This is not just a Main Street issue. It is an Elm Street issue; it is a Maple Street issue; it is a Broad Street issue. This is an issue that affects our friends; it affects our neighbors; it affects our veterans; it affects our parents and our grandparents. This is something that has gone on far too long.

We have all seen the startling statistics. Over 24,000 cases were reported to the Treasury Department last year alone, more than double just 5 years ago.

We have seen the statistics about how over \$3 billion a year are lost by our senior citizens to scammers and fraudsters.

We have all seen the statistics showing how more than 10,000 baby boomers are retiring each and every year, so this problem will only grow into the future.

I applaud Representative GOTTHEIMER for reaching across the aisle and working on how we stop this problem, how we slow the growth of this problem by setting up a task force at the SEC to specifically focus on how our senior citizens are being targeted, how we can lessen their vulnerabilities.

This is an issue that I am extremely passionate about, not only because of the statistics that are startling and eye-opening, but also because of the Hoosiers who walk through our offices every single day being the victims of these crimes.

We had one a couple of weeks ago who had already wired half of her life savings as a part of a scheme to get a

Nigerian prince into the country. We had somebody last year who had wired over \$8,000 because they believed that their son had been imprisoned in Mexico, wrongfully, and the money was needed to get him out of prison.

They try all sorts of schemes. They try all sorts of ruses. Well, it is time that we come together and try to stop them.

Madam Speaker, I appreciate the work of Representative GOTTHEIMER reaching across the aisle and developing legislation on how we find the best practices to ensure that our senior citizens, our veterans, our friends, our neighbors, our parents, and our grandparents are protected in this very important time.

Mr. HILL of Arkansas. Madam Speaker, I appreciate the gentleman from Indiana's comments. He has been an excellent author.

Again, Madam Speaker, you hear the testimony from both sides of the aisle, from constituents in both these districts, and the importance of this.

Madam Speaker, on behalf of my colleagues, we urge adoption of H.R. 1876, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. FOSTER. Madam Speaker, I yield myself the balance of the time.

Madam Speaker, I want to congratulate, again, Mr. GOTTHEIMER and Mr. HOLLINGSWORTH for having brought this bill to the floor. I urge my colleagues to join us in supporting this important piece of legislation to comprehensively examine and strengthen the protections against financial exploitation of our senior citizens.

Madam Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. FOSTER) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1876.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Mr. FOSTER. Madam Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

SUPPORTING THE PROTECTION OF ELDERS THROUGH FINANCIAL LITERACY

Mr. FOSTER. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 328) supporting the protection of elders through financial literacy.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 328

Whereas in the context of the financial exploitation of the elderly, Federal statute defines "exploitation" as "the fraudulent or

otherwise illegal, unauthorized, or improper act or process of an individual, including a caregiver or fiduciary, that uses the resources of an elder for monetary or personal benefit, profit, or gain, or that results in depriving an elder of rightful access to, or use of, benefits, resources, belongings, or assets" (42 U.S.C. 1397j(8)) ("Elder Financial Exploitation");

Whereas the National Adult Protective Services Association has stated, "Elder abuse is vastly under-reported; only one in 44 cases of financial abuse is ever reported";

Whereas Elder Financial Exploitation is expected to increase in the upcoming years as 10,000 baby boomers are turning 65 each day;

Whereas estimates by the Investor Protection Trust suggest that as many as one of five citizens over the age of 65 are victims of the theft of money, property, identity or belongings;

Whereas according to the National Center on Aging, "Up to 5 million older Americans are abused every year, and the annual loss by victims of financial abuse is estimated to be at least \$36.5 billion.";

Whereas older adults are targeted for Elder Financial Exploitation through schemes such as fraud by trusted family, caregivers, and fiduciaries, and through scams by strangers often committed by international criminal networks;

Whereas common schemes by fraudsters and scammers include, lottery and sweepstakes scams, telemarketing scams, home-repair scams, computer-repair scams, investment scams, internet phishing scams, abuse of fiduciary authority, and identity theft;

Whereas Financial Literacy Month aims to highlight for all Americans the importance of establishing and maintaining healthy financial habits;

Whereas education about healthy financial habits includes the protection of one's finances from financial exploitation, especially for older adults who are vulnerable to targeted frauds and scams;

Whereas to combat this serious financial concern and to protect the elder community, this education must also extend to financial institutions, law enforcement, and regulatory agencies so they may work together to understand and detect these frauds and scams;

Whereas these partnerships include not only Federal agencies, but also State, local, and Tribal authorities such as law enforcement and adult protective services agencies;

Whereas the Financial Crimes Enforcement Network (FinCEN) is vital to the pursuit of these bad actors, collecting suspicious activity report (SAR) information and sharing, as necessary, its data, analysis, and guidance with appropriate public- and private-sector partners focused on detecting and ending Elder Financial Exploitation;

Whereas FinCEN, working with Federal consumer and law enforcement partners engages with financial institutions and State and local authorities to educate on the signs of Elder Financial Exploitation;

Whereas FinCEN, the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau, and the Department of Justice issued in 2017 a joint memorandum to provide information on the use of SARs in the investigation of Elder Financial Exploitation, building on a 2011 Advisory that identified red flags for detection; and

Whereas despite the broad efforts by law enforcement, regulatory agencies, financial institutions, and private sector organizations to educate and share information, Elder Financial Exploitation persists as a multi-billion dollar industry, more can be done: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) supports the goals of Financial Literacy Month to raise public awareness about—

(A) the importance of personal financial education in the United States; and

(B) the serious consequences that may result from a lack of understanding about personal finances;

(2) acknowledges that raising awareness of threats to personal finances, especially for vulnerable, targeted populations like older adults and their relatives and caregivers, is only one party of financial literacy;

(3) understands that to combat Elder Financial Exploitation, it is also necessary to encourage continued education and collaboration among law enforcement, financial institutions, regulatory agencies, and private sector organizations allowing detection, prevention, reporting, and investigation of these crimes;

(4) supports work being done by FinCEN and its partners to educate the stakeholders which serve and protect America's elder community;

(5) urges continued public-private partnership and appropriate information sharing to prevent, detect, report, and investigate Elder Financial Exploitation; and

(6) urges action to assist with remediation and reporting, as well as prevention and detection to have best possible data, feedback, and incident response.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. FOSTER) and the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. HILL) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Illinois.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. FOSTER. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on this legislation and to insert extraneous material thereon.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Illinois?

There was no objection.

Mr. FOSTER. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, I am proud to support H. Res. 328, a resolution introduced by Congressman CASTEN of Illinois and Congressman ROSE of Tennessee.

This bipartisan resolution acknowledges an important component of financial literacy, and it is raising awareness of threats to personal finances, especially for vulnerable targeted populations such as older adults. It also encourages continued public-private partnerships and information sharing to effectively prevent, detect, report, and investigate elder financial exploitation.

As we have heard, the baby boomer generation is getting older; 10,000 of them are turning 65 each day. According to the National Center on Aging, up to 5 million older Americans are abused every year, and the annual loss by victims of financial abuse is estimated to be at least \$36.5 billion. That is why we need to be proactive about combating this serious problem on multiple fronts.

We should work to arm our senior citizens with the knowledge they need

to effectively detect and prevent financial exploitation by would-be criminals. Understanding the red flags and warning signs to look for is important first step.

In addition, we should continue to support efforts by FinCEN and other regulatory and law enforcement agencies to ensure that information at the disposal of these agencies is used to better deter and respond to incidents of elder financial exploitation.

Efforts like H. Res. 328, together with the Senior Security Act of 2019 and the Senior Safe Act of 2018, show Congress' commitment to supporting our Nation's senior citizens on a bipartisan basis. It also shows our commitment to encouraging collaboration, public-private partnerships, and information sharing in order to effectively combat financial exploitation of senior citizens.

Madam Speaker, for these reasons, I want to thank the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. CASTEN) and the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. JOHN W. ROSE) for bringing this bipartisan initiative forward, and I urge all Members to vote "yes."

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. HILL of Arkansas. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, I rise in support of H. Res. 328, Supporting the Protection of Elders Through Financial Literacy. This collaboration by Mr. CASTEN of Illinois and Mr. ROSE of Tennessee is, again, an important bipartisan effort to focus on financial literacy during Financial Literacy Month as well as to call attention to the challenges that we have in making sure that our senior Americans are taken care of and their financial well-being.

According to research conducted by the AARP Public Policy Institute, one in five older Americans is a victim of financial exploitation each year. These victims lose up to \$3 billion annually, or more than \$120,000 per victim, which is more than most Americans have in their entire retirement savings.

Sadly, only 1 in 44 cases is reported. That is the challenge that we have talked about here this afternoon, that we make sure that that reporting is identified so that restitution can be made.

I am proud of the work the Congress did on the Senior Safe Act, legislation that originated in the Financial Services Committee and was ultimately signed into law last year. That legislation took an important step in offering greater financial protection to seniors by encouraging financial institutions, investment advisers, and brokers to report suspected fraud or elder abuse to law enforcement—a good step.

This resolution we are now discussing also complements the fine work of Mr. GOTTHEIMER and Mr. HOLLINGSWORTH for their work on the Senior Security Act.

Prevention is the best solution. More can and should be done to educate sen-

iors and all Americans on healthy financial habits and protection against financial exploitation.

The unfortunate reality is that seniors can be especially vulnerable to financial fraud, as outlined by Mr. GOTTHEIMER and Mr. HOLLINGSWORTH. Even according to the SEC's own report in 2018, "Elder Financial Exploitation," it is attributed to cognitive decline and wealth held by older generations.

We must work together to ensure that bad actors don't take advantage of this population. These crimes range from complex scams to the all-too-common case of someone close to an elderly person tricking them into signing away money that they had saved for retirement. It is this last type of exploitation that is especially troubling.

□ 1300

As I referenced a few minutes ago, people in a position of trust: lawyers, CPAs, financial advisers.

H. Res. 328 highlights the importance of educating the elderly about healthy financial habits that include protecting one's finances from financial exploitation. You can't take it for granted that we know better than to finance a child's entrapment in Mexico or that you are going to help a Nigerian prince. It sounds farfetched. But it happens every single day across this country, and education is the best form of prevention.

I think we can all agree that the status quo is not enough. H. Res. 328 raises much-needed public awareness for the importance of personal financial education for the elderly and highlights the collaboration between banks, law enforcement, and financial advisers to protect older generations.

For those reasons, I congratulate and thank my friends, Representatives CASTEN and ROSE, for their good work.

Madam Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. JOHN W. ROSE), the Republican author of this measure.

Mr. JOHN W. ROSE of Tennessee. Madam Speaker, I rise in support of H. Res. 328.

I applaud my colleague, Mr. CASTEN, for his thoughtful leadership on this initiative.

For too long, the financial exploitation of our seniors has been swept under the rug. It is truly heartbreaking to hear stories of Tennesseans' parents, siblings, and friends being taken advantage of, often by those they trust the most. It is time to equip our friends, families, and neighbors with the knowledge and tools they need to guard against the heartbreak of their hard-earned security and stability being stolen in the golden years of life.

Age brings many of life's most difficult challenges, but financial exploitation should not be one of them. It is incumbent upon us to correct this injustice and encourage the many community partnerships which work to do the same, including the work of our

men and women in law enforcement, various nonprofit organizations, and affiliated regulatory agencies.

Scammers and deceivers hurt good folks across the Sixth District of Tennessee and across America.

My esteemed colleague from Illinois (Mr. CASTEN) and I urge our fellow Members to join us in standing against this despicable injustice plaguing our country.

Mr. FOSTER. Madam Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. CASTEN), the co-author of this legislation.

Mr. CASTEN of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Res. 328.

I thank Representative ROSE for working on this resolution with me in a bipartisan manner, as well as Chair WATERS and her staff for their commitment to seniors and financial literacy.

H. Res. 328 supports the security of seniors through the promotion of financial literacy. This resolution supports the critical public-private partnerships that enable collaboration among law enforcement, financial institutions, and regulatory agencies to expand financial literacy and to detect fraud and scams against seniors.

America's seniors have worked hard to raise families, pay their taxes, protect our country, and build our communities. They have scraped and saved to ensure their financial futures.

Ten thousand baby boomers are turning 65 every day and, by 2030, the number of Americans aged 65 and older will more than double to 71 million, or about 20 percent of the United States population.

These older Americans, who have given so much, are increasingly being targeted for financial exploitation. And in this digital age, with personal information so easily procured, the scams are only getting more complex and harder to detect. We cannot stand by and let our parents and grandparents continue to be ripped off by increasingly savvy con artists.

What would this resolution do?

It would support the goals of Financial Literacy Month to raise public awareness about the importance of personal financial education in the United States;

It would acknowledge that raising awareness of threats to personal finances, especially for populations like older adults and their relatives and caregivers, is only one part of financial literacy;

It would recognize that to combat elder financial exploitation, it is also necessary to encourage continued collaboration among law enforcement, financial institutions, regulatory agencies, and private sector organizations to allow the detection, prevention, reporting, and investigation of those crimes;

It would support work being done by FinCEN, the Financial Crimes Enforcement Network, and its partners to educate the stakeholders that serve and protect America's elder community;

It would urge continued public-private partnership and appropriate information sharing to prevent, detect, report, and investigate elder financial exploitation; and

Finally, it would urge action to assist with remediation and reporting, as well as prevention and detection to have the best possible data, feedback, and incident response.

The path to economic security begins with basic money management. But in an increasingly complex financial landscape, we cannot limit our focus on financial literacy only at the level of individuals and caregivers. We must also include financial institutions, law enforcement, and regulatory agencies so that they can work together to understand and detect these frauds and scams.

Financial exploitation can be devastating. Studies have shown that seniors who suffer from abuse, neglect, or exploitation are three times more likely to die than their counterparts.

Adding to this devastation—and this is painful, but we have to admit it—is the exploitation is often committed by family members, by trusted friends, or by caregivers. Financial abuse often occurs with the implied acknowledgment and/or consent of the elder person and therefore can be much more difficult to detect or to prove.

Employees within the financial services industry may often be the first to detect those changes in the behaviors of customers with whom they have regular contact. That frontline relationship places institutions in a unique position to assist to protect customers, upholding the inherent trust relationship with their clients.

In acknowledging this role, FinCEN issued an advisory to financial institutions on filing suspicious activity reports regarding elder financial exploitation that would provide red flag indicators and instructions on how to report elder financial exploitation through suspicious activity reports.

Timely reporting of suspicious elder financial exploitation activity is critical to engaging entities that may have complementary information on the victim or the perpetrator and may be well positioned to collaborate or investigate.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support H. Res. 328, supporting efforts to combat elder financial exploitation.

Mr. HILL of Arkansas. Madam Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

Madam Speaker, in closing, this has been a good afternoon on a bipartisan basis to talk about the importance of financial literacy. It is something we all try to practice what we preach. We try to encourage a broad sense of partnership between the regulators, our financial services firms, the AARP, our schools, and other people to enhance financial literacy from adolescence to elder years. And I think about what we have heard today on what we are try-

ing to protect our constituents from through education: internet scams, Nigerian princes' schemes, violators from a trusted person.

And then I thought back, just sitting here, Madam Speaker, of my own in-laws, now deceased about 7 years—one with Alzheimer's and one just old-age infirmities—and cleaning up all the sweepstakes applications that they had received and sent money to in those final years of their life.

I thank my friends, led by Dr. FOSTER and others. I congratulate Representative CASTEN and Representative ROSE on this particular measure, H. Res. 328. I urge all of my colleagues to support it, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. FOSTER. Madam Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

Madam Speaker, I want to again congratulate Mr. CASTEN and Mr. ROSE for having brought this resolution to the floor. I urge my colleagues to join us in supporting this important resolution to empower senior citizens and promote public-private partnerships in order to strengthen our enforcement against crimes of financial exploitation, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. FOSTER) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 328.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the yeas have it.

Mr. FOSTER. Madam Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

NOTICE OF INTENTION TO OFFER RESOLUTION RAISING A QUESTION OF THE PRIVILEGES OF THE HOUSE

Mr. GREEN of Tennessee. Madam Speaker, pursuant to clause 2(a)(1) of rule IX, I rise to give notice of my intention to raise a question of the privileges of the House.

The form of the resolution is as follows:

House Resolution 304. Raising a question of the privileges of the House.

Whereas Michael Cohen testified under oath as a witness before the House Committee on Oversight and Reform on February 27, 2019;

Whereas Michael Cohen falsely testified under oath, "I have never asked for, nor would I accept, a pardon from President Trump";

Whereas in truth and fact, attorney for Michael Cohen, Lanny Davis, admitted on March 6, 2019, that Cohen "directed his attorney to explore possibilities of a pardon at one point with Donald J. Trump lawyer Rudy Giuliani as well as other lawyers advising President Trump";

Whereas in truth and fact, attorney for Michael Cohen, Michael Monico, admitted in a March 12, 2019, letter that Cohen's testimony was inaccurate;

Whereas in truth and fact, the ex post representation by Cohen's attorney does not annul Cohen's intentionally false and misleading testimony;

Whereas in truth and fact, Cohen's testimony under oath was delivered in the context of apologizing for all his criminal activities;

Whereas in truth and fact, Cohen's denial of ever seeking a pardon contained no qualifiers about the context of his statement;

Whereas in truth and fact, Cohen's denial of ever seeking a pardon, as uttered under oath in his testimony, was absolute and unequivocal;

Whereas in truth and fact, Cohen testified under oath that he and his lawyers spent hours editing his written statement submitted to the Committee on Oversight and Reform preceding his testimony, which included the written assertion, "I have never asked for, nor would I accept, a pardon from President Trump";

Whereas in truth and fact, Cohen's denial in his written statement of never asking for a Presidential pardon was an unqualified assertion;

Whereas Michael Cohen falsely testified under oath that he "did not want to go to the White House" and he "did not want a role or title in the administration";

Whereas in truth and fact the United States Attorney's Office for the Southern District of New York submitted to Federal court a sentencing memorandum expressing Michael Cohen's desire to work in the White House, explaining: "during and after the campaign, Cohen privately told friends and colleagues, including in seized text messages, that he expected to be given a prominent role and title in the new administration. When that did not materialize, Cohen found a way to monetize his relationship with and access to the President";

Whereas Michael Cohen falsely testified under oath on other factual matters of material significance;

Whereas Michael Cohen's intentionally false testimony was aimed at obscuring the truth and ameliorating the extent of his own personal embarrassment;

Whereas intentionally false testimony to a committee of the House of Representatives harms the integrity of the proceedings of the House;

Whereas it is a Federal crime to provide false information to Congress and the failure to enforce this crime further undermines the integrity of the House; and

Whereas it is the judgment of the House of Representatives that providing a copy of the official transcript of the hearing of the Committee on Oversight and Reform on February 27, 2019, to the Department of Justice would aid the Attorney General's con-

sideration of investigation and potential prosecution of Michael Cohen's criminal conduct: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, that the House of Representatives directs the chair of the Oversight and Reform Committee to submit to the Attorney General an official copy of the transcript of the hearing during which Michael Cohen testified under oath on February 27, 2019.

□ 1315

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under rule IX, a resolution offered from the floor by a Member other than the majority leader or the minority leader as a question of the privileges of the House has immediate precedence only at a time designated by the Chair within 2 legislative days after the resolution is properly noticed.

Pending that designation, the form of the resolution noticed by the gentleman from Tennessee will appear in the RECORD at this point.

The Chair will not, at this point, determine whether the resolution constitutes a question of privilege. That determination will be made at the time designated for consideration of the resolution.

CAPTAIN ROBERT L. MARTIN POST OFFICE

Ms. KELLY of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1449) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 3033 203rd Street in Olympia Fields, Illinois, as the "Captain Robert L. Martin Post Office".

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 1449

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. CAPTAIN ROBERT L. MARTIN POST OFFICE.

(a) DESIGNATION.—The facility of the United States Postal Service located at 3033 203rd Street in Olympia Fields, Illinois, shall be known and designated as the "Captain Robert L. Martin Post Office".

(b) REFERENCES.—Any reference in a law, map, regulation, document, paper, or other record of the United States to the facility referred to in subsection (a) shall be deemed to be a reference to the "Captain Robert L. Martin Post Office".

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from Illinois (Ms. KELLY) and the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. GIBBS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Illinois.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. KELLY of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on this measure.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from Illinois?

There was no objection.

Ms. KELLY of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, I am pleased to join my colleagues in consideration of H.R. 1449, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 3033 203rd Street in Olympia Fields, Illinois, as the Captain Robert L. Martin Post Office.

Captain Robert L. Martin was a true American hero dedicated to serving his country to ensure the continued safety of all Americans.

Robert L. Martin graduated from Iowa State University, where he completed a civilian pilot training program, and joined the Army Air Corps in January 1944. Captain Martin was one of the Tuskegee Airmen during World War II, serving as a combat pilot in the 100th Fighter Squadron of the 332nd Fighter Group.

During his 64th mission, he was shot down over German-occupied territory and safely evaded capture for 5 weeks to return across Allied lines. He left the Army in 1945 with the rank of captain.

His war decorations include the Distinguished Flying Cross, the Air Medal with 6 oak leaf clusters, and the Purple Heart. Martin was also awarded the Congressional Medal in 2007 by President George W. Bush at a ceremony honoring the Tuskegee Airmen.

Having lived in Olympia Fields, Illinois, it would be a tribute to his life's accomplishments to name the post office there as the Captain Robert L. Martin Post Office, bringing a source of pride to the community in honoring a great American hero.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. GIBBS. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I rise today to support H.R. 1449, sponsored by Representative KELLY. H.R. 1449 names a post office in Olympia Fields, Illinois, in honor of Captain Robert L. Martin.

During World War II, Martin joined the Army Air Force and trained at the airfield in Tuskegee, Alabama.

As a member of the famous Tuskegee Airmen, Captain Martin flew over 63 missions. He was attached to the 100th Fighter Squadron, providing air support for Allied bombing runs into Central Europe.

Captain Martin was decorated with a Distinguished Flying Cross, the Air Medal with oak leaf clusters, and the Purple Heart. In 2007, President Bush awarded Captain Martin the Congressional Medal of Honor for his bravery in World War II.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this bill, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. KELLY of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. GIBBS. Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to support this bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from Illinois (Ms. KELLY) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1449.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

HENDERSON VETERANS MEMORIAL POST OFFICE BUILDING

Ms. KELLY of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1198) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 404 South Boulder Highway in Henderson, Nevada, as the "Henderson Veterans Memorial Post Office Building".

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 1198

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. HENDERSON VETERANS MEMORIAL POST OFFICE BUILDING.

(a) DESIGNATION.—The facility of the United States Postal Service located at 404 South Boulder Highway in Henderson, Nevada, shall be known and designated as the "Henderson Veterans Memorial Post Office Building".

(b) REFERENCES.—Any reference in a law, map, regulation, document, paper, or other record of the United States to the facility referred to in subsection (a) shall be deemed to be a reference to the "Henderson Veterans Memorial Post Office Building".

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from Illinois (Ms. KELLY) and the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. GIBBS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Illinois.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. KELLY of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on this measure.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from Illinois?

There was no objection.

Ms. KELLY of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, I am pleased to join my colleagues in consideration of H.R. 1198, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service, located at 404 South Boulder Highway in Henderson, Nevada, as the Henderson Veterans Memorial Post Office Building.

Every day, Americans across this great country rely on more than 2 million brave men and women who have committed their lives to ensuring the comfort and safety of the rest of us by serving in the United States military.

Today, there are more than 18 million veterans who have served in the

armed services. These brave Americans protect the very foundation of this great country. Naming a post office to honor the veterans who have served and sacrificed for us is but a small part of what these brave men and women deserve from the country to whom they have given so much.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. GIBBS. Madam Speaker, I yield myself as much time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, I rise today to support H.R. 1198, which names a post office in Henderson, Nevada, in honor of the city's veterans.

The men and women from Henderson, Nevada—and all veterans—who fought to protect this Nation should be honored. They leave their homes and their families to defend our freedom. Veterans put their lives on the line for the liberties we enjoy. Today, we celebrate and honor the veterans from Henderson, Nevada.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. KELLY of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from Illinois (Ms. KELLY) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1198.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

CONGRESSMAN BILL CARNEY POST OFFICE

Ms. KELLY of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 828) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 25 Route 111 in Smithtown, New York, as the "Congressman Bill Carney Post Office".

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 828

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. CONGRESSMAN BILL CARNEY POST OFFICE.

(a) DESIGNATION.—The facility of the United States Postal Service located at 25 Route 111 in Smithtown, New York, shall be known and designated as the "Congressman Bill Carney Post Office".

(b) REFERENCES.—Any reference in a law, map, regulation, document, paper, or other record of the United States to the facility referred to in subsection (a) shall be deemed to be a reference to the "Congressman Bill Carney Post Office".

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from Illinois (Ms. KELLY) and the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. GIBBS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Illinois.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. KELLY of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on this measure.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from Illinois?

There was no objection.

Ms. KELLY of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, I am pleased to join my colleagues in consideration of H.R. 828, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service, located at 25 Route 111 in Smithtown, New York, as the Congressman Bill Carney Post Office.

Representative Bill Carney was a man truly committed to public service. Before serving as a distinguished Member of this body, Bill not only served the people of Suffolk in their legislature, but also the United States of America as a member of the Army Medical Corps.

Bill Carney was born in Brooklyn, New York, and went on to serve the United States Army Medical Corps after graduating from high school.

After leaving the military, Bill began serving in the Suffolk County legislature before being elected to serve the people of New York's First Congressional District in 1978.

Representative Carney is remembered not only for his contributions to this body, but also for the lighthearted personality, humor, and humility that he brought with him each day he served.

Sadly, Bill Carney died in May of 2017, and he is sorely missed. Naming a post office in Bill's honor in Suffolk County is the least we should do to honor the great career and life of Bill Carney.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. GIBBS. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 828, introduced by the gentleman from New York's First District, Congressman LEE ZELDIN.

H.R. 828 names a postal facility in Smithtown, New York, in honor of the man who represented the First District of New York four decades ago, former Congressman Bill Carney.

Congressman Carney was elected in 1978 to represent Long Island. He served as a Member of this body for four terms, until 1987.

Before coming to Congress, Mr. Carney served in the United States Army Medical Corps. From there, he went on to serve his local government as a member of the Suffolk County legislature. Congressman Carney is remembered as a lighthearted man of the people.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this bill, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. KELLY of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance my time.

Mr. GIBBS. Madam Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from New York (Mr. ZELDIN), my friend.

Mr. ZELDIN. Madam Speaker, today I rise in strong support of H.R. 828, my legislation to honor the life and legacy of former Congressman William Carney by renaming the post office in Smithtown, New York, in his honor.

Congressman Carney was a beloved husband, father, and grandfather, but for our community, for New York's First Congressional District, for our Nation, and for the ideals in which he believed, he was a fighter until the very end.

Even before his life in politics, his commitment to serving his country and community never wavered. After attending Florida State University, Congressman Carney joined the United States Army Medical Corps, where he served from 1961 to 1964.

After leaving the Army and working in the private sector, Congressman Carney was elected to the Suffolk County legislature for 3 years before being elected to the United States House of Representatives to represent the First Congressional District of New York from 1979 to 1987.

He was the first registered Conservative Party member to ever be elected to Congress. He was a relentless fighter for his constituents and the ideals in which he believed, and he had a long list of accomplishments to show for it.

Legislation he introduced and ushered into law designated areas of the Fire Island Seashore as wilderness, ensuring its conservation and protection for generations to come. To this day, Fire Island remains one of Long Island's most iconic landmarks thanks, in part, to his legislation.

Always so very proud of America's servicemembers and having served in the Army himself, Representative Carney was a proud cosponsor of the Korean War Memorial Act, as well as the resolution to recognize the vital role played by members of the National Guard and Reserves in the defense of our Nation.

Mr. Carney will be remembered for his strength, integrity, and commitment to his district and Nation. There is no place he loved more than Long Island, no people he more admired, and there is no doubt there is no place he would rather have his legacy enshrined than in the community that he called home.

Nearly 2 years ago, Congressman Carney lost his final battle. He was suffering from prostate cancer.

He is survived by his wife and childhood sweetheart, Barbara Haverlin; his two daughters, Jackie and Julie; and his four grandchildren. Thank you to each and every one of them for allowing their husband, father, and grandfather to dedicate his life to serving our community.

Madam Speaker, I urge all my colleagues to support this legislation.

□ 1330

Mr. GIBBS. Madam Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. KELLY of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 828, as well as the other two postal-naming bills, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from Illinois (Ms. KELLY) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 828.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Proceedings will resume on questions previously postponed.

Votes will be taken in the following order:

Motions to suspend the rules and:

Pass H.R. 1876; and

Agree to H. Res. 328.

The first electronic vote will be conducted as a 15-minute vote. Pursuant to clause 9 of rule XX, remaining electronic votes will be conducted as 5-minute votes.

NATIONAL SENIOR INVESTOR INITIATIVE ACT OF 2019

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the unfinished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1876) to create an interdivisional taskforce at the Securities and Exchange Commission for senior investors, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. FOSTER) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 392, nays 20, not voting 19, as follows:

[Roll No. 170]

YEAS—392

Adams	Bilirakis	Byrne	Cline	Himes	Murphy
Aderholt	Bishop (GA)	Calvert	Cloud	Holding	Nadler
Aguiar	Bishop (UT)	Carbajal	Clyburn	Hollingsworth	Napolitano
Allen	Blumenauer	Cárdenas	Cohen	Horn, Kendra S.	Neal
Allred	Blunt Rochester	Carson (IN)	Cole	Horsford	Neguse
Amodei	Bonamici	Carter (GA)	Collins (GA)	Houlihan	Newhouse
Arrington	Bost	Carter (TX)	Collins (NY)	Hoyer	Norcross
Axne	Boyle, Brendan	Case	Comer	Hudson	Nunes
Babin	F.	Casten (IL)	Conaway	Huffman	O'Halleran
Bacon	Brady	Castor (FL)	Connolly	Huizenga	Ocasio-Cortez
Baird	Brindisi	Castro (TX)	Cook	Hunter	Olson
Balderson	Brooks (IN)	Chabot	Cooper	Hurd (TX)	Palazzo
Banks	Brown (MD)	Cheney	Correa	Jackson Lee	Pallone
Barr	Brownley (CA)	Chu, Judy	Costa	Jayapal	Palmer
Barragán	Buchanan	Cicilline	Courtney	Jeffries	Panetta
Bass	Bucshon	Cisneros	Cox (CA)	Johnson (GA)	Pappas
Beatty	Budd	Clark (MA)	Craig	Johnson (LA)	Pascarell
Bera	Burgess	Clarke (NY)	Crawford	Johnson (OH)	Payne
Bergman	Bustos	Clay	Crenshaw	Johnson (SD)	Pence
Beyer	Butterfield	Cleaver	Crist	Johnson (TX)	Perlmutter
			Crow	Jordan	Perry
			Cuellar	Joyce (OH)	Peters
			Cummings	Joyce (PA)	Peterson
			Cunningham	Kaptur	Phillips
			Curtis	Katko	Pingree
			Davids (KS)	Keating	Pocan
			Davidson (OH)	Kelly (IL)	Porter
			Davis (CA)	Kelly (MS)	Posey
			Davis, Danny K.	Kelly (PA)	Price (NC)
			Davis, Rodney	Kennedy	Quigley
			Dean	Khanna	Raskin
			DeFazio	Kildee	Reed
			DeGette	Kilmer	Reschenthaler
			DeLauro	Kim	Rice (NY)
			DelBene	Kind	Rice (SC)
			Delgado	King (IA)	Richmond
			Demings	King (NY)	Riggleman
			DeSaulnier	Kinziger	Roby
			DesJarlais	Kirkpatrick	Rodgers (WA)
			Diaz-Balart	Krishnamoorthi	Roe, David P.
			Dingell	Kuster (NH)	Rogers (AL)
			Doggett	Kustoff (TN)	Rogers (KY)
			Doyle, Michael	LaHood	Rose (NY)
			F.	LaMalfa	Rose, John W.
			Duffy	Lamb	Rouda
			Duncan	Lamborn	Rouzer
			Dunn	Langevin	Roybal-Allard
			Emmer	Larsen (WA)	Ruiz
			Escobar	Larson (CT)	Ruppersberger
			Eshoo	Latta	Rush
			Espallat	Lawrence	Rutherford
			Estes	Lawson (FL)	Sánchez
			Evans	Lee (CA)	Sarbanes
			Ferguson	Lee (NV)	Scalise
			Finkenauer	Lesko	Scanlon
			Fitzpatrick	Levin (CA)	Schakowsky
			Fleischmann	Levin (MI)	Schiff
			Fletcher	Lewis	Schneider
			Flores	Lieu, Ted	Schrader
			Foster	Lipinski	Schrier
			Fox (NC)	Loebach	Schweikert
			Frankel	Lofgren	Scott (VA)
			Fudge	Long	Scott, Austin
			Fulcher	Loudermilk	Scott, David
			Gabbard	Lowenthal	Sensenbrenner
			Gallagher	Lowe	Serrano
			Galleo	Lucas	Sewell (AL)
			Garamendi	Luetkemeyer	Shalala
			Garcia (IL)	Luján	Sherman
			Garcia (TX)	Luria	Sherrill
			Gianforte	Lynch	Shimkus
			Gibbs	Malinowski	Slotkin
			Golden	Maloney,	Smith (MO)
			Gomez	Carolyn B.	Smith (NE)
			Gonzalez (OH)	Maloney, Sean	Smith (NJ)
			Gonzalez (TX)	Marchant	Smith (WA)
			Gooden	Marshall	Smucker
			Gottheimer	Mast	Soto
			Granger	Matsui	Spanberger
			Graves (GA)	McAdams	Spano
			Graves (LA)	McBath	Speier
			Graves (MO)	McCarthy	Stanton
			Green (TX)	McCaul	Staubert
			Grijalva	McCollum	Stefanik
			Grothman	McEachin	Steil
			Guest	McGovern	Stevens
			Guthrie	McHenry	Stewart
			Haaland	McKinley	Stivers
			Hagedorn	McNerney	Suozi
			Harder (CA)	Meadows	Swalwell (CA)
			Hartzler	Meng	Takano
			Hayes	Meuser	Taylor
			Heck	Miller	Thompson (CA)
			Herrera Beutler	Mitchell	Thompson (MS)
			Hice (GA)	Moolenaar	Thompson (PA)
			Higgins (LA)	Mooney (WV)	Thornberry
			Higgins (NY)	Morelle	Timmons
			Hill (AR)	Mucarsel-Powell	Tipton
			Hill (CA)	Mullin	Tonko

Torres Small (NM)	Walberg	Wexton	Babin	Duffy	Kinzinger	Rescenthaler	Sherrill	Underwood
Trahan	Walden	Wild	Bacon	Duncan	Kirkpatrick	Rice (NY)	Shimkus	Upton
Trone	Walorski	Williams	Baird	Dunn	Krishnamoorthi	Rice (SC)	Slotkin	Van Drew
Turner	Waltz	Wilson (FL)	Balderson	Emmer	Kuster (NH)	Richmond	Smith (MO)	Vargas
Underwood	Wasserman	Wilson (SC)	Banks	Engel	Kustoff (TN)	Riggleman	Smith (NE)	Veasey
Updon	Schultz	Wittman	Barr	Escobar	LaHood	Roby	Smith (NJ)	Vela
Van Drew	Waters	Womack	Barragán	Eshoo	LaMalfa	Rodgers (WA)	Smith (WA)	Velázquez
Vargas	Watkins	Woodall	Bass	Espaillet	Lamb	Roe, David P.	Smucker	Visclosky
Veasey	Watson Coleman	Wright	Beatty	Estes	Lamborn	Rogers (AL)	Soto	Wagner
Vela	Weber (TX)	Yarmuth	Bera	Evans	Langevin	Rogers (KY)	Spanberger	Walberg
Velázquez	Webster (FL)	Young	Bergman	Ferguson	Larsen (WA)	Rose (NY)	Spano	Walden
Visclosky	Welch	Zeldin	Beyer	Finkenauer	Larson (CT)	Rose, John W.	Speier	Walker
Wagner	Wenstrup		Bilirakis	Fitzpatrick	Latta	Rouda	Stanton	Walorski
	Westerman		Bishop (GA)	Fleischmann	Lawrence	Rouzer	Staubert	Waltz
			Bishop (UT)	Fletcher	Lawson (FL)	Roybal-Allard	Stefanik	Wasserman
			Blumenauer	Flores	Lee (CA)	Ruiz	Stell	Schultz
			Blunt Rochester	Foster	Lee (NV)	Ruppersberger	Steube	Waters
			Bonamici	Fox (NC)	Lesko	Rush	Stevens	Watkins
			Bost	Frankel	Levin (CA)	Rutherford	Stewart	Watson Coleman
			Boyle, Brendan F.	Fudge	Levin (MI)	Sánchez	Stivers	Weber (TX)
			Brady	Fulcher	Lewis	Sarbanes	Suozzi	Webster (FL)
			Brindisi	Gabbard	Lieu, Ted	Scalise	Swalwell (CA)	Welch
			Brooks (AL)	Gaetz	Lipinski	Scanlon	Takano	Wenstrup
			Brooks (IN)	Gallagher	Loeb	Schakowsky	Taylor	Westerman
			Brown (MD)	Gallego	Loeb	Schiff	Thompson (CA)	Wexton
			Brownley (CA)	Garamendi	Long	Schneider	Thompson (MS)	Wild
			Buchanan	Garcia (IL)	Long	Schrader	Thompson (PA)	Williams
			Buck	Garcia (TX)	Lowenthal	Schrier	Thornberry	Wilson (FL)
			Buchson	Gianforte	Lowey	Schweikert	Timmmons	Wilson (SC)
			Budd	Gibbs	Lucas	Scott (VA)	Tipton	Wittman
			Burchett	Gohmert	Luettkemeyer	Scott, Austin	Tlaib	Womack
			Burgess	Golden	Lujan	Scott, David	Tonko	Woodall
			Bustos	Gomez	Luria	Sensenbrenner	Torres Small (NM)	Wright
			Butterfield	Gonzalez (OH)	Lynch	Serrano	Trane	Yarmuth
			Byrne	Gonzalez (TX)	Malinowski	Sewell (AL)	Trahan	Young
			Calvert	Gooden	Maloney, Carolyn B.	Shalala	Turner	Zeldin
			Carbajal	Gottheimer	Maloney, Sean			
			Cárdenas	Granger	Marchant			
			Carson (IN)	Graves (GA)	Marshall	Amash	Gosar	McClintock
			Carter (GA)	Graves (LA)	Mast	Biggs	Massie	Roy
			Carter (TX)	Graves (MO)	Matsui			
			Case	Green (TN)	McAdams			
			Casten (IL)	Green (TX)	McBath			
			Castor (FL)	Griffith	McCarthy			
			Castro (TX)	Grijalva	McCaul			
			Chabot	Grothman	McCollum			
			Cheney	Guest	McEachin			
			Chu, Judy	Guthrie	McGovern			
			Cicilline	Haaland	McHenry			
			Cisneros	Hagedorn	McKinley			
			Clark (MA)	Harder (CA)	McNerney			
			Clarke (NY)	Harris	Meadows			
			Clay	Hartzler	Meng			
			Cleaver	Hayes	Meuser			
			Cline	Heck	Miller			
			Cloud	Hern, Kevin	Mitchell			
			Clyburn	Herrera Beutler	Moolenaar			
			Cohen	Hice (GA)	Mooney (WV)			
			Cole	Higgins (LA)	Moore			
			Collins (GA)	Higgins (NY)	Morelle			
			Collins (NY)	Hill (AR)	Mucarsel-Powell			
			Comer	Hill (CA)	Mullin			
			Conaway	Himes	Murphy			
			Connolly	Holding	Nadler			
			Cook	Hollingsworth	Napolitano			
			Cooper	Horn, Kendra S.	Neal			
			Correa	Horsford	Neguse			
			Costa	Houlihan	Newhouse			
			Courtney	Hoyer	Norcross			
			Cox (CA)	Hudson	Norman			
			Craig	Huffman	Nunes			
			Crawford	Huizenga	O'Halleran			
			Crenshaw	Hunter	Ocasio-Cortez			
			Crist	Hurd (TX)	Olson			
			Crow	Jackson Lee	Omar			
			Cuellar	Jayapal	Palazzo			
			Cummings	Jeffries	Pallone			
			Cunningham	Johnson (GA)	Palmer			
			Curtis	Johnson (LA)	Panetta			
			Davids (KS)	Johnson (OH)	Pappas			
			Davidson (OH)	Johnson (SD)	Pascarell			
			Davis (CA)	Johnson (TX)	Payne			
			Davis, Danny K.	Jordan	Pence			
			Davis, Rodney	Joyce (OH)	Perlmutter			
			Dean	Joyce (PA)	Perry			
			DeFazio	Kaptur	Peters			
			DeGette	Katko	Peterson			
			DeLauro	Keating	Phillips			
			DeBene	Kelly (IL)	Pingree			
			Delgado	Kelly (MS)	Pocan			
			Demings	Kelly (PA)	Porter			
			DeSaulnier	Kennedy	Posey			
			DesJarlais	Khanna	Pressley			
			Diaz-Balart	Kildee	Price (NC)			
			Dingell	Kilmer	Quigley			
			Doggett	Kim	Raskin			
			Doyle, Michael F.	Kind	Ratcliffe			
				King (IA)	Reed			
				King (NY)				

NAYS—20

Amash	Gohmert	McClintock
Armstrong	Gosar	Norman
Biggs	Green (TN)	Ratcliffe
Brooks (AL)	Griffith	Roy
Buck	Harris	Steube
Burchett	Hern, Kevin	Walker
Gaetz	Massie	

NOT VOTING—19

Abraham	Moore	Sires
Cartwright	Moulton	Titus
Deutch	Omar	Tlaib
Engel	Pressley	Torres (CA)
Fortenberry	Rooney (FL)	Yoho
Hastings	Ryan	
Meeks	Simpson	

□ 1359

Messrs. KEVIN HERN of Oklahoma, GAETZ, and NORMAN changed their vote from “yea” to “nay.”

Messrs. CLINE, MAST, and DAVIDSON of Ohio changed their vote from “nay” to “yea.”

So (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

Stated for:

Ms. PRESSLEY. Madam Speaker, I regret that a logistical conflict prevented me from making the vote. Had I been present, I would have voted “yea” on rollcall No. 170.

Ms. TLAIB. Madam Speaker, had I been present, I would have voted “yea” on rollcall No. 170.

SUPPORTING THE PROTECTION OF ELDERS THROUGH FINANCIAL LITERACY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the unfinished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 328) supporting the protection of elders through financial literacy, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. FOSTER) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution.

This is a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 411, nays 6, not voting 14, as follows:

[Roll No. 171]

YEAS—411

Adams	Allen	Armstrong
Aderholt	Allred	Arrington
Aguilar	Amodei	Axne

NAYS—6

Amash	Gosar	McClintock
Biggs	Massie	Roy

NOT VOTING—14

Abraham	Meeks	Sires
Cartwright	Moulton	Titus
Deutch	Rooney (FL)	Torres (CA)
Fortenberry	Ryan	Yoho
Hastings	Simpson	

□ 1409

So (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the resolution was agreed to.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Clerk of the House of Representatives:

OFFICE OF THE CLERK,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, April 30, 2019.

Hon. NANCY PELOSI,
The Speaker, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MADAM SPEAKER: Pursuant to the permission granted in Clause 2(h) of Rule II of the Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives, the Clerk received the following message from the Secretary of the Senate on April 30, 2019, at 11:13 a.m.:

That the Senate agreed to Relative to the death of the Honorable Richard G. Lugar, former United States Senator for the State of Indiana S. Res. 173.

With best wishes, I am
Sincerely,

CHERYL L. JOHNSON.

REQUEST TO CONSIDER H.R. 962, BORN-ALIVE ABORTION SURVIVORS PROTECTION ACT

Mr. HAGEDORN. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on the Judiciary be discharged from further consideration of H.R. 962, the Born-Alive Abortion Survivors Protection Act, legislation to block fourth-trimester abortions, and ask for its immediate consideration in the House.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under guidelines consistently issued by successive Speakers, as recorded in section 956 of the House Rules and Manual, the Chair is constrained not to entertain the request unless it has been cleared by the bipartisan floor and committee leaderships.

Mr. HAGEDORN. Madam Speaker, for the protection of life, I urge that the Speaker immediately schedule this important bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman is not recognized for debate.

ACT TO PROTECT THE UIGHUR COMMUNITY

(Ms. WILD asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. WILD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today for constituents with whom I recently met whose family is one among millions of Uighurs, the ethnic Muslim community from Xinjiang in northwest China being persecuted by the Chinese Government.

My constituents' parents are among the estimated 1 million Uighurs and other Muslims who are currently being held in camps because of their faith and ethnicity. The reports of what is happening to this community—mass targeting, detention, and torture based on faith and origin—echo the darkest chapters in human history.

I am heartened to see that there is bipartisan support for doing something about it. That is why I say to leadership: Move the bipartisan UIGHUR Act and the Uyghur Human Rights Policy Act through committee and to the floor so that we can pass these bills in the House, push the Senate to take them up, and get them signed into law.

Only by acting in moments like this can we truly live up to the pledge “never again.” Let’s stand together and say no to ethnic cleansing on our watch.

□ 1415

TITLE X GAG RULE PUTS LIVES AT RISK

(Mr. PAYNE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in opposition to the Trump administration’s Title X gag rule. The gag rule is a Federal prohibition on

funding for healthcare providers who may refer patients to an abortion.

The Title X gag rule will endanger patients who rely on health clinics that will lose Federal funding. That means women will have less access to cancer screening, reproductive health services, birth control, and health education.

By prohibiting medical caregivers from making decisions in the best interest of patients, the gag rule puts lives at risk. All patients, regardless of geography, income, race, or identity, should be able to access whatever medical care and health information their healthcare provider thinks is relevant.

The Trump administration should not be deciding what a doctor or a nurse or any healthcare giver tells their patients.

UNITY FOR ALL AMERICANS

(Ms. JACKSON LEE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, we have gone through some very difficult times, and I want to call the roll: Tree of Life, Robert Gregory Bowers; Mother Emanuel Church, Dylann Roof; Christchurch, Brenton Harrison Tarrant; just recently, in San Diego, John Earnest; and recently arrested, Mark Steven Domingo.

First of all, I want to thank the FBI and its investigation for stopping Mark Steven Domingo.

I challenge all of us, as colleagues, to begin the debate and discussion on hate, White nationalism, and Nazism, for it is not something that we can allow to seed and grow. We can’t allow someone who wants to attack a White nationalist group that is meeting because of hatred, nor can we allow someone to gun people down in their synagogues or mosques or churches.

America is better than this, and we as Members of Congress need to begin to discuss race, discrimination, Nazism, White nationalism, sexism. We need to discuss it in a way that is even more than legislation.

So I call upon the Nation, I call upon this President to stand up and announce to America that enough is enough and that he stands for the unity of all of us.

ADDRESSING HUMANITARIAN CRISIS IN VENEZUELA

(Mrs. MURPHY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. MURPHY. Mr. Speaker, there is a humanitarian crisis in Venezuela and it is man-made.

My view is simple. The people of Venezuela will not prosper as long as the Maduro regime remains in power. It has proven itself to be cruel, incompetent, and antidemocratic.

Ideally, the regime will go peacefully, but it must go.

The United States cannot be passive. We must stand behind the proud Ven-

ezuelan patriots who have taken to the streets and are struggling to reclaim their country from the regime that is destroying it. We must be ready to support these brave men and women with all elements of American power, always working alongside our partners in Latin America.

The Venezuelan people need to know that we have their backs. If the Maduro regime targets its own citizens with violence, it should be prepared to suffer the consequences.

To the Maduro regime, I say “enough,” “basta.” To the people of Venezuela, I say “be strong,” “fuerza”; “we are with you,” “estamos con ustedes.”

SUPPORTING EFFORTS OF NOAA CORPS

(Mr. CASE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. CASE. Mr. Speaker, today, with my colleagues Mr. YOUNG of Alaska and Mr. HUFFMAN of California, I am proud to introduce the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Commissioned Officer Corps Amendments Act of 2019.

The women and men of the NOAA Corps proudly and professionally operate NOAA’s highly specialized fleet of research and survey ships and aircraft, including the famed Hurricane Hunter aviators. Several of those ships are based in my State of Hawaii and conduct surveys used to manage our fisheries and protected species and study and map the ocean floor.

Like the other uniformed services, the NOAA Corps officers spend most of their careers away from home at sea, in the air, and in remote locations such as Antarctica conducting this important work but are often overlooked in the legislative and administrative process, resulting in a patchwork of statutory authorities, benefits, and obligations of service.

Our bill will help the NOAA Corps improve recruitment, retention, and diversity to attract the best and the brightest commissioned officers and better align this great Corps with the other uniformed services as they continue their great service to NOAA and to our Nation.

I look forward to working with my colleagues to pass this bill and support the efforts of the NOAA Corps.

PARIS AGREEMENT IS FUNDAMENTALLY FLAWED

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. Cox of California). Under the Speaker’s announced policy of January 3, 2019, the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. GOSAR) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. GOSAR. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may

have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the topic of my Special Order.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Arizona?

There was no objection.

Mr. GOSAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to lead a Western Caucus Special Order to voice our vehement opposition to H.R. 9, which aims to prevent President Trump from withdrawing from the fundamentally flawed Paris Agreement.

In 2015, more than 170 countries signed a nonbinding agreement at the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change in Paris. While most countries set a target reduction of carbon emissions below its 2005 level, the Obama administration sought to dramatically reduce the United States' carbon emissions by between 26 and 28 percent below its 2005 level by 2025.

Before I proceed any further, I yield to my good friend, the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. BIGGS). He is a tireless advocate for small businesses in his district, many of whom have been harmed by this type of legislation.

Mr. BIGGS. Mr. Speaker, I thank Mr. GOSAR, and I appreciate his leading the Western Caucus Special Order hour of the day and all that he does, and the members of the Western Caucus, on these issues.

President Obama attempted to implement the Paris Agreement domestically through an executive order he issued in September 2016, but the Paris Agreement was never ratified by the United States Senate as is constitutionally required for a treaty to exist and, therefore, is not a legally binding treaty.

In June 2017, President Trump announced that the U.S. would cease all participation in the 2015 Paris Agreement, which is fully in its power to decide because, again, U.S. involvement is not legally binding. I applauded that decision then; I continue to applaud it now, and this is one of the reasons why.

This Paris accord has little efficacy. It will not save the world. Even if we take at face value the assumption that climate change poses an existential threat to the planet, U.S. compliance with the Paris Agreement, or even a full embrace of a far more expansive Green New Deal, would do little to avert that result.

The U.S. is no longer the primary source of global CO₂ emissions. In fact, between 2005 and 2017, our Nation has reduced CO₂ emissions by 862 million tons, and market forces are increasingly pushing us toward using cleaner and more efficient fuels.

Meanwhile, during roughly the same period, China increased its emissions by 4 billion tons and India by 1.3 billion tons. It is extremely unlikely that either China or India are going to fulfill their requirements within the Paris Agreement.

But even if they and every other country in the world, including the

U.S., were to comply, we would still only succeed in reducing global temperatures by less than one-half of 1 degree Celsius by the year 2100. That is according to the National Center for Atmospheric Research.

Like the Green New Deal, H.R. 9 is nothing more than cynical partisan messaging. I urge everyone in this Chamber to vote "no."

Mr. GOSAR. Mr. Speaker, I thank Representative BIGGS for his comments.

H.R. 9 seeks to mandate implementations of those same technically implausible and unrealistic emissions goals in order to appease extremists. The bill also seeks to prevent Federal funds from being used to withdraw from the flawed Paris Agreement.

Americans for Tax Reform estimates the Paris Agreement will cost the U.S. an estimated 6.5 million jobs by 2040 and reduce our gross domestic product by over \$2.5 trillion.

NERA Consulting estimates those numbers are even higher and that the Paris Agreement will cost the U.S. an estimated 31.6 million jobs by 2040 and reduce our GDP by over \$3 trillion.

In June of 2017, President Trump announced he will withdraw the United States from the Paris Agreement, stating: "The Paris climate accord is simply the latest example of Washington entering into an agreement that disadvantages the United States to the exclusive benefit of other countries, leaving the American workers and taxpayers to absorb the costs in terms of lost jobs, lower wages, shuttering factories, and vastly diminishing economic production."

There are other significant flaws of the Paris Agreement. MIT found the Paris Agreement will only result in a global temperature reduction of 0.2 degrees Celsius by 2100. Under the Paris climate agreement, China and India will actually increase emissions until at least 2030.

The Climate Action Tracker, a group of European research organizations, found that participating parties will not meet their commitments, and those are the goals of the Paris Agreement.

The European Climate Action Network reported that no single country in Europe is performing sufficiently to meet Paris Agreement goals, and those that have been making the most progress on their promises did not make large commitments in the first place.

A recent United Nations Emissions Gap report found all participating countries will have to at least triple their efforts in order to meet the Paris Agreement's basic goals.

Given how unrealistic and illogical the Paris Agreement is, the U.S. should not inflict monumental harm on our economy chasing a white unicorn.

Fortunately, there is an alternative. Members of the Western Caucus support personal responsibility, less government intervention in our daily

lives, and freedom. They defend property rights and believe that private ownership of property is a fundamental right in America. Our vision encourages innovation and less burdensome mandates.

Members of the caucus support local control and believe that stewardship of our environment and natural resources is best accomplished by empowering local stakeholders, not victimizing them.

The people who depend on the land to provide security for their families and communities understand these resources best. States and municipalities are best suited to deal with local issues than the distant, out-of-touch Washington bureaucrats.

The caucus seeks to promote access to our Nation's energy and resource potential while pursuing a truly all-of-the-above energy approach that aims to ensure the U.S. is a global energy leader.

Our vision utilizes the current energy renaissance and the American energy dominant policies currently being implemented by the Trump administration. America's energy renaissance is the backbone of our economy; it is a story of freedom, prosperity, and opportunity.

After decades of reliance on other countries to meet our energy needs, the U.S. Energy Information Administration projects that America will export more energy than it imports starting in 2020. We are no longer dependent on volatile foreign sources produced in Russia and Saudi Arabia.

Recent innovations and technology improvements associated with hydraulic fracturing and horizontal drilling have allowed shale resources previously deemed uneconomical to be developed and the main reason the U.S. was the world's leader in carbon emissions reductions in 2015, 2016, and 2017.

That is right. Fracking, demonized by environmental extremists without justification, has proven to be the best energy solution for our environment.

Abundant oil and natural gas have reduced electricity bills, kept gas prices low, and provided the largest share of U.S. electric power generation in recent years.

The United States is the world's top energy producer, and the American Dream is thriving. Passing H.R. 9 and staying in the Paris Agreement threatens that dream.

This is not a partisan issue. This is about doing what is right for America and about protecting freedom and opportunity for our children and grandchildren. I urge all Members on both sides of the aisle to reject H.R. 9.

Now, with that, I yield to my friend from Utah (Mr. BISHOP). As the Republican leader on the Natural Resources Committee and previously as its chairman, he has been one of the biggest leaders in promoting American energy dominance.

□ 1430

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. Mr. Speaker, I thank Mr. GOSAR for yielding me time. I appreciate this opportunity.

Mr. Speaker, look, I was listening to a lecture the other day about the old Romans, the Roman Empire. The Romans' success in creating their empire was that they were incredibly creative and adaptive. They saw situations that needed to be changed, something new, and they did it.

They had perfected the phalanx approach. They learned from the Greeks how to fight. Yet when they came against the Samnites who were living in the hills, that phalanx approach was totally useless. So what the Romans did is create a way around that, another source, to have a very flexible, highly mobile type of attack force, which they called the Legions. They simply became adaptive to the new situation.

This is where I wish the other side of this body would try to become less dogmatic and more adaptive, to try to find solutions.

Instead of bringing another resolution to the floor that has no chance of passing in the Senate and would be vetoed by the President, we should spend our time trying to come up with creative solutions that would be a win-win-win situation. We can do it. We need to.

It would be nice if the other side of the aisle could also understand what Article I actually means. In the last administration, instead of taking this accord through the normal constitutional process of having it ratified in the Senate and doing it by executive fiat, they have to realize what can be done by executive fiat instead of the constitutional way can be undone by executive fiat.

Rather than now trying to go back to the old document that has questionable efficacy, let us try to move forward.

This is happening all over the place. The State of California has a lot of talk about green talk, yet they have increased their dependence on foreign oil in the last year by 57 percent. That is foreign oil.

We have to do things in a way different than simply talking about it. We had a bunch of hearings in our committee about climate change. We heard from the Hip Hop Caucus. We even heard from people who thought NFL concussions were a problem and needed to be solved somehow through climate change. I don't know how that fit, but it was an interesting day.

Let me try to talk to you instead about something that is in the purview of our government, that can be done and that can be a creative and adaptive solution to this problem of too much carbon in the environment: simply, carbon sequestration.

I would refer you to a guy, a doctor by the name of Williams, who took 1,000 acres of land in Mississippi that had been farmed for 150 years, most of that in cotton. Instead, he turned it into rangeland, grazing rangeland.

He had had no herbicides, no pesticides, no seeding, no artificial fertilizer. The only management technique he used was intensive grazing followed by periods of rest so that the soil, the plant life, could recover. That is the only thing he did.

They tell me that the results after 4 years was simply an increase in the number of foraged species that were there, an increase in the number of native species that were reappearing, and an increase in the general biodiversity of insects and wildlife and everything else.

He told me, in technical talk that I don't understand, that for every 0.6 percent increase in soil C per acre in 1 foot of soil, whatever that means, you can take 35 metric tons of CO₂ out of the atmosphere. That means nothing to me.

What this guy in Mississippi was able to do is come up with a 2.3 percent increase in that soil carbon, I am assuming, which would equate to 140,000 metric tons of CO₂ taken out of the atmosphere. Those numbers also mean nothing to me; I don't know what it means.

What I do understand is that what he was able to do was the equivalent of taking out emissions from 7,600 automobiles every year and sequestering it into his 1,000 acres of ground. That is the equivalent of burning 13,000 tons of coal that he was able to take out of the atmosphere and sequester it into the ground.

Mississippi alone has 10 million acres of land that is farmland of all types. If you were able to use all of that, Mississippi alone could take out of the atmosphere 7 percent of all the emissions that we have and sequester it into their ground in that State simply by itself, which means, if you extend that out mathematically to 150 million acres, the United States could be a net negative emitter. We could be taking more carbon out of the atmosphere and putting it into the ground than we are sending into the atmosphere.

Approximately 5.1, I am told, gigatons of CO₂ emissions are automatically sequestered into the oceans and our terrestrial sinks. If you understand what that means, you are a better man than I am. That is what I have been told. That means, to become net zero, we would only have to have 75 million acres of land being used for carbon sequestration, 75.

In the United States, we have 527 million acres of pasture and rangeland. Twenty-seven percent of the land that we have is in pasture and rangeland. We have 410 million acres, which is 21 percent of all land, in forestry.

Simply by having an aggressive way of grazing, improving grazing and improving the quality of our forests, we can suck carbon out of the atmosphere, which would be far easier and far better than anything in the questionable efficacy of the Paris accord.

You could do it with no cost. You wouldn't have to cost jobs or energy increases. You can do it with virtually no

cost except for the initial cost of buying the livestock to put on the land, which is why it is there.

We could have the benefits of a better watershed, better wildlife, better biodiversity, and economic productivity of our rural lands. All those things are easily within our reach.

We could help solve the food shortage. We could help solve drought resistance in agricultural lands. We could have watershed integrity, which would provide abundant and cleaner water for us all, as well as biodiversity for wildlife.

I was recently in Arkansas, if I can go on with this. The State forestlands, they had 2 pieces that they were working on. One they just let go on so they could see what would happen, let nature run its course. The other they went through with active management by thinning the trees.

What happened in the one that they just left alone? It was crowded. It was dark. There was no sunlight getting to the ground, which was barren of all kinds of foliage.

On the portion that the State managed, where they allowed the sunlight to get to the ground, there was vegetation. There was forage. There was the ability to have food. Wildlife had a habitat they could use.

That has also been replicated in my home State, where on private property, some of my sheep ranchers did the exact same thing. They improved the ground.

Not only have they improved the ground, but they can also now suck more carbon out of the atmosphere into that ground, which you don't do if you just leave it alone.

We had a hearing in our committee one time, and they simply said the idea was that plants need carbon, so you have plant life sucking the carbon out of the atmosphere. It goes down into the root system, which makes the plant healthier, the land healthier, and you are taking carbon out of the atmosphere. That is a wonderful idea.

We had four witnesses. Even the Democratic witnesses were saying that grazing helps us to accomplish this.

One of our good Eastern members said: Well, look, if plant life sucks the carbon out of the atmosphere, why don't we take the cows out, and then you will have more plant life. They won't eat any of it.

Even the Democratic witness said, no, that is not the way it works.

If you allow the plant just to grow, it grows large and sprouts out and hides the ground so that you don't have any kind of new plant life coming on. You take the cows out, and their hooves don't claw up the land as they walk around, so nothing is germinating. All you have is a bunch of dry, dead leaves that are easy bait for wildfires. What you have to do is allow them to eat and then move them off the land.

Can we destroy the land with bad grazing practices? Of course. But if you do it the right way, we can easily solve the problems.

We have two kinds of problems with carbon: one is emissions and the other is concentration, stuff already out there.

If we just do grazing practices and carbon sequestration on the lands that the Federal Government owns now, we can easily not only solve our problem of emissions but take the concentration out and put it back into the ground, where it does good for plant life and expands and grows that.

We have here the resources that we need to solve this problem. What we need to do is free up people to be able to solve this problem by themselves and not insist that the government tell us what to do, when to do it, and how to do it. It doesn't work that way. This can be a win-win situation.

H.R. 9, I am sorry, does not have anybody winning. It has all of us losing. That is why it would be nice to see that there are solutions out there.

All we need to do is be like the old Romans and be a little bit creative and adaptive, find something that works with material we already have. We can do that. There is a better way to go forward than H.R. 9.

H.R. 9 is simply more dogma to try to rehash the past. It doesn't move us forward at all.

Mr. Speaker, I appreciate Mr. GOSAR for having this Special Order here so we can talk about these kinds of issues as well as the costs that would be involved.

Mr. GOSAR. Mr. Speaker, to the Member, to the gentleman, we are also getting another benefit because the catastrophic wildfires that we are seeing out West are a contributor. There is more carbon and pollution that occurs during these catastrophic wildfires in one day than in a year of exhaust from cars.

What we do is we get a benefit there because we have a much more dynamic forest, much more dynamic interfaces. The fires are smaller. They are not as catastrophic, so we don't go further in debt.

This is something that the Natural Resources Committee has been pushing under Mr. BISHOP's watch, and I thank the gentleman. There is plenty of benefit in regard to understanding the natural cycle of plants and trees.

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. Mr. Speaker, the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. GOSAR) is spot-on accurate. I thank him for bringing this up.

Mr. GOSAR. Mr. Speaker, I also want to bring up the point that the Western Caucus was dynamic in going to Houston to see Petra Nova in Texas. It is the only carbon sequestration coal plant in the United States, one of only two in the world.

Basically, what they do is they capture the carbon sequestration and pressurize it into pipes. They pipe it down to their oil fields. Once they frack the oil fields, they take this pressurized carbon and force it into the oil field. What it does is it forces out the rest of the gas and oil with it that is still re-

maining and then solidifies in the ground.

What amazing technology. Once again, going back to the whole application that technology, innovation, the private sector is right there to answer the call.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from California (Mr. LAMALFA). Mr. LAMALFA knows firsthand the negative effects that policies like H.R. 9 can have, given the proposals that have gone into effect in California.

Mr. LAMALFA. Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleague from Arizona, Mr. GOSAR, for hosting this Special Order on this important topic and for his very good work on the Congressional Western Caucus.

As we know, this week, the House will vote on H.R. 9, the Climate Action Now Act. In light of the United States' incredible efforts and achievements in becoming more energy independent and a global leader in energy development and production, we should call it the U.S. Energy Disadvantage Act.

This shortsighted legislation would seek to prevent President Trump from withdrawing from the misguided 2016 Paris Agreement enacted by President Obama. Of course, this agreement was passed without consent from Congress and no economic impact or cost-benefit analysis.

The American people deserve to know what a plan like this is going to cost them. According to several reports, the Paris Agreement could cost the U.S. \$250 billion and 2.7 million jobs by just 2025 and many more jobs over a longer period, and even as much as \$3 trillion by 2040.

Furthermore, this bill is completely one-sided. It received no congressional hearings or feedback from the administration, stakeholders, or outside experts.

Bottom line, this bill would result in an unfair economic playing field against the United States and in favor of all the other countries.

We have already seen the results of this agreement in the city of Paris itself, where protests have erupted over their own gas price increases.

Just like the Green New Deal boondoggle, enacting this legislation would have an almost insignificant effect on decreasing global emissions. Indeed, the United States is already by far the leader in reducing greenhouse gas emissions and has lowered our levels of emissions by 18 percent between 2000 and 2014, leading other major countries and producers.

Why do we need to be in the Paris accord when we are already leading the way? We need to drag the others along in this process and have them do more about their own emissions, such as China, which emits more carbon dioxide than the U.S. and the European Union combined.

Why are they let off the hook in this until the year 2030? Why is India let off the hook until 2030? I guess American consumers and the higher prices they

are paying at the pump, especially Californians at over \$4, would like to know the answer to that question.

It is another attack by the left to undermine the responsible production of energy in America. We don't need to be in the accord to achieve these reductions, as we have already seen these results.

If forced to stay in the Paris climate agreement, the U.S. economy will suffer while achieving no meaningful benefits or reduction in global emissions.

This is like many climate change schemes that are focused on transferring power via taxation and regulation to the government away from the producers of this country.

□ 1445

Are we going to have the power in the hands of elected officials and bureaucrats or the people that innovate better ways of doing things, better forms of energy, and more efficient forms of energy, and have them produced right here in the U.S., including California, which is a leading producer of energy?

Mr. Speaker, I strongly urge my colleagues to reject this measure and any other climate change scheme that hurts our economy and our energy production when we are the innovators of doing things better around the world.

Mr. GOSAR. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Idaho (Mr. FULCHER). With his background in the technology industry, he knows firsthand how businesses in his district and across the country are already innovating and helping to reduce our carbon emissions.

Mr. FULCHER. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to join the members of the Western Caucus for this important Special Order.

Let me start by saying that my home State of Idaho has been a good example of how to utilize renewable energy resources.

According to the Energy Information Administration, in 2017, 82 percent of Idaho's net electricity generation came from renewable energy sources, and 60 percent was supplied by hydroelectric power.

Idaho's use of renewable energy technology came about because we are blessed with bountiful natural resources in our State. But, Mr. Speaker, not every State is blessed with those renewable natural resources and many have to rely on nonrenewable sources of energy.

However, because the Federal Government controls 63 percent of the land in Idaho, many of those resources are not accessible and, all too often, literally go up in smoke.

Sole Federal control of resources inhibits economic growth, harms the environment, and has created numerous obstacles for our citizens due to inadequate management.

H.R. 9 and the Paris Agreement represent a similar obstacle to every State and every district my colleagues represent.

H.R. 9 would reinstate the one-size-fits-all mandates of the Paris Agreement and require the U.S. to drastically change the only ways that we generate electricity.

What has enabled the United States to lead the world in reducing carbon emissions is locally-driven solutions that fit the need of our local citizens, whether it be clean, liquid natural gas in Texas, hydropower in Idaho, or solar facilities in Arizona.

The Paris Agreement is an attack on our national sovereignty and received no congressional input when it was enacted in 2015. In fact, we are one of only 12 countries that signed the agreement that did not include their legislative branch in that adoption process. Mr. Speaker, even China's legislature was consulted in the adoption of the agreement.

The flawed Paris Agreement has committed the United States to getting billions of dollars to the Green Climate Fund while many countries don't contribute at all. All too often, that money ends up in the hands of governments who have no intention of using it to reduce their carbon emissions.

This agreement forces jobs to relocate to areas with the poorest environmental records, like China, which only makes matters worse. Instead of focusing on spending money paying for projects to reduce carbon emissions in other countries, the Democrat majority in this House should focus on the immediate pressures facing this country, like border security and healthcare reform.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to reject this terrible proposal.

Mr. GOSAR. Mr. Speaker, I thank my friend from Idaho for those remarks. You can see where this is going. The right way is not this Paris accord, but through technology and through innovation.

Mr. Speaker, a point that has been brought up multiple times by my colleagues is how the Paris Agreement is a direct violation of our Nation's sovereignty. I could not agree more. Article II, section 2 of the Constitution states that the President "shall have power, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate, to make treaties, provided two-thirds of the Senators present concur."

President Obama took unilateral action when he signed the Paris Agreement back in 2015 and failed to consult Congress. There were no committee hearings leading up to the adoption of the agreement and no vote was held by the Senate, as mandated by our Constitution.

Members on the other side will say that the Paris Agreement does not constitute a treaty. But when the Foreign Affairs Committee held a hearing on this very bill, every witness believed the agreement was a treaty. This included multiple Democratic witnesses.

The practice of avoiding congressional approval was nothing new for the Obama administration when it

came to natural resources and energy policy.

Fortunately, Members will have a chance to correct this unconstitutional action by voting for my amendment that was made in order this week instructing the Senate to take a vote as to whether the Paris Agreement is a treaty or not.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to enter into a colloquy with the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. GRIFFITH), my good friend. He has some background on this information.

Mr. GRIFFITH. Part of what happened was that they danced through a lot of different hoops to try to make sure that they didn't have to have it be a treaty. If they could at least make the argument that it was not a treaty, because they knew they couldn't get Senate confirmation.

And, in fact, the Democrat champion, Senator Pell, who was the chairman at the time of the appropriate committee, actually put in their committee report that should there later be a conference—and they were talking about the original conference that we had entered into, the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, which this is not an extension of—many people say it is, but they had to adopt all new rules and all new aspects, because they knew they couldn't just add this on to the original one.

But Senator Pell says, "The committee notes that a decision by the conference of the parties"—referencing the U.N. commission—"to adopt targets and timetables would have to be submitted to the Senate for its advice and consent before the United States could deposit its instruments of ratification for such an agreement."

Now, the Paris accord, the Paris treaty, ostensibly says that there are targets and timetables. But even the Democrats recognized in 1992 that if you were to put in targets and timetables, you had to have that document submitted to the Senate for its advice and consent. So, a decision by the conference to adopt targets and timetables would have to be submitted to the Senate for its advice and consent before the United States could deposit its instruments of ratification for such an agreement.

Clearly, they anticipated that someday there might be timetables and targets and they wanted to make sure that everybody knew that in 1992, just because we joined that conference, did not mean that we had agreed to later being bound to timetables and targets.

Now, we are doing very well on those timetables and targets without having announced we are leaving. And even if we are not a member of the Paris accord, agreement, treaty, whatever you end up calling it, we are doing very well at reducing our carbon footprint.

The Chinese are producing about twice as much carbon dioxide as we are today. They have the number two economy and we have the number one economy per job, and from a production

standpoint we are doing a lot better. They are not even bound until 2030 under this so-called treaty agreement. But it is very clear that in order to bind us to anything, it had to be approved by the Senate and it has not been approved by the Senate.

So, what we are arguing about, in essence, is merely a political point for the people on the other side of the aisle, because these targets, as they currently exist without ratification from the Senate, are merely suggestions. We are doing what we can in a reasonable way. We need to do more on research so that we can continue to have the jobs and have the wealth and be the number one economic nation and continue to reduce our carbon footprint.

Now, I've got to tell you, I get a little amazed sometimes at some of these folks, because the World Bank decided they weren't going to invest in any more coal-fired power plants—now I know I am going off subject, but let me run. The World Bank decided they weren't going to invest in any more coal-fired power plants. The top ten donors to the World Bank include nine western countries and Japan. So, basically, the west and Japan decided that they were not going to invest in those things. So guess who is investing? You can guess.

Mr. GOSAR. Russia.

Mr. GRIFFITH. It is China. And Russia is probably doing some, too. But China is heavily out there. And they are getting a two-for because the developing world, particularly sub-Saharan Africa, want to have power and energy for their people, because they want their people to not live in the dark and have electricity. They want their people to have jobs. They know that in order to have better jobs, they have got to have electricity in their country across the board, not just in the big cities. They have got to have a source of power, and they have coal. For them, that is their most affordable source.

So what the Chinese are doing, they are basically laughing at us. We are going to agree to these timetables that haven't been ratified by the Senate and these targets, while they get to continue increasing. Even though they are the number two economy in the world, they are going to continue to increase their carbon footprint, and they are going to build coal-fired power plants in sub-Saharan Africa for which they get a lot of goodwill in the foreign affairs and foreign relations department. But wait, there is more.

In many of these cases—I can't say all, but the ones I have read about—they are, for a fee, going to run those coal-fired power plants for the nations that they are building them in. So not only are they going to build goodwill and good relations around the world using coal in contravention of these goals set forth in the Paris accord, but they are going to make a profit at it, as well.

Mr. GOSAR. Absolutely. The one road initiative. They are taking and leveraging resources across the world and, at the same time, being paid for it. And I dare you not keep up with your payments because it rescinds right back to them.

Going back to your first point, the gentleman from Virginia, what you are telling me is that this body will have that opportunity, with my amendment, to get this right, instructing the Senate to take a vote on the Paris accord to actually see if it can become a treaty, would you agree?

Mr. GRIFFITH. Well, your amendment would certainly do that, and I will support that amendment. While I can't support the underlying bill, I can support that amendment because that does make the underlying bill better. If we are going to bind our hands and seal our fate to be the number two or number three or number five economy in the world, instead of being the number one economy in the world, if that is what we are going to do, then there ought to be votes taken down the hall. Men and women in the United States Senate should put their name on the line and say yes or no. The American people then will know who has voted yes and who has voted no. They won't be hiding behind any games or circumstances or procedural maneuvers. Then the American people can use the power that was given to them by our Constitution and an inalienable right granted by God to use the ballot box to make a decision as to whether or not they wanted to be bound, whether or not they wanted to have their economy reduced, and have their children and grandchildren to be lesser than what we have today in our economic wealth.

Mr. GOSAR. So, what you are really telling me is when you have good process, you build good policy, which builds good politics. It is kind of that simple, isn't it?

Mr. GRIFFITH. It is that simple. You shouldn't hide behind games or trickery to say, well, this is not really a treaty that has to go to the Senate because the targets are merely aspirational. If they are merely aspirational, why are we spending billions of dollars on it and why are we participating at all, which I think was the President's point.

Why would we spend billions of dollars to send to countries, some of whom might actually be kleptocracies, and the money is never getting to where it is supposed to go? Why would we spend billions of dollars on something that we know is not going to be effective? Let's spend our billions of dollars on research and find new technologies.

You may have heard me tell the story, because it has been my favorite story the last couple of weeks, but I have a professor at Virginia Tech who has been working on technology to separate coal from rare Earth minerals. But there is a side effect. It also can make poor coal better coal. And they are selling that technology.

Now they are licensing a company in India for two steel mills—steel, for those who don't speak southwest Virginian, steel mills—and they are licensing them to use this technology, so they can take Indian coal and make it better and then reduce their carbon footprint and still produce the steel.

The Indians aren't going to say they are not going to use the coal and we are not going to produce steel. They want what everybody wants. They want a better economy. They want jobs. They want those people in their country—and I understand there are hundreds of millions—who don't have electricity to have electricity in their homes.

Like everybody else, they want clean air and clean water, too. But it is not going to happen by an edict of the Paris accord. It is going to happen by research that makes sense and that economically says you can have the steel to build new factories, to build new cities, to build new things in your country to make your country better, wherever you are: sub-Saharan Africa, Asia, Europe, America, South America, North America, wherever you are. But you can do it better and you can do it cleaner and you can do it where it is cost effective. That is what we have to focus on, not arbitrary, capricious goals set with different countries having different standards. As an American, as U.S. citizens, we have a higher target, and there is no target for the Chinese.

□ 1500

Mr. GOSAR. The gentleman brings up that when we look at coal, the separation of rare earths, that is the technology that is so important. This is the technology that is driving this renaissance of technology in our country, that plethora of energy where we can geopolitically decide to help other countries become more independent, away from China's and from Russia's jurisdiction.

The entrepreneurial spirit is bred with having energy independence. This H.R. 9 kills jobs.

I also want to bring up to the gentleman, with technology, there is another technology at the same time that takes up pulverized coal and infuses it into oil. When they burn it, they get a 50 percent additional Btu factor and a cleaner burning application, once again reducing the carbon footprint.

Once again, talking about new technologies is what saves us. It is that entrepreneurial spirit making things better. The infusion of new technology helps us get an advancement of cleaner technology.

Mr. GRIFFITH. Mr. Speaker, what is exciting for the American people, what is exciting for me, I would say to the gentleman, is that we have just mentioned a couple of areas where technology is working, making things better, and reducing our carbon footprint. In our universities and our think tanks across the country, there are hundreds

and thousands of ideas percolating out there that can help us move forward.

You may not agree with me on this, but I think we can spend more money from the Federal Government on research to find better ways to use fossil fuels. Wave energy, wind, solar, whatever it is, we need to be leading on the research end of this.

If we think we are going to eliminate fossil fuels, Mr. Speaker, we are mistaken, because the world is going to continue to use fossil fuels. If you say to a developing economy that they have to rely on wind, they are going to know that you are full of hot wind.

Mr. GOSAR. That is right.

Mr. GRIFFITH. If you say to them, however, that we are going to try to do all of the above, so we are going to help you burn the coal you have; we are going to help you find the fuels that work for you, but we want to try to help you do it in a cleaner fashion; and we want to make that coal a little bit better, to make that oil a little bit better, to make it burn hotter, to make it burn more efficiently, that is how you lower your carbon footprint.

I like what the gentleman from Utah had to talk about in grazing on our Federal lands. If we started using different techniques, we can absorb a lot of carbon. We should probably spend some research money to find out if those crops and those plants that can be utilized to suck up more carbon can maybe produce other products as well.

These are things that we need to do, instead of saying we are not going to use any of this in the future because we might do that to the detriment of our jobs here in the United States. We are going to shift those jobs to other countries where they will use dirtier coal, dirtier oil, dirtier techniques for burning fossil fuels to produce the products that we then buy back, making them the richer nations in the world and we the lesser.

When I am on my deathbed, I want to be able to look my kids in the eye—hopefully, I will have grandkids some day—and say: You know what? We kept the United States of America number one in the economic situation, and we looked out for the planet at the same time.

It can be done, but it can't be done if all you say is, no, we are not going to look at fossil fuels.

Mr. GOSAR. The gentleman brings up a great point, along with the former chairman of the Natural Resources Committee, not only in the grazing application but in the stewardship of our natural resources called our forests, dynamic forests. Instead of being victims of these catastrophic wildfires that put so much of the emissions and pollution into the air, we then relegate it, so when we do have fires, it is relegated to low-level type fires that are not as devastating and catastrophic.

I want to bring up one other point. Included in the Paris Agreement was the creation of a slush fund called the Green Climate Fund, which the Obama

administration unconstitutionally utilized to shift \$1 billion in taxpayer funds without authorization from Congress. Once again, we were imposed upon by having the money, Uncle Sam Warbucks.

The Green Climate Fund was a goal of raising \$100 billion a year through voluntary contributions from countries that signed the Paris Agreement. While developed countries are expected to finance their respective agreements under the Paris Agreement, the Green Climate Fund aims to subsidize the agreements of developing countries that cannot afford the commitments they made when signing the Paris Agreement.

In fact, since the United States ratified the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change in 1992, the United States has given hundreds of millions of dollars to developing countries to help them mitigate climate change. Amazing.

We know that much of the money we have given over the years has gone to some of the most corrupt countries in the world. My question is, how can we rely on these countries to spend the money properly? When you look, for example, in 2014, the top recipients for climate funds all received failing grades in Transparency International's Corruption Perceptions Index. Amazing.

What has been the return on investment for the money that we were giving to these countries? It is nice to be able to fund this, but what are the results? What are we getting from that?

Mr. GRIFFITH. If the gentleman would tell me.

Mr. GOSAR. The facts are that carbon emissions from the developing countries have gone up. We know that much of the money was not used to reduce carbon emissions.

Once again, we are not solving it.

It is clear that H.R. 9, that is what it will do. It will put the country back on the road to job losses, higher electric bills, and more government regulations while wasting significant amounts of taxpayer money in the process.

We become victims in this economy. We should be leading the way. Freedom comes with technology and opportunity, and that is what the American people want.

This is something where we should show the way by leadership, by saying: Listen, follow us by the way that we do things.

That seems like a better approach, doesn't it, to the gentleman from Virginia?

Mr. GRIFFITH. Mr. Speaker, it absolutely is a better approach. It really does bother me that we are just handing cash over to these countries.

As you said, they don't have transparency. Some of them are known to have corrupt governments, which means that at least a portion of that money is probably ending up in the pockets of the rulers' friends, neighbors, and cousins.

If we are going to spend the money, let's go in and spend the money on something that will make a difference for the folks in those countries.

I am not saying as the richest nation in the world that we don't have a responsibility, but let's make sure that we don't cripple ourselves in the process. Let's make sure that if we are going to spend the money, which I am okay with spending some of it, that we make sure it is going to projects that will improve the environment in those countries and help lower the carbon footprint in those respective nations.

They are not going to sit back and have their people be impoverished just because a group of Western nations got together or a group of nations got together that already have some money and said: You stop using fossil fuels so that the world won't get warmer.

They may be concerned about that, and I think they probably are, but they are not going to impoverish their people to target 1.5 degrees centigrade.

If we can show them a way to get more wealth for their people, to bring electricity to all regions of their countries, and to lower their carbon footprint, they are all in. That is where we can lead.

We don't have to spend money by just handing cash to potentates around the world. We can spend that money on research right here in our own colleges, in our own universities, in our own think tanks with people. Some of them will fail, but some of them will come up with new technology. Like when looking for a way to separate rare earth from coal and they figure out a way to lower the carbon footprint at steel mills in India, those kinds of things happen when you are looking for answers to problems instead of looking for problems.

Mr. GOSAR. Right, the carrot versus the whip. What you are looking at is the opportunity for solutions, that incentivization to find a new opportunity. I think that is the value. We are protecting 6.5 million jobs here.

It scraps the unconstitutional application of the treaty, and it ensures safe, reliable, affordable energy.

Everybody has to have energy. When we start looking at this Paris accord, it is accomplished in so many different ways that H.R. 9 is not something that is a valid or constitutional agreement.

Mr. GRIFFITH. Mr. Speaker, I agree with the gentleman.

Mr. GOSAR. Having said that, the Paris Agreement may have been their most egregious breach of constitutional authority. Many Members on the other side have stated in the past that President Trump does not have the authority to unilaterally withdraw the United States without the consent of Congress.

By virtue of the executive's role as the sole organ of the government charged with making official communications with foreign states, it is responsible for communicating the United States' intention to withdraw

from international agreements and political commitments.

In the case of this executive agreement, President Obama had independent authority to enter into an executive agreement. President Trump may also independently terminate the agreement without congressional approval.

In addition to there being no congressional input on the agreement, there was no congressional input when drafting the agreement. This is not the way an agreement as wide-reaching as the Paris Agreement should have been agreed upon.

Passage of H.R. 9 will bring us back to the foreign policy of President Obama and the practice of putting other countries' interests above our own. This is the same foreign policy that brought us Benghazi, the rise of ISIS, and the disastrous Iran nuclear agreement.

President Trump's promise to withdraw the United States from the Paris Agreement marked a dramatic change in America's foreign policy—for the better, I might add. The Paris Agreement fails to put America first, and President Trump is right to withdraw us from this sovereignty-sacrificing agreement.

Mr. Speaker, the facts are becoming clearer about the realities and failures of the Paris climate agreement.

First of all, let's talk about the good news. The United States reduced its carbon emissions by 40 million metric tons in 2017. Yes, our emissions did rise slightly in 2018 due to increased domestic manufacturing, but the U.S. Energy Information Administration projects that our carbon emissions will continue to fall in 2019 and 2020.

Now for some bad news. The United States' reductions in carbon emissions are totally erased when you account for China's dramatic increase in carbon emissions. Several speakers have talked about that. In fact, China's increase in emissions is three times larger than the U.S.'s decrease in emissions.

Mr. Speaker, this highlights two of the fundamental failures in the framework of the Paris Agreement, which is the fact that there are no mechanisms in place to hold countries accountable for not reaching their emissions reduction targets, and there are no requirements or required countries to establish equitable emissions reductions over the same period.

It is not just China, either. India, for example, saw its emissions rise 4.8 percent in 2017. Forty-seven of the 50 most polluted cities in the world are located in either China or in India.

Well, you may say, let's look to Europe. They are probably on the forefront of following the standards set forth in the agreement.

People would think that, but that would be wrong, as all EU countries are off-target in reaching the goals set forth by the Paris Agreement. Germany, for example, has spent almost

\$600 billion in renewable energy subsidies and has seen no meaningful decrease in carbon emissions.

Mr. Speaker, the United States was already a leader in reducing carbon emissions before the Paris Agreement was signed. Since 1970, the United States has reduced six key air pollutants by 73 percent and has seen the largest absolute reduction of CO₂ of any country in the world since 2000.

Instead of focusing on bringing us back to the past, we should focus on encouraging innovations that we are already seeing in the energy sector today. Whether it be carbon capture technology, clean coal, or taking advantage of the liquid natural gas revolution that is taking place across the country, the private sector is leading the way in creating a cleaner energy future for this country.

That is the way it should be, not through a heavy-handed government imposing unrealistic, top-down mandates.

Requiring the U.S. to follow the requirements of the Paris Agreement will stifle innovations and return us to the policies of the past when energy was more expensive and economic growth was abysmal.

It appears that I am running out of time, so what I will do is implore my folks to, first, relook at this.

I thank all the Western Caucus members who contributed to the Special Order. It is truly a privilege to be chair of the caucus, which is now 74 bipartisan members strong.

Mr. Speaker, we will continue to lead the fight against the extreme agenda, which is why we organized the Special Order in opposition to H.R. 9.

□ 1515

Mr. Speaker, I will close with a quote from the National Federation of Independent Business, who oppose this legislation.

Under this legislation,

Small businesses would face significant future government mandates, additional regulatory and legal burdens, and unworkable government policies that would result in skyrocketing energy prices.

At a time when the small business economy is booming with small business owners reporting record hiring of new employees and historically strong compensation increases for their employees, Congress should be considering policies that will allow this economic boom to continue, not bring it to a halt.

I hope this legislation is voted down by the House this week and we get serious as a Congress about promoting energy dominance for the betterment of our economy, energy consumers, the environment, and geopolitically across the world.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

PARIS ACCORDS WERE FLAWED

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2019, the Chair recognizes the

gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. GRAVES) for 30 minutes.

Mr. GRAVES of Louisiana. Mr. Speaker, years ago, the administration, working through an international group, had helped to negotiate and put together an agreement on climate change known as the Kyoto Protocol. That protocol was resoundingly rejected by the United States Senate.

It actually had provisions in it that indicated that should the United States in the future end up entering into some sort of climate agreement or any type of agreement, that there would have to be some type of a consent by the United States Senate; that this would have to be presented before the United States Senate.

We don't have a unilateral government. We don't have a dictatorship. We have scenario whereby we have a Congress, we have a President, and we work together. In this case what has happened is, under the Obama administration, these Paris accords were agreed to unilaterally, meaning they were never submitted to the Congress. They were never submitted to the United States Senate for approval.

Mr. Speaker, that is why the American people have their Representatives. Their Representative is their Senator, and that is how their voice is heard on agreements like this.

Yet, we had a President that unilaterally agreed to the Paris accords and did not submit it to the United States Senate. So now we have a President that is saying: Well, this was unilaterally agreed to. I am unilaterally withdrawing.

We have a bill this week, H.R. 9, that attempts to prevent the President from withdrawing from this. So I want to stick with procedure here for just a minute, Mr. Speaker.

We unilaterally entered into an agreement that we don't believe should have been entered into unilaterally. We think it should have been presented to the United States Senate. It was not.

Now the President is saying, I am withdrawing. And now this bill is trying to prevent that. So, on the one hand they think that a President should be able to unilaterally act, and in another scenario, the withdrawal that President Trump has proposed, you have folks saying with H.R. 9 that, no, no, you can't do that. You can't have both. One or the other, take your pick.

Now, let's actually get into the contents of the agreement. The Paris accords set targets on emissions reductions for the United States. All right, so they try and set emissions reductions.

Mr. Speaker, under this agreement, we could eliminate all emissions from the United States, all greenhouse gases. We can eliminate all of them, and China can come in and they can emit 10 times what we were emitting before we cut. Under this agreement that is totally legal. It doesn't make sense.

To add insult to injury, China can go years and years increasing emissions; not reducing, increasing. I want to remind you, we live in a global environment. As much as we like to think we are the only country in the world, we are not. It is a global environment. If you care about the whole environment for the entire globe, you have got to look holistically.

You can't come to the United States and say: Okay, you have to cut emissions. Yet, in China, they can double, triple, they can go tenfold increasing their emissions, twentyfold increasing their emissions, and that is all legal under this agreement. That is inappropriate. If we care about the global environment, let's care about the global environment.

Now, to add insult to injury, the agreement also establishes an entirely different metric for developing countries like China than it does for the United States.

Now, think about this, if we are in the Olympics; we are running a race, and you win the race. But then somebody comes, and they say: No, no we are giving this Chinese runner a 20-second deduction. That is not fair. And that is what has happened here.

They have an entirely different metric that they are measured by. Why? If we live in a global environment, if we care about overall reducing emissions, why are we giving different standards, different measurements? That is inappropriate. This entire agreement is flawed.

Now, some of you may be sitting there thinking: Well, wait a minute. I care about the environment. I care about emissions reduction.

Let me read you a statement that was included in the International Energy Agency's Global Energy & CO₂ Status Report.

Here is the statement: "Emissions in the United States remain around their 1990 levels, 14 percent and 800 metric tons of CO₂ below their peak in 2000."

Now, here is the kicker. Listen to this statement. "This is the largest absolute decline among all countries since 2000."

I am going to say that again. "This is the largest absolute decline among all countries since 2000."

Let me translate that, Mr. Speaker. What that means is that the United States, over the last, nearly 20 years, has reduced emissions greater than every other country.

So, we are actually operating without a requirement, just with an incentive. We are operating on already reducing emissions. We are already transitioning to an all-of-the-above energy strategy which includes solar, which includes wind, which includes geothermal, which includes hydro, and nuclear, and natural gas, and coal, and oil, and other things, all of the above, whichever makes the most sense.

We had a hearing today in the Select Committee on the Climate Crisis and it was fascinating listening to people

talking about the impact of these energy policies on the poor.

Well, Mr. Speaker, the home State where I am from, south Louisiana, we have the lowest electricity rates in the United States, the lowest. The States that have the highest are the ones that are forcing things that are perverting or distorting markets. Those are the States that have the highest electricity rates. That disproportionately affects the poor.

We were citing today an analysis by the Manhattan Institute. In that analysis, they looked at if you invested \$1 million and you could invest it in solar, you could invest it in wind, or you could invest it in natural gas and shale—I see my friend here from North Dakota that represents much of the shale production in the United States—you would get a sixfold increase in the amount of energy produced by investing it in shale.

I remind you, Mr. Speaker, transitioning to natural gas results in a significant reduction in emissions as compared to other sources. It is part of our existing infrastructure. It is part of a transition plan. And not to say that we don't ever transition or continue migrating to renewable sources; it is all of the above.

Don't say all of the above, as President Obama and others did, but then carry out policies that prevent you or drive up the cost of these other energy sources. It doesn't make sense and that is what disproportionately affects the poor.

Mr. Speaker, we have other Members here from the Select Committee on the Climate Crisis, and I appreciate them being here. I am looking forward to engaging with them on bringing reality, bringing practicality to this discussion today.

But I want to say in summary: number one, procedurally, the Paris accords were flawed. Practically speaking, the targets that were established disproportionately affect the United States, and it establishes a different measuring stick, a different standard for us than it does for China and other countries.

I remind you, Mr. Speaker, China, the country that is here under the auspices of a developing Nation, this is the country that is spending billions and billions of dollars around the world on projects in other countries to improve their national security, their defense, contrary, in many cases, to the United States and our allies. This is a developing country. This is inappropriate.

And I will say one last thing in closing. We are the country that over nearly the last 20 years has had the greatest reduction in emissions and we have done it by incentivizing, not by coming in and distorting markets and putting perverse policies in place.

H.R. 9 is a flawed approach that is going to have a disproportionate impact on the poor. It is going to simply squeeze a balloon in the middle and make it pop out on the sides where you

have more emissions resulting in China and other countries. Because companies will leave the United States, jobs will leave the United States if we address this inappropriately, and they will go to other countries where they will be less energy efficient. They will release greater emissions into our global environment. That is not a win.

Mr. Speaker, I urge rejection of H.R. 9. I urge support of involving the United States Senate, the United States Congress in these discussions and negotiations, and to develop a true all-of-the-above energy strategy that incorporates things like incentives, thinks about our infrastructure network and other important components of ultimately achieving this objective, which we all share, which is giving a better planet to future generations.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Georgia, Congressman BUDDY CARTER, that, similar to me, represents a coastal district.

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding, and I thank him for hosting this today. This is extremely important.

Mr. Speaker, I have the honor and privilege of representing the First Congressional District of Georgia, a district that includes the entire coast of Georgia, over 100 miles of pristine coastline. We are very proud.

The coast of Georgia is my home. That is where I have lived all of my life, where I was born, and I was raised, and where I intend to live the rest of my life. I love the coast of Georgia, and I have always said that I am going to protect the coast of Georgia, and I am.

Mr. Speaker, climate change is real. Protecting our environment is real. We understand that. Since day one, the climate has been changing. Yes, industrialization has had an impact on it as well. We understand that.

In order to represent my constituents, I believe our Nation needs to be working in a responsible way, a responsible way to prepare ourselves for future weather events while striving for cleaner and more affordable energy sources.

Mr. Speaker, in an 11-month period, we had two major hurricanes on the Georgia coast: Hurricane Matthew and Hurricane Irma. The number of hurricanes appears to be increasing and there are those who would argue that the intensity of those hurricanes are increasing. That is something we are concerned with.

Mr. Speaker, I serve on the Select Committee on the Climate Crisis, as well as on the Environment Subcommittee of the Energy and Commerce Committee, and that is very important. That is where I need to be as the Representative of the coast of Georgia. I need to be on those committees. This is where I want to be.

Mr. Speaker, unfortunately, to address this problem, the majority party, the Democrats, have offered H.R. 9. It is coming to the floor this week and it is not a solution. It is not a solution to climate change.

What it is, is government overreach at its best. It disallows the President from withdrawing from the Paris climate agreement. It puts our economy, our national security, and our ability to make our environment cleaner in danger, while other nations, as was pointed out by my colleague from Louisiana, other nations just simply continue on. They aren't held by these same principles.

□ 1530

China right now is responsible for 30 percent of the pollution in the world, and yet they aren't abiding by this. They aren't even a part of the Paris climate agreement. They are not even participating in this until 2030.

As my colleague pointed out, again, they can just continue to increase pollution while here in America, if the President is not allowed to get us out of this climate agreement, we are going to have to adhere to that. That is not fair, and it is not going to help if China is not held to the same principles that we are held to.

Mr. Speaker, between the year 2000 and 2014, the United States decreased emissions by more than 14 percent, in fact, by more than 18 percent, but China's emissions have increased. They have doubled since the year 2000, and they are significantly higher than the U.S. right now.

The U.S. is already leading the way without the Paris climate agreement. We are leading the way. We are the economic leader, and we can't let a half-baked policy like H.R. 9 jeopardize that status.

Companies in our country are responsible, and they are leading the way. As my colleague from Louisiana mentioned, we had a meeting earlier today of the House Select Committee on the Climate Crisis. We had witnesses who told us about companies that are involved in this that already, on their own accord and on their own initiative, are doing things and putting in place programs that are going to help with climate change.

For example, there is a startup called 4Oceanis that has collected 4.2 million pounds of ocean garbage. If we put our economy at risk through expensive regulations and mandates, then we risk losing companies like this and the capital that they have necessary to invest in these projects.

As my colleagues stated earlier, we have to have an all-of-the-above approach. In order to control climate change, we need three things: We need adaptation; we need mitigation; and we need innovation.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 9 is bad policy. Again, as my colleague pointed out earlier, it was brought about without even a subcommittee hearing. It was rushed through. This is a very important subject. This is a very important subject that can't be rushed. We can't take this lightly. We have to take this seriously. We are taking it seriously in the Republican Party.

The Democrats didn't think about the real consequences of this bill. Here we have the Green New Deal, pie in the sky that would ruin our economy by \$93 trillion, and it includes things such as healthcare for all. Now, what has that got to do with climate change? Absolutely nothing.

We need to concentrate; we need to focus; and we need to have real, commonsense solutions to this. That is what we are proposing. But here we have politics as usual on Capitol Hill with Democrats bringing this to the floor. They couldn't care less about the impact on our economy or the impacts on real people.

This legislation, H.R. 9, quite frankly, would be better off being called the "U.S. Energy Disadvantage Act." That is what they ought to call it.

Having said all this, Mr. Speaker, I will tell you—and I mean this sincerely—I am excited. I am excited about the future of clean energy. I am excited about the future of innovation in America. We have the greatest innovators in the world right here in America. We have the smartest scientists in the world right here in America. If we simply give them the chance to do their work, then they will do it. I am convinced of that.

Yes, we need to incentivize it and we need to encourage it, but we don't need to be an obstacle, and we don't need to be in the way.

Look at the internet, arguably one of the greatest inventions in modern times. Where did that come from? Right here in America.

I am excited. I am convinced that we can come up with real solutions to this. Unfortunately, H.R. 9 is not one of those real solutions. H.R. 9 is going to ruin our economy.

The Green New Deal, are you kidding me? That kind of pie-in-the-sky type of legislation has no place. We need real solutions. Citizens sent us up here to come up with real solutions, not some pie-in-the-sky idea.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to vote against H.R. 9 and deliberate on real solutions that will make our world cleaner and improve our environment without destroying our economy.

Mr. GRAVES of Louisiana. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the gentleman from Georgia for his comments.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from North Dakota (Mr. ARMSTRONG), who is another member of the House Select Committee on the Climate Crisis.

Mr. ARMSTRONG. Mr. Speaker, Americans care about clean air; Americans care about clean water; and the U.S. needs to be at the table for these discussions as we move into a global economy. But, Mr. Speaker, a bad deal is worse than no deal at all. Make no mistake, H.R. 9 is a bad deal.

Almost no countries are in compliance with the Paris deal now, let alone its future requirements. I am going to have some breaking news here: China is not a developing country. China emits

over 30 percent of the world's pollution. But not China, not India, not Australia, not the EU, and not even Canada are in compliance with the current terms.

The U.N. Emissions Gap Report estimates U.N. countries will have to triple their efforts to meet the Paris deal commitments. This deal imposes stricter requirements on the United States than other countries. It requires significant and economically damaging carbon emission reductions from the United States without requiring those same requirements from China, from India, and from other developing countries.

A true international agreement to address carbon emissions would require actionable commitments from all the countries and would have included a mechanism for enforcement. China has only committed to raising its nonfossil fuel share of its economy to 20 percent by 2030 and a commitment that CO₂ emissions will peak in 2030. That is not including their financing of essentially unregulated coal plants all over the developing world.

U.S. CO₂ emissions have peaked in the mid-2000s and have decreased since then. The United States is on track to hit about 65 percent of the voluntary targets based on both the Bush- and Obama-era regulations and existing power sector trends.

Mr. Speaker, we need to focus on developing and exporting innovation and technology to reduce emissions; give us cleaner air and water and reliable, affordable energy for families all across the country. Without that, this bill is simply virtue signaling. But it is worse than that because, by its very nature, it will force the exporting of pollution to countries that do not have the United States' regulatory controls.

We benefit from producing energy here. It is done safely and securely and creates American jobs. We need to end our reliance on foreign fuels and promote homegrown and home-produced fuels just like we have done in North Dakota.

The energy sector not only is great for our economy, but it is incredibly important for national security. So let's get on with real solutions. Let's get more pipelines in the ground. Let's allow for natural gas to be burned during the winter instead of heating oil. Let's end sue-and-settle environmentalism, and let's not forget that we had 8 years under the Obama administration to lead environmentally by symbolism and symbolism alone. We need to get rid of symbolism and start working toward action.

Democrats are offering unrealistic, counterproductive policies like stopping pipelines needed to transport environmentally safe natural gas and stopping trains from going into their own States. We need to allow for our energy infrastructure to catch up to where it needs to be, and then we can lead the world in global innovation and technology.

Mr. GRAVES of Louisiana. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from North Dakota for his comments.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from West Virginia (Mrs. MILLER), who represents a lot of the victims of bad energy policy or energy policy that is not thought out.

Mrs. MILLER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak in opposition to H.R. 9, the Climate Action Now Act.

I represent West Virginia, an energy State. Our natural resources power the Nation, and our coal produces the steel that is the backbone of our country's infrastructure. The bill my colleagues across the aisle have introduced today is a direct threat to the economy of my State and to the security of our Nation.

When President Obama entered into the Paris Agreement in 2016, he made a shortsighted, hasty decision which passed egregious costs on to American consumers and sent \$1 billion in taxpayer funds to subsidize other nations' energy agendas without congressional authorization—while never offering a clear plan for our country to meet the commitments made, aside from the overall goal of killing energy production in the U.S.

This is an attempt to further the war on coal which decimated my State, killing jobs, destroying businesses, and exacerbating the opioid epidemic. We face a bleakness which we are starting to recover from, yet, now, Washington liberals are restarting the charge.

We have seen unrealistic proposals like the Green New Deal put forward which would not only bankrupt our country, but also kill our energy industry once and for all. I will not stand here and let that happen.

When President Trump withdrew from the agreement in 2017, he showed leadership. He showed the world that he was willing to resist diplomatic pressure in order to protect American interests and ensure energy competitiveness.

Those who support this legislation aren't telling the whole story on America's energy production. The Paris Agreement, since its creation, has not accounted for the United States' abundance of natural resources and the hundreds of thousands of Americans employed by the energy industry.

Additionally, the Paris Agreement ignores that America produces affordable, reliable energy, including coal, oil, and natural gas, and it also ignores the importance that energy has to the United States' economy and national security.

In the past 5 years, there has been a 110 percent increase in coal exports, and we still have 259 billion tons of coal reserves, the largest in the world.

Since 2008, the U.S. has increased crude oil production by 48 percent and natural gas production by 53 percent; and looking forward, the increased access to undeveloped energy production could create as many as 690,000 jobs by 2030.

Energy has been our past, and energy is our future. It is important the United States is already leading the world in reducing greenhouse emissions through innovation and technological development. If my colleagues across the aisle were interested in working with Republicans to address climate change, then they would not ignore the fact that the United States has already had the largest absolute decline of carbon emissions among all the countries since the year 2000.

We did not need an international agreement to do it. Forcing America to reenter the Paris Agreement is not the answer for climate concerns. It is re-starting a tried-and-failed approach which only leads to less jobs, a weaker economy, and a less safe America.

The answer to the climate debate is not a \$93 trillion socialist restructuring of our country. It is innovation, and it is supporting new technology like taking rare-earth minerals and distilled water from previously used coal ash. It is supporting carbon capture moving forward. It is recognizing that, in the dead of winter when the renewable energy grids fall short, we can rely on coal to get us through the next polar vortex.

America cannot afford to reenter the Paris Agreement. We cannot afford to lose jobs. We cannot afford to lose security. We cannot afford the security risks. We cannot afford to weaken our economy. And we cannot afford to say “no” to innovation.

Mr. GRAVES of Louisiana. Mr. Speaker, might I inquire how much time is remaining.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman has 2 minutes remaining.

Mr. GRAVES of Louisiana. Mr. Speaker, I will now close.

Mr. Speaker, it has been fascinating serving on the House Natural Resources Committee, where we have talked about efforts to stop pipelines from being built under the auspices of this is protecting our environment.

Mr. Speaker, study after study has shown that, when you stop pipelines, it doesn't stop the utilization of oil and gas. What it does is it puts that on barges, on trains, and on trucks—less safe means of transportation. The safest thing you can do is put energy in a pipeline. If you care about the environment, that is what you should do.

Mr. Speaker, we had a hearing recently in the Natural Resources Committee where we had a career Department of the Interior official. We talked to him and asked him: What happens when you try and stop the supply of energy? Does that reduce the demand for oil and gas?

Do you know what the response was? This person has served in at least the Clinton administration, all of these different Republican and Democratic administrations. He said: No. As a matter of fact, we have researched this extensively. What it does is it causes us to import more energy.

Mr. Speaker, I remind you of some of the top nations we would import from:

Venezuela, Middle Eastern countries, and Nigeria. We are giving them billions of dollars.

To put it in perspective on how much this is, Mr. Speaker, in 2011, 58 percent of our Nation's trade deficit was attributable to our importing energy.

Mr. Speaker, I want to be clear. I am going to reiterate what my friend from Georgia said.

I have children. I care about the environment. I taught outdoor education classes for years, and I care about the environment.

□ 1545

I care about the environment. I know that facts can be pesky little things, but we have to introduce more science and data into these decisions to make sure that we are making informed, deliberate decisions that result in a better global environment, not simply coming in and squeezing the United States to the benefit of China where they end up releasing greater emissions into our global environment.

That is a flawed strategy. It is what this bill, H.R. 9, would do. I urge, once again, rejection of this flawed approach.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

ISSUES OF THE DAY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2019, the Chair recognizes the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. SCHWEIKERT) for 30 minutes.

Mr. SCHWEIKERT. Mr. Speaker, let me take a quick moment and sort of get adjusted here.

We are going to spend a couple of minutes walking through some things that I think are exciting, hopeful, and worth getting our heads around.

Every week, I try to come to this microphone when we are here to talk about what I believe makes the future really bright for all of us, everyone from my 3-year-old—or 3½-year-old, as she corrects me—little girl to someone who is moving into their retirement years.

Once again, what is the greatest fragility in our society? This is one that is hard for us to get our heads around or even talk about. It is our demographics.

Whether we like it or not, baby boomers are retiring, and we have 74 million baby boomers. The last baby boomer will hit 65 in about 8½ years.

In 8½ years, two workers, one retiree. In 8½ years, 50 percent of our spending from this body, less interest, will be to those 65 and up.

It is demographics. It is not Republican or Democrat. It is demographics.

At the same time, we have a substantial collapse, fall, in our birthrates. As you know, our birthrates now are well below the replacement rates.

What do you do as a society? What do you do as a government? What do we do as a body here that is making public policy to make the future bright?

We keep coming to the floor and talking about that we believe there are, functionally, five elements. It is the adoption of technology. It is the adoption of economic policies that maximize economic growth through tax policy that creates investment in new technology for productivity; immigration policy that maximizes new Americans having talents that help us grow the economy; regulatory policy that uses technology and information to regulate instead of bureaucratic filing in file cabinets, functionally; incentives to stay in the workforce and incentives to enter the workforce.

As we have seen recently, millennial females are moving into the workforce. We still have a problem with millennial males.

How about someone who is older? Can we do certain incentives in Social Security, Medicare, and other earned benefits to encourage staying in the workforce or even creating a second career? We are going to have to redesign a bit of those incentives that are in the current earned benefits.

Can you create some incentives on Social Security, saying, “If you will continue to work, we are going to do these things?” Because that labor force participation is so important.

We have worked through these. Now we try to come in and show what we see working in our society. Then, I want to talk a little bit about one of these things, and that is the adoption of technology.

This week, the majority, the Democrats, will have a resolution on the floor about the Paris climate accords. I want to walk a bit through how technology, pro-growth technology, is the solution. I am going to show you some of the really optimistic things happening out there.

Let's start swapping a couple of these boards. First, I apologize for the first slide. The scale is a little off, but it is basically to make a simple point.

I am blessed to be on the Ways and Means Committee. We had the debate in December 2017. Over here, I was hearing how the world was coming to an end, how revenues were going to collapse. It turns out that now we at least have a good, comparable dataset. What is the term? “*Ceteris paribus*,” where you can equal to equal.

In 2017, before there was tax reform, the first 6 months, and now we have the 2019 first 6 months. Guess what? Revenues are up, even though we are already in the tax reform environment.

I was waved off by some much more sensitive staffers. We had a list of quotes from the majority, things they said, their predictions, what their economists said. I am not going to read them.

But do understand, think about some of the crazy things we heard about what tax reform was going to do to the revenues of the country, what it was going to do to the economy, what it was going to do to employment, what it was going to do to labor force participation.

They were all wrong. It is working. Take a look at our economic growth. Take a look at unemployment.

If I had come to you a couple of years ago before tax reform and said our society is going to have more jobs than we have available workers, what would you have said?

But it is reality. It is happening. We are seeing data within what they call the U-6, the underlying parts of the unemployment statistics of our brothers and sisters who have handicaps, who have been long-term unemployed, who have other life difficulties, moving into the labor force.

There should be joy in this body and also joy for the fact that all the predictions were wrong, that revenues are—or “receipts” is the proper term. Receipts are up. These 6 months with tax reform compared to the 6 months where we didn’t have tax reform, we are taking in more money.

Will we ever get an apology from all those who predicted doom and gloom? Of course not. But could we just have a little bit of joy that they were wrong, that the math is good, that good things are happening in this society?

We need to do more of it because, without the growth, there is no way we will keep our promises on Social Security and Medicare and so many other things. We must have economic growth.

This slide right here I am going to leave here for just a second, this slide here, 2017. We don’t use, really, the 2018 fiscal year because the first 6 months had part of it within tax reform, without tax reform. But then the gray you see up here is the 2019 first 6 months. That is what that is.

I know I get teased a lot about the slides, but at some point, if you are talking about math—and substantially, for all of us who are Members here, we work in a math-free zone. It is a sin of both parties because we often try to make public policy by our feelings instead of by our facts.

When we do public policy by feelings, I will make the argument that we hurt people because we intended good stuff, but we just got our facts wrong. Could you imagine if we did more like this where we looked at the real math and the real facts?

This is a month-to-month comparison. It shows you some months it has been a little more, some months it has been a little less. But, overall, \$10 billion over 2017. The first 6 months, when you compare them, it is working. It is working.

When you start to look at the revenues that are coming in, in what we call FICA taxes—Social Security, unemployment, Medicare—good things are happening.

You saw it 10 days ago when the Social Security actuaries put out their report. You saw things like Social Security disability go from being incredibly fragile, within just a couple of years of running out of money, to gaining 20 years of actuarial life. Some of

that was public policy. Some of that is the fact that people are working.

You see other parts of the program gaining a year’s worth of life. That is a big deal when you consider the types of numbers we are talking about. It is working. The growth is providing us, as a body, an opportunity to do positive things for our community, for our country, for our States. Instead, we just seem to banter around here, doing crazy.

Let’s walk around a couple of other things. Do you remember the predictions? This was the long-term, freaky-smart economists, particularly on the left but even some of ours on the right, who were predicting before tax reform that the baseline economic growth on the horizon was about 1.9, 1.8. That is where we were going to grow. Also, the math that, over the 10 years, if you wanted to pay for tax reform, we only needed a 0.4 percent growth.

Well, guess what? If you look at this chart and realize, since tax reform, what has happened in the GDP expansion, we are blowing through those numbers.

Now, it is too early to ever make a prediction like, well, the additional productivity, the additional number of folks working, the less demand on social entitlements because there is work, the number of Americans who now have healthcare because they are working and all these good things that are happening in our society.

But the fact of the matter is, if you look at this chart and look at the growth in the size of our economy—and this is a big economy, so when it grows 3 percent, it is a tremendous amount of economic expansion—we are seeing numbers that, once again, these really smart economists were telling us we could not hit.

Where is the joy around here? Whether you are on the left or the right, if you care about people, if you claim you truly love and care about people, the fact is that so many of them have work now and their wages are going up, particularly for our brothers and sisters who are—sorry to use the geeky term—at the lowest quartiles.

Do you remember the discussions only a couple of years ago that, if someone hadn’t finished high school, they were destined to spend their lives on the edge of poverty?

What have we seen in the last dozen months? That that is the quartile having the fastest movement in their wages.

There should be joy that something is breaking out, that something is happening out there when you see another 400,000 manufacturing jobs coming back to the United States.

Remember “manufacturing is dead”? Except it isn’t. We did tax policy that encouraged investment in plants and equipment to raise productivity.

Why is that so important? When someone gets a wage increase, when you pay an American more money,

what is the classic economic formula? It is inflation plus an improvement in productivity. Wages go up according to inflation and productivity.

What happens when American businesses, particularly in the manufacturing side, across the country are buying new plants and equipment because of the incentives in tax reform? All of a sudden, we are starting to see it is working. Spiking of productivity is happening.

We have a labor shortage. Wages are going up. Shouldn’t there be joy that the brothers and sisters out there who were being written off by the really smart economists just a couple of years ago are back and good things are happening?

To be a little bit gratuitous, I know these are hard to read, but if you just look at the trend lines on the employment chart and think about some of the other different quartiles, when we geek out on the Joint Economic Committee, and those of our brothers and sisters who are Hispanic or African American or females or other quartiles, where we try to break down and see what is happening in employment statistics, we are hitting numbers that we have never hit before in our society. Something is working.

□ 1600

How much happy talk have you heard around here? In many ways, is it just the nature of this institution is just the rage-based politics that we bathe in today? There are good things happening. We should be working on public policy to make more of this happen and more of this so this continues, so we are a society of opportunity.

So this one is just sort of looking at—I want to double-check myself. This one I put up just because it was a fascinating breakout, and this was actually more from last December and then looking at what is happening.

We had actually been having something called a labor force participation issue. It is sort of a geeky way of saying, for a society to grow, you often need two components.

You need capital stock. You need money that people can borrow to invest and to plant in equipment. Well, it turns out the predictions that were happening about tax reform, that capital stock was going to dry up, that everyone was going to go out and spend the money and this and that, it turns out savings, we have plenty of capital. Savings rates went up.

The second part was labor supply, and that one we have; we have a real issue. What do you do to encourage Americans who are not in the labor pool to enter it?

Then last December, we had this unusual thing. All of a sudden, the numbers within what we call millennials, millennial females started entering the labor force, and all of a sudden, we went over the 60—what? We had 62 or, I think, 62.3 percent labor force participation—I am doing it from memory—a

number that lots of those smart economists just a couple years ago told us we were not going to see again for another 30 years. It has happened.

Maybe it is time we as a body have an honest conversation that a lot of the economists who have been advising us are wrong, and the spirit of entrepreneurship, of capitalism, those things are actually working in our society and providing real benefits.

Look, as a guy coming to the microphone with lots of charts, but the math is the math. Even though we work in a math-free zone on occasion, there are really good numbers in this.

So I want to actually sort of touch on something else as we look at our pillars of the future of economic growth in our society.

You have heard discussions of the Green New Deal or environmental protection as almost a Malthusian concept that the economy must shrink to meet these numbers. We want to argue that is absolutely wrong.

The basic math set: Why has the United States done so phenomenally well in removing ACO₂, a man-made CO₂, from the environment? It is because of our migration to natural gas. We have gotten dramatically more clean, efficient in our energy production in the last decade, decade and a half because of natural gas.

Well, in that case we should produce more natural gas, right? It is working. But there are actually other disruptions of technology, and we are just going to throw a couple of them up just for the thought experiment, to understand.

If this were, once again, a couple years ago, the concept of pulling CO₂ out of the air was almost considered absurd—except for the fact it is happening. It is actually in Canada, but there is actually a facility that is going to be going online to almost, say, what you would call an industrial scale that will pull CO₂ out of the air incredibly efficiently.

It is a crazy concept, just crazy, except it works. The technology is out there.

How many of us, as we are debating meeting the Paris accord numbers, are saying here are actually things we can do to get us to the Paris accord commitments, which we are going to come really close. If we would adopt certain technologies, we get there.

I am going to ask you to reverse some of those slides so we actually talk about the nuclear power first. No, that is carbon capture. Yes.

Sorry. We were running late, so we ran up here with the boards.

This is just a quick thought experiment for folks to understand for clean power generation, and this is a couple years old. I think this slide is based on 2015 numbers.

Do you see the yellow side? That is all the solar that was new generation capacity in the entire country in 2015.

The other side, the multicolored over here, was the amount of absolutely

clean nuclear power generation that went off-line. So even though 2015 was a remarkable year of new, clean solar generation, we actually didn't really gain that much because clean nuclear power generation went off-line.

So this is the occasion of it is great to be joyful about one, but you need to make sure you have your math understanding what is going on.

Now, for us in Arizona, there is often this debate, the discussion of uranium. I don't want to geek out too much, but over the last 15 years or so, with the collapse of the Soviet Union and world energy markets on the nuclear side, there was high-grade uranium, almost weapons-grade, that was being stepped down to go into reactors. Most of that now has been used up.

So, actually, that slide. This is carbon capture. So what would happen to you if I came to you today and said it looks like our national labs have actually had a technology breakthrough that is stunning?

So, instead of us who are not too far from the Grand Canyon where we do the drilling to pull uranium out of the ground, which is always controversial because you worry about water supplies, but we need the uranium for all sorts of things in our society, what happens if there is never another land uranium mine again? Because we worked out the technology to pull uranium out of seawater. It has happened. It has happened.

Where is the joy around this place that technology is breaking through and providing us this sort of clean energy future in things that were just sort of academic fantasies just a few years ago and the technology is breaking through? This is wonderful. It is exciting, and there should be joy on all sides.

So let's actually go to this next one, and I am sorry for bouncing you back and forth.

Outside Houston is an experimental natural gas generation facility. It doesn't have a smokestack. It basically actually uses the CO₂ to spin the turbines. No smokestack. They capture every bit of the CO₂, and they are actually apparently going to go from, I think it is—forgive me if I got my math wrong—30 megawatts to 300. They are going to go to an industrial- or utility-grade scale.

But the fact of the matter is they are generating power without a smokestack, and they capture every bit of the CO₂ and can sell it, convert it into other products. We have the technology. It is up and running right now. They worked it out.

This should be joyful. If you want to actually have a bright powered future that provides the energy for the economy so the economy grows so we can keep our financial commitments but we want to protect the environment, we need to be talking about how we are going to bring more of this type of technology into our communities instead of sort of the Malthusian cra-

ziness of things that are in things like the Green New Deal, where we are going shut down this, shut down that, shut down this. There is a progrowth way to get there.

Those of us on the Ways and Means Committee even a year ago, Republicans and Democrats, we actually passed some more tax credit incentives for when you produce the CO₂, where do you put it? Well, you actually can get a little bit of credit if you put it in plastic or cement or put it in the curb that is being put into your neighborhood or actually put it into the ground to do recovery to bring up more hydrocarbons.

It is actually just really exciting, and the technology is working. We need to be talking about technology and its future and the disruption it is bringing and the bright, cleaner future environment it brings with it.

I brought this slide up because it is part of the thought experiment on this theme. Who here is concerned about plastic in the ocean? I mean, look, the Speaker is a good guy. He understands. I was a big scuba diver before I got this job. Now there is never time.

Ninety percent of the plastic in the ocean comes from 10 rivers, 8 of them in Southeast Asia, 2 in Africa. It is not the straw that you are going to not be allowed to use here in D.C. It is not the plastics in the United States. It is that 10 rivers bring 90 percent of the plastic in the ocean.

If we actually cared about plastic in the ocean, wouldn't we actually take our foreign aid, our environmental aid, our technology aid and say: "We know where the plastic in the ocean is coming from. Let's go help those 10 rivers, 8 of them in Asia, 2 in Africa. Let's help them get cleaner?"

That is Republican, Democrat, we want clean oceans. If you care about the plastic issue, doing crazy things like: "Well, I am going to actually affirm that I am a good person and I care by banning straws in my community even though it will have absolutely zero effect of making the oceans cleaner"—because, in the United States, our plastic substantially does not end up in the ocean. Let's stop the theater and do things that actually provide solutions.

This one just drives me insane because I care a lot about it. And it could be from the Foreign Affairs Committee to Natural Resources to Energy and Commerce, they should all say: "Hey, what do we do to help other countries not pump plastic into our oceans from those 10 rivers?" And if you did that, instantly, you just stopped 90 percent of the plastic waste going into the ocean.

That is a solution, but that is actually using—what is that crazy thing? Oh, yes—math to do public policy instead of feelings. But instead, around here, we get rewarded for doing theater.

Now, the next board we are going to put up is the great thought experiment, and this one actually is the ultimate disruption that I think may even happen in my lifetime, and I may lack some of the elegance or eloquence—excuse me—on how to describe it.

You all remember your high school or college botany biology class. You know, a plant cell from a couple million years ago, it has a certain issue of it wants to grow and it grabs an oxygen cell when it meant to grab a carbon molecule. Sorry. And then it spends lots of energy purging that one because “I don’t want the oxygen molecule; I want the carbon molecule to grow.”

Okay. I don’t mean to geek out, but it is a big deal. It is an inherent inefficiency in our plants that is a couple million years old.

It turns out, United States Government and a couple of university labs may have broken the code on the Holy Grail of plant biology, and with a tweak in the genetic code, a 40 percent improvement in growth.

Do the thought experiment with me. What happens tomorrow if, on the same piece of land you are growing soybeans or corn or cotton or grass in your yard, you have a 40 percent improvement in efficiency? How much less water are you using? How much

less fertilizer are you using? How much less fuel? How much less land?

It also means, mathematically, you also feed the world for the next couple hundred years.

World agriculture, if you wanted to do part of the thought experiment, world agriculture produces 2.2 times the amount of greenhouse gasses as every car on Earth. Think about that. So world agriculture, the math is you produce about 2.2 times more greenhouse gasses than every car on Earth. The adoption of this genetic change in our agriculture around the world would be as if you removed every single car off the face of the Earth. That is a disruption.

Now, it is going to also have implications on what agricultural land is worth. I mean, it will have a huge disruption across the world. But if you truly claim you care about the environment, and someone like me who does taxes and financial and economic growth as their specialty here in Congress reads articles like this and sees the disruption in the future for the environment, why isn’t this the discussion here?

If this is real, and we all know in seed stock, you can roll it out in just a few years. What would happen if in just a few years, it would be like you re-

moved every single car off the face of the Earth? That is what something like this equals.

We should be joyful here. We live in a time where technology is moving so fast it is presenting us solutions, and we need to stop the debates around this place that sound like we are all still in the 1990s.

The solutions are all around us, they are rolling out of our labs, they are rolling out of actually people’s garages. Smart people all around us and around the world are producing the solutions. We need to embrace and move those forward, or we can do what we are doing here so far this year, and that is engage in the political theater of rage and completely avoid the optimism of the solutions that are at our doorstep.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. SCHWEIKERT. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 4 o’clock and 16 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until tomorrow, Wednesday, May 1, 2019, at 10 a.m. for morning-hour debate.

EXPENDITURE REPORTS CONCERNING OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL

Reports concerning the foreign currencies and U.S. dollars utilized for Official Foreign Travel during the first quarter of 2019, pursuant to Public Law 95–384, are as follows:

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, DELEGATION TO GERMANY AND BELGIUM, EXPENDED BETWEEN FEB. 15 AND FEB. 19, 2019

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem ¹		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²
Hon. Nancy Pelosi	2/15	2/17	Germany		1,216.73		(³)				1,216.73
Hon. Eliot Engel	2/15	2/17	Germany		1,216.73		(³)				1,216.73
Hon. Adam Schiff	2/15	2/17	Germany		1,216.73		(³)				1,216.73
Hon. Gregory Meeks	2/15	2/17	Germany		1,216.73		(³)				1,216.73
Hon. Stephen Lynch	2/15	2/17	Germany		1,216.73		(³)				1,216.73
Hon. Jackie Speier	2/15	2/17	Germany		1,216.73		(³)				1,216.73
Hon. William Keating	2/15	2/17	Germany		1,216.73		(³)				1,216.73
Hon. Gerry Connolly	2/15	2/17	Germany		1,216.73		(³)				1,216.73
Hon. Filemon Vela	2/15	2/17	Germany		1,216.73		(³)				1,216.73
Brian Monahan	2/15	2/17	Germany		1,216.73		(³)				1,216.73
Paul Irving	2/15	2/17	Germany		1,216.73		(³)				1,216.73
Wyndee Parker	2/15	2/17	Germany		1,216.73		(³)				1,216.73
Kate Knudson Wolters	2/15	2/17	Germany		1,216.73		(³)				1,216.73
Emily Berret	2/15	2/17	Germany		1,216.73		(³)				1,216.73
Henry Connelly	2/15	2/17	Germany		1,216.73		(³)				1,216.73
Jason Steinbaum	2/15	2/17	Germany		1,216.73		(³)				1,216.73
Tim Bergreen	2/15	2/17	Germany		1,216.73		(³)				1,216.73
Daniel Silverberg	2/15	2/18	Germany		1,313.73		2,018.83				3,332.56
Hon. Nancy Pelosi	2/17	2/19	Belgium		792.95		(³)				792.95
Hon. Eliot Engel	2/17	2/19	Belgium		792.95		(³)				792.95
Hon. Adam Schiff	2/17	2/19	Belgium		792.95		(³)				792.95
Hon. Gregory Meeks	2/17	2/19	Belgium		792.95		(³)				792.95
Hon. Stephen Lynch	2/17	2/19	Belgium		792.95		(³)				792.95
Hon. Jackie Speier	2/17	2/19	Belgium		792.95		(³)				792.95
Hon. William Keating	2/17	2/19	Belgium		792.95		(³)				792.95
Hon. Katie Hill	2/17	2/19	Belgium		792.95		(³)				792.95
Dr. Brian Monahan	2/17	2/19	Belgium		792.95		(³)				792.95
Paul Irving	2/17	2/19	Belgium		792.95		(³)				792.95
Wyndee Parker	2/17	2/19	Belgium		792.95		(³)				792.95
Emily Berret	2/17	2/19	Belgium		792.95		(³)				792.95
Henry Connelly	2/17	2/19	Belgium		792.95		(³)				792.95
Jason Steinbaum	2/17	2/19	Belgium		792.95		(³)				792.95
Tim Bergreen	2/17	2/19	Belgium		792.95		(³)				792.95
Committee total					33,892.39		2,018.83				35,911.22

¹ Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.

² If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.

³ Military air transportation.

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, COMMITTEE ON RULES, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN JAN. 1 AND MAR. 31, 2019

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem ¹		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²
Hon. Donna Shalala	03/08	03/10	Colombia				822.60		474.00		1,296.60
Hon. James P. McGovern	03/28	03/31	Cuba		333.00		806.63		436.23		1,575.86
Don Sisson	03/28	03/31	Cuba		333.00		772.63		436.23		1,541.86
Committee total					666.00		2,401.86		1,346.46		4,414.32

¹ Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.² If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.

HON. JAMES P. MCGOVERN, April 3, 2019.

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, COMMITTEE ON SMALL BUSINESS, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN JAN. 1 AND MAR. 31, 2019

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem ¹		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²

HOUSE COMMITTEES

Please Note: If there were no expenditures during the calendar quarter noted above, please check the box at right to so indicate and return. ☐¹ Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.² If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.

HON. NYDIA M. VELÁZQUEZ, April 9, 2019.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 2 of rule XIV, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

822. A letter from the Deputy Director, ODRM, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the Department's final rule — Removal of Compliance Deadline for Closed-Circuit Escape Respirators and Clarification of Post-Approval Testing Standards for Closed-Circuit Escape Respirators [Docket No.: CDC-2018-0003; NIOSH-309] (RIN: 0920-AA66) [Docket No.: CDC-2018-0068; NIOSH-318] (RIN: 0920-AA67) received April 24, 2019, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

823. A letter from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's temporary final rule — Safety Zone; Xterra Swim, Intracoastal Waterway; Myrtle Beach, SC [Docket No.: USCG-2019-0024] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received April 26, 2019, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Oversight and Reform.

824. A letter from the DAA for Regulatory Programs, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Taking and Importing Marine Mammals; Taking Marine Mammals Incidental to U.S. Navy Marine Structure Maintenance and Pile Replacement in Washington [Docket No.: 170919913-9271-02] (RIN: 0648-BH27) received April 26, 2019, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

825. A letter from the Federal Register Liaison/Regulatory Specialist, Office of Natural Resources, Department of the Interior, transmitting the Department's final rule — Inflation Adjustments to Civil Monetary Penalty Rates for Calendar Year 2019 [Docket No.: ONRR-2017-0003; DS63644200 DRT000000.CH7000 190D113RT] (RIN: 1012-AA24) received April 26, 2019, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on the Judiciary.

826. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Depart-

ment's final rule — IFR Altitudes; Miscellaneous Amendments [Docket No.: 31246: Amdt. No.: 545] received April 25, 2019, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

827. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule— Airworthiness Directives; HPH s. r.o. Gliders [Docket No.: FAA-2019-0202; Product Identifier 2018-CE-050-AD; Amendment 39-19597; AD 2019-04-01] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received April 25, 2019, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

828. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Pilatus Aircraft Ltd. Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2019-0205; Product Identifier 2019-CE-001-AD; Amendment 39-19598; AD 2019-05-15] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received April 25, 2019, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

829. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Airbus SAS Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2018-0704; Product Identifier 2018-NM-066-AD; Amendment 39-19601; AD 2019-06-03] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received April 25, 2019, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

830. A letter from the Management and Programs Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; International Aero Engines Turbofan Engines [Docket No.: FAA-2018-0735; Product Identifier 2018-NE-26-AD; Amendment 39-19599; AD 2019-06-01] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received April 25, 2019, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

831. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Bombardier, Inc., Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2018-0634; Product Identifier 2018-

NM-050-AD; Amendment 39-19594; AD 2019-05-12] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received April 25, 2019, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

832. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Pratt & Whitney Division Turbofan Engines [Docket No.: FAA-2018-0924; Product Identifier 2018-NE-34-AD; Amendment 39-19600; AD 2019-06-02] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received April 25, 2019, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

833. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Airbus Helicopters Deutschland GmbH Helicopters [Docket No.: FAA-2017-1085; Product Identifier 2016-SW-094-AD; Amendment 39-19603; AD 2019-06-05] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received April 25, 2019, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

834. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Pacific Aerospace Limited Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2018-0895; Product Identifier 2018-CE-037-AD; Amendment 39-19609; AD 2019-06-11] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received April 25, 2019, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

835. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Vulcanair S.p.A. Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2019-0210; Product Identifier 2019-CE-004-AD; Amendment 39-19608; AD 2019-06-10] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received April 25, 2019, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

836. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Standard Instrument Approach Procedures, and Takeoff Minimums

and Obstacle Departure Procedures; Miscellaneous Amendments [Docket No.: 31244; Amdt. No.: 3845] received April 25, 2019, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

837. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Airbus Helicopters Deutschland GmbH Helicopters [Docket No.: FAA-2017-1085; Product Identifier 2016-SW-094-AD; Amendment 39-19603; AD 2019-06-05] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received April 25, 2019, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

838. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Standard Instrument Approach Procedures, and Takeoff Minimums and Obstacle Departure Procedures; Miscellaneous Amendments [Docket No.: 31245; Amdt. No.: 3846] received April 25, 2019, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

839. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Airbus SAS Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2018-1063; Product Identifier 2018-NM-160-AD; Amendment 39-19606; AD 2019-06-08] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received April 25, 2019, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

840. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Bell Helicopter Textron Canada Limited Helicopters [Docket No.: FAA-2017-0433; Product Identifier 2016-SW-078-AD; Amendment 39-19602; AD 2019-06-04] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received April 25, 2019, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

841. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Airbus SAS Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2019-0191; Product Identifier 2018-NM-161-AD; Amendment 39-19610; AD 2019-06-12] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received April 25, 2019, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

842. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Airbus SAS Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2019-0190; Product Identifier 2018-NM-177-AD; Amendment 39-19607; AD 2019-06-09] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received April 25, 2019, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

843. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Zodiac Seats France Cabin Attendant Seats [Docket No.: FAA-2017-0839; Product Identifier 2017-NE-31-AD; Amendment 39-19614; AD 2019-07-03] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received April 25, 2019, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

844. A letter from the Chief, Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue

Service, transmitting the Service's IRB only rule — Update of Revenue Procedure 2018-52 (EPCRS) (Revenue Procedure 2019-19) received April 24, 2019, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

845. A letter from the Chief, Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's IRB only rule — Fringe Benefit Aircraft Valuation Formula (Revenue Ruling 2019-10) received April 24, 2019, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

846. A letter from the Regulations Coordinator, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting The Department's Major final rule — Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act; HHS Notice of Benefit and Payment Parameters for 2020 [CMS-9926-F] (RIN: 0938-AT37) received April 25, 2019, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); jointly to the Committees on Energy and Commerce and Ways and Means.

847. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of Defense, transmitting additional legislative proposals that the Department of Defense requests be enacted during the first session of the 116th Congress; jointly to the Committees on Armed Services, Foreign Affairs, Natural Resources, Veterans' Affairs, Oversight and Reform, Small Business, the Judiciary, Financial Services, and Transportation and Infrastructure.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES ON PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XIII, reports of committees were delivered to the Clerk for printing and reference to the proper calendar, as follows:

Mr. PALLONE: Committee on Energy and Commerce. H.R. 986. A bill to provide that certain guidance related to waivers for State innovation under the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act shall have no force or effect (Rept. 116-44, Pt. 1). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

DISCHARGE OF COMMITTEE

Pursuant to clause 2 of rule XIII, the Committee on Ways and Means discharged from further consideration. H.R. 986 referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XII, public bills and resolutions of the following titles were introduced and severally referred, as follows:

By Mr. DEFAZIO:

H.R. 2396. A bill to provide for the use of funds in the Harbor Maintenance Trust Fund for the purposes for which the funds were collected and to ensure that funds credited to the Harbor Maintenance Trust Fund are used to support navigation, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, and in addition to the Committee on the Budget, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Ms. STEVENS (for herself, Mr. BALDERSON, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. REED,

Ms. JOHNSON of Texas, and Mr. GONZALEZ of Ohio):

H.R. 2397. A bill to amend the National Institute of Standards and Technology Act to make changes to the implementation of the network for manufacturing innovation, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology.

By Mr. PETERS (for himself, Mr. LEVIN of California, Mr. HECK, Mr. CASE, Ms. SEWELL of Alabama, Ms. NORTON, Mr. VARGAS, Mr. CORREA, Mr. ROUDA, Mr. PAPPAS, and Mr. CISNEROS):

H.R. 2398. A bill to amend the United States Housing Act of 1937 and title 38, United States Code, to expand eligibility for the HUD-VASH program, to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to submit annual reports to the Committees on Veterans' Affairs of the Senate and House of Representatives regarding homeless veterans, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services, and in addition to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. PETERS (for himself, Mr. KATKO, Mr. LEVIN of California, Mr. HECK, Mr. CASE, Ms. SEWELL of Alabama, Ms. NORTON, Mr. VARGAS, Mr. ROUDA, Mr. PAPPAS, Mr. CISNEROS, and Mr. CARBAJAL):

H.R. 2399. A bill to provide for greater transparency in the HUD-VASH supported housing program for homeless veterans, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services, and in addition to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. FOSTER (for himself, Mr. RYAN, Mr. RUSH, Mr. MCGOVERN, and Ms. UNDERWOOD):

H.R. 2400. A bill to prioritize funding for an expanded and sustained national investment in basic science research; to the Committee on the Budget, and in addition to the Committees on Science, Space, and Technology, and Armed Services, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Ms. UNDERWOOD (for herself and Mr. FOSTER):

H.R. 2401. A bill to prioritize funding for an expanded and sustained national investment in biomedical research; to the Committee on the Budget, and in addition to the Committees on Energy and Commerce, Armed Services, and Veterans' Affairs, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. SCHNEIDER (for himself, Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana, Ms. WEXTON, and Mr. FITZPATRICK):

H.R. 2402. A bill to extend the protections of the Fair Housing Act to persons suffering discrimination on the basis of sex or sexual orientation, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Ms. MENG:

H.R. 2403. A bill to require agencies to ensure that menstrual hygiene products are stocked in, and available free of charge in, restrooms in public buildings, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mr. RUSH:

H.R. 2404. A bill to lift the trade embargo on Cuba, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, and in addition to

the Committees on Ways and Means, Energy and Commerce, the Judiciary, Agriculture, and Financial Services, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. HUFFMAN (for himself, Mr. LOWENTHAL, Mr. KILMER, Mr. KATKO, Mr. BEYER, Mr. ZELDIN, Mr. SUOZZI, Mr. PANETTA, Ms. BONAMICI, Mr. RASKIN, Mr. DEFAZIO, Mr. COURTNEY, Mr. LANGEVIN, Mr. CASE, Ms. GABBARD, Mr. FITZPATRICK, Mr. SIRES, Mr. PAPPAS, and Mr. KEATING):

H.R. 2405. A bill to reauthorize and amend the National Sea Grant College Program Act, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. CASE (for himself, Mr. YOUNG, and Mr. HUFFMAN):

H.R. 2406. A bill to amend the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Commissioned Officer Corps Act of 2002 to make certain changes to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's commissioned officer corps, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources, and in addition to the Committees on Oversight and Reform, Armed Services, and Veterans' Affairs, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Ms. MCCOLLUM:

H.R. 2407. A bill to promote human rights for Palestinian children living under Israeli military occupation and require that United States funds do not support military detention, interrogation, abuse, or ill-treatment of Palestinian children, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Mr. SENSENBRENNER (for himself and Mr. HIGGINS of New York):

H.R. 2408. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to update and clarify the classification of and applicable payment methodology for complex rehabilitation technology items under the Medicare program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mrs. AXNE (for herself, Mr. MOONEY of West Virginia, Ms. VELÁZQUEZ, Mr. PAPPAS, Mr. RIGGLEMAN, and Mr. JOHN W. ROSE of Tennessee):

H.R. 2409. A bill to amend the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 to expand access to capital for rural-area small businesses, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. CUMMINGS (for himself, Mr. NADLER, and Ms. BASS):

H.R. 2410. A bill to provide for the sealing or expungement of records relating to Federal nonviolent criminal offenses, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary, and in addition to the Committees on Agriculture, and Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Ms. DEGETTE (for herself, Mr. STEWART, Mr. COHEN, Ms. HERRERA BEUTLER, Mr. PAYNE, Mr. FLORES, and Mr. WITTMAN):

H.R. 2411. A bill to prohibit the sale of tobacco products to individuals under the age of 21; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. DIAZ-BALART (for himself, Mr. GOHMERT, Ms. GRANGER, Mr.

WEBER of Texas, Mr. FLEISCHMANN, Mr. GROTHMAN, Mr. DESJARLAIS, Mr. POSEY, Mr. KING of Iowa, Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia, Mr. ZELDIN, Mr. MARCHANT, Mr. HUNTER, Mr. YOHO, Mr. PERRY, Mr. GOSAR, Mr. HARRIS, Mr. RUTHERFORD, Mr. DAVIDSON of Ohio, Mr. JORDAN, Mr. GAETZ, Mr. BRADY, Mr. KINZINGER, Mr. STIVERS, Mr. MOONEY of West Virginia, Mr. MCKINLEY, Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio, Mr. WEBSTER of Florida, and Mr. MASSIE):

H.R. 2412. A bill to require the Secretary of State to submit to Congress a report on the designation of the Muslim Brotherhood as a foreign terrorist organization, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. DIAZ-BALART (for himself and Ms. SHALALA):

H.R. 2413. A bill to designate Nicaragua under section 244 of the Immigration and Nationality Act to permit nationals of Nicaragua to be eligible for temporary protected status under such section, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. GRIJALVA (for himself, Mr. COLE, Mrs. KIRKPATRICK, and Mr. GALLEGO):

H.R. 2414. A bill to amend the Morris K. Udall and Stewart L. Udall Foundation Act; to the Committee on Education and Labor, and in addition to the Committee on Natural Resources, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Ms. JAYAPAL (for herself and Mr. SMITH of Washington):

H.R. 2415. A bill to provide standards for facilities at which aliens in the custody of the Department of Homeland Security are detained, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary, and in addition to the Committee on Homeland Security, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHY (for himself, Mr. GALLAGHER, and Mr. COHEN):

H.R. 2416. A bill to amend title 23, United States Code, to require the Secretary of Transportation to provide States applying for distracted driving grants an explanation of the eligibility decision with respect to such State, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mr. MOULTON (for himself and Mr. FITZPATRICK):

H.R. 2417. A bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to expand and improve health care services by health centers and the National Health Service Corps for individuals with a developmental disability, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. NEAL:

H.R. 2418. A bill to add Ireland to the E-3 nonimmigrant visa program; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Ms. NORTON:

H.R. 2419. A bill to provide for nuclear weapons abolition and economic conversion in accordance with District of Columbia Initiative Measure Number 37 of 1992, while ensuring environmental restoration and clean-energy conversion; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, and in addition to the Committee on Armed Services, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. SERRANO (for himself, Mr. HURD of Texas, Mr. CÁRDENAS, Ms.

HERRERA BEUTLER, Ms. GARCIA of Texas, Mr. CASTRO of Texas, Miss GONZÁLEZ-COLÓN of Puerto Rico, Mr. CORREA, Mr. KING of New York, Mr. SOTO, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Mr. DUFFY, Ms. VELÁZQUEZ, Ms. LEE of California, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. GONZALEZ of Ohio, Ms. SÁNCHEZ, and Mr. NEWHOUSE):

H.R. 2420. A bill to establish within the Smithsonian Institution the National Museum of the American Latino, and for other purposes; to the Committee on House Administration, and in addition to the Committees on Natural Resources, and Transportation and Infrastructure, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Ms. SLOTKIN (for herself, Mr. UPTON, and Mr. MITCHELL):

H.R. 2421. A bill to ensure that certain incidents involving a covered employee that are reported to the title IX coordinator at an eligible institution of higher education have been reviewed by the president of the institution and not less than 1 additional member of the institution's board of trustees, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and Labor.

By Ms. SPEIER (for herself, Mr. HUDSON, Mr. RASKIN, Mr. RESCHENTHALER, Mr. TED LIEU of California, Mr. MULLIN, Mr. CRIST, and Mr. STEUBE):

H.R. 2422. A bill to amend chapter 171 of title 28, United States Code, to allow suit against the United States for injuries and deaths of members of the Armed Forces of the United States caused by improper medical care, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Ms. STEFANIK (for herself and Mrs. LAWRENCE):

H.R. 2423. A bill to require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint coins in commemoration of ratification of the 19th Amendment to the Constitution of the United States, giving women in the United States the right to vote; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. SWALWELL of California (for himself, Mr. COHEN, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Mrs. DEMINGS, Mr. GALLEGO, and Ms. NORTON):

H.R. 2424. A bill to amend the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971 to require reporting to the Federal Election Commission and the Federal Bureau of Investigation of offers by foreign nationals to make prohibited contributions, donations, expenditures, or disbursements, and for other purposes; to the Committee on House Administration, and in addition to the Committee on the Judiciary, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. YOUNG:

H.R. 2425. A bill to amend title 46, United States Code, to limit recovery for certain injuries incurred in shellfish aquaculture activities if a remedy is available; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, and in addition to the Committee on the Judiciary, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia (for himself, Ms. MENG, Mr. FITZPATRICK, Ms. LEE of California, Mr. LEWIS, Ms. NORTON, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN, and Ms. JUDY CHU of California):

H. Res. 331. A resolution expressing support for the designation of April 30 as "National

Adult Hepatitis B Vaccination Awareness Day"; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. CORREA (for himself, Mrs. MURPHY, Mr. LOWENTHAL, Ms. NOR-
TON, Mr. CASE, Ms. LOFGREN, Mr.
CISNEROS, Ms. PORTER, Mr. KHANNA,
Mr. ROUDA, and Mr. BEYER):

H. Res. 332. A resolution recognizing the accomplishments and the contributions of Vietnamese Americans; to the Committee on Oversight and Reform.

By Mr. GREEN of Texas (for himself, Mr. CLEAVER, Ms. VELÁZQUEZ, Ms. GABBARD, Mr. RASKIN, Ms. MOORE, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. BEYER, Mr. COHEN, Mr. PAYNE, Mr. MCGOVERN, Ms. NOR-
TON, Mrs. CRAIG, Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia, Mr. MALINOWSKI, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Ms. FUDGE, Ms. LEE of California, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Ms. PRESSLEY, Mr. LYNCH, Mr. LEWIS, Mr. POCAN, Ms. JAYAPAL, Mrs. BEATTY, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Mr. NEGUSE, Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illi-
nois, Ms. JOHNSON of Texas, Mr. RUSH, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, Mr. ESPAILLAT, Mr. VELA, Mr. GONZALEZ of Texas, Mr. DEFAZIO, Mr. SMITH of Washington, Mr. HASTINGS, Mr. KHANNA, Ms. MUCARSEL-POWELL, Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN, Ms. WILSON of Florida, Mr. CARSON of Indiana, Ms. BONAMICI, Mr. EVANS, Mr. BROWN of Maryland, Mr. THOMPSON of Mis-
sissippi, Mrs. LAWRENCE, Mr. HORSFORD, Mr. HUFFMAN, Mr. TAKANO, Ms. KELLY of Illinois, Mr. MEEKS, Ms. SEWELL of Alabama, Mr. HIGGINS of New York, Mr. CRIST, Mr. CARBAJAL, Mr. VEASEY, Mr. SIREs, Mr. PALLONE, Mr. CLAY, Mr. CASTRO of Texas, Mr. GARCÍA of Illinois, and Ms. WATERS):

H. Res. 333. A resolution promoting and supporting the goals and ideals of the Fair Housing Act and supporting the recognition of April 2019 as Fair Housing Month, which includes bringing attention to the discrimination faced by everyday Americans in the United States in housing and housing-related transactions on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, familial status, disability, and religion; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. LOUDERMILK (for himself, Mr. WEBER of Texas, Mr. ADERHOLT, Mr. MOONEY of West Virginia, Mr. COLE, Mr. RATCLIFFE, Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio, Mr. CARTER of Georgia, Mr. WALKER, Mr. BACON, Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania, Mr. ABRAHAM, Mr. KING of Iowa, Mr. MEADOWS, Mr. MARSHALL, Mr. WRIGHT, Mr. JOHNSON of Louisiana, Mr. ESTES, Mr. WOODALL, Mr. HICE of Georgia, Mr. BABIN, Mr. NORMAN, Mr. EMMER, Mr. LAMBORN, Mr. HUNTER, Mr. TIMMONS, and Mr. WITTMAN):

H. Res. 334. A resolution recognizing May 2, 2019, as the 31st anniversary of the National Day of Prayer established under the Act entitled "An Act to provide for setting aside the first Thursday in May as the date on which the National Day of Prayer is celebrated", approved May 5, 1988, which was signed by President Ronald Reagan on May 5, 1988; to the Committee on Oversight and Reform.

By Ms. SHALALA (for herself, Ms. TLAIB, Mrs. DINGELL, Mr. PASCRELL, Mr. PERLMUTTER, Mr. SOTO, Ms. ESHOO, Mr. LEVIN of Michigan, Mr. LEWIS, Ms. STEVENS, Mr. JEFFRIES, Ms. DEAN, Mr. CRIST, and Ms. OCASIO-CORTEZ):

H. Res. 335. A resolution expressing support for the recognition of April as Arab Amer-

ican Heritage Month and celebrating the heritage and culture of Arab Americans in the United States; to the Committee on Oversight and Reform.

MEMORIALS

Under clause 3 of rule XII, memorials were presented and referred as follows:

35. The SPEAKER presented a memorial of the Legislature of the State of Arizona, relative to House Concurrent Memorial 2005, urging the Congress of the United States to decline to designate the great bend of the Gila River and surrounding areas as a national monument; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

36. Also, a memorial of the Legislature of the State of Arizona, relative to House Concurrent Memorial 2007, urging the Congress of the United States to act to prohibit federal agencies from recommending and identifying Arizona's public lands as wilderness areas without express congressional consent; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY STATEMENT

Pursuant to clause 7 of rule XII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the following statements are submitted regarding the specific powers granted to Congress in the Constitution to enact the accompanying bill or joint resolution.

By Mr. DEFAZIO:

H.R. 2396.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 1, Clause 3, and Clause 18 of the Constitution.

By Ms. STEVENS:

H.R. 2397.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, section 8 of the Constitution of the United States.

By Mr. PETERS:

H.R. 2398.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8

By Mr. PETERS:

H.R. 2399.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8

By Mr. FOSTER:

H.R. 2400.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

This bill is enacted pursuant to the power granted to Congress under Article I, Section 8, Clauses 1 and 18 of the United States Constitution.

By Ms. UNDERWOOD:

H.R. 2401.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. SCHNEIDER:

H.R. 2402.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8

By Ms. MENG:

H.R. 2403.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 18 of the Constitution

By Mr. RUSH:

H.R. 2404.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 1: "The Congress shall have power to . . . provide for the . . . general welfare of the United States . . .";

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3: The Congress shall have power "To regulate commerce with foreign nations, and among the several states, and with the Indian tribes;" and

Article I, Section 8, Clause 18: The Congress shall have power "To make all laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into execution the foregoing powers, and all other powers vested by this Constitution in the government of the United States, or in any department or officer thereof."

By Mr. HUFFMAN:

H.R. 2405.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 1: The Congress shall have Power to lay and collect Taxes, Duties, Imposts and Excises, to pay the Debts and provide for the common Defence and general Welfare of the United States; but all Duties, Imposts and Excises shall be uniform throughout the United States.

Article I, Section 8, Clause 18: To make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof.

Mr. CASE:

H.R. 2406.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8.

By Ms. MCCOLLUM:

H.R. 2407.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8 of the Constitution

By Mr. SENSENBRENNER:

H.R. 2408.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8

By Mrs. AXNE:

H.R. 2409.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

This bill is enacted pursuant to the power granted to Congress under Article I, Section 8 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. CUMMINGS:

H.R. 2410.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Pursuant to Article I, Section 8, Clause 3 of the United States Constitution, the Congress shall have the power to "regulate Commerce with foreign Nations, and among the several states, and with the Indian Tribes"

By Ms. DEGETTE:

H.R. 2411.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 3 of the U.S. Constitution

By Mr. DIAZ-BALART:

H.R. 2412.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Sec. 8, Clause 3 and Article I, Sec 8, Clause 18

By Mr. DIAZ-BALART:

H.R. 2413.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. GRIJALVA:

H.R. 2414.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

U.S. Const. art. I, §§1 and 8.

By Ms. JAYAPAL:

H.R. 2415.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

This bill is enacted pursuant to the power granted to Congress under Article I of the United States Constitution and its subsequent amendments, and further clarified and interpreted by the Supreme Court of the United States.

By Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHY:

H.R. 2416.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

United States Constitution, Article 1, Section 8

By Mr. MOULTON:

H.R. 2417.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1 section 8 of the US Constitution.

By Mr. NEAL:

H.R. 2418.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8

By Ms. NORTON:

H.R. 2419.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
clause 1 of section 8 of article I of the Constitution.

By Mr. SERRANO:

H.R. 2420.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8

By Ms. SLOTKIN:

H.R. 2421.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Under Article I, Section 8 of the Constitution, Congress has the power "to make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or any Department or Officer thereof".

By Ms. SPEIER:

H.R. 2422.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

This bill is enacted pursuant to the power granted to Congress under Article 1, Section 8 of the United States Constitution.

By Ms. STEFANIK:

H.R. 2423.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 1 of the United States Constitution

By Mr. SWALWELL of California:

H.R. 2424.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 4; Article I, Section 8, Clauses 3 and 18

By Mr. YOUNG:

H.R. 2425.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Under Article 1, Section 8, Clause 3 which deals with interstate commerce.

ADDITIONAL SPONSORS

Under clause 7 of rule XII, sponsors were added to public bills and resolutions, as follows:

H.R. 6: Ms. FINKENAUER.

H.R. 33: Mr. GARCÍA of Illinois.

H.R. 35: Ms. OMAR.

H.R. 64: Mr. JOHNSON of Louisiana.

H.R. 95: Mr. KEVIN HERN of Oklahoma.

H.R. 141: Mrs. LURIA.

H.R. 231: Ms. HOULAHAN.

H.R. 307: Mr. BRINDISI.

H.R. 336: Mr. HUIZENGA and Mr. GONZALEZ of Ohio.

H.R. 366: Mr. GARCÍA of Illinois.

H.R. 372: Ms. DELBENE.

H.R. 445: Mrs. BUSTOS and Mr. KIND.

H.R. 465: Ms. MENG.

H.R. 510: Mr. ARRINGTON and Mr. GOLDEN.

H.R. 555: Mr. GOTTHEIMER, Ms. MUCARSEL-POWELL, Mr. HASTINGS, Mr. RUSH, Ms. KUSTER of New Hampshire, and Mr. NEAL.

H.R. 586: Mr. BOST, Mr. BUCK, Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio, and Mr. BIGGS.

H.R. 611: Mr. WATKINS.

H.R. 612: Mr. CLOUD.

H.R. 649: Mr. HECK and Ms. WILD.

H.R. 662: Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD and Ms. LOFGREN.

H.R. 663: Mr. RUIZ and Mr. CROW.

H.R. 665: Mr. POCAN and Mr. COHEN.

H.R. 668: Mr. GARAMENDI, Mr. PANETTA, Ms. CLARKE of New York, and Mr. CUMMINGS.

H.R. 669: Ms. MENG.

H.R. 838: Mr. PETERS and Mr. KEVIN HERN of Oklahoma.

H.R. 849: Mr. ESPAILLAT, Mr. HECK, Mr. MALINOWSKI, and Mr. KEATING.

H.R. 888: Mr. TIMMONS.

H.R. 919: Ms. HAALAND and Ms. CASTOR of Florida.

H.R. 925: Mr. SEAN PATRICK MALONEY of New York, Mr. VAN DREW, and Mr. DELGADO.

H.R. 935: Ms. SLOTKIN, Ms. WEXTON, and Ms. MOORE.

H.R. 959: Mr. JOHNSON of Louisiana.

H.R. 965: Mr. JORDAN, Ms. WILD, and Mr. COHEN.

H.R. 1004: Mrs. NAPOLITANO.

H.R. 1025: Ms. WILD.

H.R. 1041: Mr. ARMSTRONG.

H.R. 1042: Mr. COHEN.

H.R. 1049: Mr. HORSFORD, Ms. DEGETTE, Ms. SEWELL of Alabama, Mr. PETERS, and Ms. JACKSON LEE.

H.R. 1058: Mr. MCKINLEY and Mr. COLE.

H.R. 1069: Mrs. BEATTY.

H.R. 1111: Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois.

H.R. 1121: Mr. NORMAN and Mr. DAVID P. ROE of Tennessee.

H.R. 1134: Ms. CASTOR of Florida.

H.R. 1140: Ms. KAPTUR, Mr. TAKANO, Mr. RYAN, and Ms. MUCARSEL-POWELL.

H.R. 1155: Mr. LYNCH, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mrs. AXNE, Mr. GOMEZ, and Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER.

H.R. 1175: Mr. CALVERT, Mr. MOOLENAAR, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mrs. WAGNER, Ms. SLOTKIN, and Ms. OMAR.

H.R. 1220: Mr. BRINDISI.

H.R. 1241: Mr. BRENDAN F. BOYLE of Pennsylvania, Mr. GALLEGO, Mr. POCAN, and Mr. POSEY.

H.R. 1243: Mr. COX of California.

H.R. 1274: Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia.

H.R. 1345: Ms. CLARKE of New York.

H.R. 1358: Mr. KILMER.

H.R. 1366: Mr. COHEN.

H.R. 1377: Mr. RYAN and Mr. LAMB.

H.R. 1379: Mr. GOODEN, Mr. ARMSTRONG, and Mr. TRONE.

H.R. 1380: Mr. GOTTHEIMER and Mr. SCHWEIKERT.

H.R. 1395: Mrs. RODGERS of Washington and Mr. MCKINLEY.

H.R. 1400: Mr. CÁRDENAS and Mr. TAKANO.

H.R. 1406: Mrs. LURIA and Mr. RUTHERFORD.

H.R. 1411: Ms. KUSTER of New Hampshire.

H.R. 1421: Mr. DEUTCH.

H.R. 1444: Mr. BISHOP of Georgia and Mr. RUTHERFORD.

H.R. 1450: Mr. CASE, Mr. CARTWRIGHT, Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD, Ms. SHALALA, Mr. BEYER, and Ms. CASTOR of Florida.

H.R. 1456: Ms. GABBARD.

H.R. 1458: Mrs. CRAIG and Mr. SIRES.

H.R. 1485: Mrs. LAWRENCE, Ms. PRESSLEY, and Mr. HASTINGS.

H.R. 1507: Mr. POCAN.

H.R. 1517: Ms. KUSTER of New Hampshire and Mr. LIPINSKI.

H.R. 1520: Ms. MUCARSEL-POWELL.

H.R. 1529: Mr. FITZPATRICK and Mr. HUFFMAN.

H.R. 1530: Ms. JUDY CHU of California, Mr. POCAN, Mr. GONZALEZ of Texas, Mr. RASKIN, Mr. SCHRADER, Mr. PRICE of North Carolina, and Ms. DELBENE.

H.R. 1551: Mr. FITZPATRICK and Mr. LEVIN of California.

H.R. 1554: Mr. BURCHETT, Ms. KUSTER of New Hampshire, and Mr. BRINDISI.

H.R. 1570: Mrs. LAWRENCE, Mr. GALLAGHER, and Mr. WITTMAN.

H.R. 1588: Mr. EVANS.

H.R. 1595: Mr. ARMSTRONG.

H.R. 1605: Mr. BYRNE.

H.R. 1629: Mr. BYRNE, Ms. PINGREE, Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts, and Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana.

H.R. 1630: Ms. KUSTER of New Hampshire.

H.R. 1646: Ms. STEFANIK, Mr. MALINOWSKI, Mr. CICILLINE, Mr. POSEY, Mr. DEFAZIO, Ms. KUSTER of New Hampshire, Mr. POCAN, Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER, and Mr. MCADAMS.

H.R. 1648: Ms. HOULAHAN.

H.R. 1649: Ms. HOULAHAN.

H.R. 1652: Mr. LAMBORN, Mr. ZELDIN, and Mr. COLE.

H.R. 1669: Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois.

H.R. 1679: Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER, Mr. GOTTHEIMER, and Mr. AGUILAR.

H.R. 1692: Ms. SCHRIER.

H.R. 1694: Ms. SCHRIER.

H.R. 1695: Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois and Mr. HARDER of California.

H.R. 1707: Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York.

H.R. 1709: Ms. OMAR.

H.R. 1716: Ms. WEXTON.

H.R. 1721: Mr. CASE.

H.R. 1739: Mr. MEADOWS.

H.R. 1753: Mr. SPANO and Mr. BYRNE.

H.R. 1754: Mr. CALVERT, Mr. CLAY, Mr. BEYER, Mr. LANGEVIN, and Ms. STEFANIK.

H.R. 1773: Ms. NORTON, Ms. KENDRA S. HORN of Oklahoma, and Mr. MICHAEL F. DOYLE of Pennsylvania.

H.R. 1779: Mr. GONZALEZ of Texas.

H.R. 1785: Mr. BRINDISI and Mr. PAPPAS.

H.R. 1786: Mr. PANETTA and Mr. PASCRELL.

H.R. 1802: Mr. STAUBER.

H.R. 1824: Mr. CLAY, Mr. SMITH of Missouri, Mrs. CRAIG, Mr. MALINOWSKI, Ms. WILD, Mr. SUOZZI, Mr. MICHAEL F. DOYLE of Pennsylvania, Mr. GOTTHEIMER, and Ms. MOORE.

H.R. 1830: Mr. CASE, Mrs. RADEWAGEN, Mr. ALLRED, Mr. CARBAJAL, Mr. VAN DREW, Mr. LOWENTHAL, Mr. LEVIN of Michigan, Mr. NEGUSE, and Mrs. CRAIG.

H.R. 1835: Mr. PAPPAS and Mr. LUETKEMEYER.

H.R. 1857: Mr. DESAULNIER.

H.R. 1858: Mr. WENSTRUP, Mrs. LESKO, Mr. COLE, and Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota.

H.R. 1865: Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania, Mr. COURTNEY, Mr. HIGGINS of Louisiana, Mrs. WALORSKI, Mr. DOGGETT, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, Mr. JOHNSON of Louisiana, Mr. MALINOWSKI, Mr. KHANNA, Mr. CUELLAR, Mr. LOEBSACK, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Mr. GOTTHEIMER, Mr. GALLEGO, and Mr. CORREA.

H.R. 1869: Mr. MOULTON, Ms. SLOTKIN, Ms. KENDRA S. HORN of Oklahoma, and Mr. ROUDA.

H.R. 1872: Mr. RIGGLEMAN.

H.R. 1873: Ms. SLOTKIN and Mr. UPTON.

H.R. 1876: Mr. GONZALEZ of Texas and Mr. CASTEN of Illinois.

H.R. 1880: Mr. KHANNA, Mr. POCAN, Mr. HASTINGS, Mr. PANETTA, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. ESPAILLAT, Mr. COHEN, Ms. NORTON, Mrs. TRAHAN, Ms. PRESSLEY, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Mr. NADLER, Ms. LOFGREN, Ms. JAYAPAL, and Mr. MALINOWSKI.

H.R. 1895: Mr. MEUSER.

H.R. 1914: Mr. BURCHETT.
 H.R. 1921: Miss GONZÁLEZ-COLÓN of Puerto Rico.
 H.R. 1923: Ms. KAPTUR, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, and Ms. NORTON.
 H.R. 1941: Mr. PETERS.
 H.R. 1981: Mr. PAYNE, Mr. BERA, Mr. KHANNA, Ms. PRESSLEY, Ms. SCANLON, Mr. LAWSON of Florida, Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York, Mr. SCHIFF, Mr. PASCRELL, and Ms. DAVIDS of Kansas.
 H.R. 1982: Ms. DELAURO, Mr. GRIJALVA, and Miss RICE of New York.
 H.R. 1994: Mrs. WALORSKI, Mr. HARDER of California, Mr. HORSFORD, Mr. HUDSON, Mr. VELA, and Mr. SUOZZI.
 H.R. 2006: Ms. OMAR.
 H.R. 2010: Mr. WEBER of Texas and Mr. LATTA.
 H.R. 2023: Mr. RATCLIFFE, Mr. SENSENBRENNER, and Mr. WOMACK.
 H.R. 2050: Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD.
 H.R. 2052: Mr. BARR.
 H.R. 2069: Mr. CASE, Ms. HOULAHAN, and Mr. RASKIN.
 H.R. 2075: Mr. LEVIN of Michigan, Ms. JUDY CHU of California, Mr. RUSH, Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD, Mr. HARDER of California, and Mr. GARCÍA of Illinois.
 H.R. 2090: Mr. MCGOVERN.
 H.R. 2091: Ms. OMAR.
 H.R. 2108: Mr. BUDD.
 H.R. 2117: Mr. MCHENRY and Miss RICE of New York.
 H.R. 2134: Mr. HARDER of California, Ms. LEE of California, Mr. HUFFMAN, Mrs. KIRKPATRICK, and Mr. GALLEGÓ.
 H.R. 2135: Ms. SPANBERGER.
 H.R. 2147: Mr. SMITH of Missouri, Mr. BRINDISI, Mr. UPTON, Mr. BISHOP of Georgia, Mr. PETERSON, Ms. CASTOR of Florida, and Mr. VELA.
 H.R. 2148: Mr. CÁRDENAS, Mr. MOULTON, Mr. KENNEDY, Ms. OMAR, Ms. FRANKEL, Mr. GARCÍA of Illinois, and Mr. COHEN.
 H.R. 2153: Mrs. WALORSKI and Mr. QUIGLEY.
 H.R. 2156: Mr. RYAN, Mr. YARMUTH, Mr. LOWENTHAL, Mr. PETERS, Mr. HUFFMAN, Mr. FLEISCHMANN, Mrs. BUSTOS, Mr. TONKO, Mr.

BRENDAN F. BOYLE of Pennsylvania, Mr. SIRES, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Mr. GRIJALVA, Ms. CASTOR of Florida, Mr. LUJÁN, Mr. FITZPATRICK, Mr. MEUSER, Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHY, Mr. MICHAEL F. DOYLE of Pennsylvania, Ms. SEWELL of Alabama, and Ms. HAALAND.
 H.R. 2163: Mr. BUDD.
 H.R. 2206: Mrs. KIRKPATRICK.
 H.R. 2207: Mr. LUCAS.
 H.R. 2210: Mr. WALKER.
 H.R. 2214: Mr. PASCRELL, Mr. SCHNEIDER, Mr. HUFFMAN, Mr. SEAN PATRICK MALONEY of New York, Ms. HILL of California, Ms. SCANLON, Mr. GARAMENDI, Mr. HARDER of California, Mr. COURTNEY, Ms. WEXTON, and Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts.
 H.R. 2231: Mr. ESPAILLAT.
 H.R. 2235: Mr. GONZALEZ of Texas, Ms. BONAMICI, Mr. PETERS, Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD, Mr. HOLLINGSWORTH, Mr. DEUTCH, Mr. KILMER, Mr. POCAN, Mr. HECK, Ms. BROWNLEY of California, Mr. SOTO, and Mr. SCHRADER.
 H.R. 2261: Mr. BYRNE.
 H.R. 2275: Ms. HAALAND.
 H.R. 2288: Ms. VELÁZQUEZ and Miss RICE of New York.
 H.R. 2316: Mr. HECK.
 H.R. 2328: Mr. SMITH of Washington.
 H.R. 2331: Ms. HOULAHAN.
 H.R. 2334: Mr. ALLRED.
 H.R. 2336: Mr. CARBAJAL.
 H.R. 2351: Mr. PETERS and Ms. OMAR.
 H.R. 2367: Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHY and Mr. MEADOWS.
 H.R. 2368: Mr. COLLINS of Georgia and Mr. FITZPATRICK.
 H.R. 2370: Mr. SIRES, Ms. OMAR, and Ms. HAALAND.
 H.R. 2374: Mr. COHEN.
 H.R. 2375: Mr. COHEN.
 H.R. 2379: Mr. RUTHERFORD.
 H.R. 2386: Mr. FLORES.
 H.J. Res. 2: Mr. MALINOWSKI and Mrs. TRAHAN.
 H.J. Res. 20: Mr. SCHWEIKERT.
 H.J. Res. 36: Mr. CALVERT.
 H.J. Res. 38: Mr. STANTON.
 H.J. Res. 52: Mr. ROUZER.

H. Con. Res. 34: Ms. SÁNCHEZ and Mrs. LOWEY.
 H. Res. 45: Mr. WATKINS.
 H. Res. 129: Mr. WILSON of South Carolina, Ms. TLAIB, and Mr. TRONE.
 H. Res. 141: Mr. CÁRDENAS.
 H. Res. 179: Mr. COLE and Mr. TED LIEU of California.
 H. Res. 188: Mr. HECK.
 H. Res. 189: Mr. CASTRO of Texas.
 H. Res. 213: Ms. CASTOR of Florida.
 H. Res. 231: Mr. EVANS, Mr. SOTO, Mr. CUMMINGS, Mr. CASTRO of Texas, and Mr. MOULTON.
 H. Res. 246: Mr. HOYER, Mr. HURD of Texas, Mr. MITCHELL, and Mr. BYRNE.
 H. Res. 259: Mr. JOYCE of Ohio, Mr. ADERHOLT, Mr. HARDER of California, and Mr. MCGOVERN.
 H. Res. 261: Mr. HURD of Texas.
 H. Res. 285: Mr. TURNER, Mr. CARTER of Texas, and Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD.
 H. Res. 291: Mr. RASKIN, Mr. BRENDAN F. BOYLE of Pennsylvania, Mr. HECK, Mr. KIM, and Mr. CISNEROS.
 H. Res. 304: Mr. BIGGS.
 H. Res. 319: Mr. PETERS.
 H. Res. 326: Mr. BEYER, Mr. CARBAJAL, Mr. POCAN, Ms. KUSTER of New Hampshire, and Mr. GARAMENDI.
 H. Res. 328: Ms. BONAMICI.
 H. Res. 330: Mr. CRIST.

PETITIONS, ETC.

Under clause 3 of rule XII,

14. The SPEAKER presented a petition of Mr. Gregory D. Watson, a citizen of Austin, TX, relative to urging Congress to amend the Age Discrimination in Employment Act of 1967 (ADEA) so as to extend the law's protections to mature American citizens, regardless of an employer's potential impact—or complete lack thereof—upon interstate commerce, and expanding applicability of ADEA to State and local units of government; to the Committee on Education and Labor.



United States
of America

Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 116th CONGRESS, FIRST SESSION

Vol. 165

WASHINGTON, TUESDAY, APRIL 30, 2019

No. 70

Senate

The Senate met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the President pro tempore (Mr. GRASSLEY).

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Sovereign Lord, our help in ages past and our hope for years to come, we magnify Your Name. Lord, we sense that our battles are not simply with flesh and blood, but we war against principalities and powers. Thank You for providing us with spiritual weapons for our warfare. Forgive us when we chase the temporary and flee from the permanent. Inspire us to capture our thoughts and actions, making them subject to Your will.

Lord, give our lawmakers today an awareness of the complexity of the warfare between good and evil. Speak to our Senators when they call to You for guidance. Remind them that truth crushed to Earth will rise again.

We pray in Your great Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The President pro tempore led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mrs. HYDE-SMITH). Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Morning business is closed.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will proceed to executive session to resume consideration of the following nomination, which the clerk will report.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of William Cooper, of Maryland, to be General Counsel of the Department of Energy.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader is recognized.

NOMINATIONS

Mr. MCCONNELL. Madam President, the Senate is in the midst of considering several more well-qualified nominees for service in the executive branch and on our Nation's Federal courts. We are doing so in a more reasonable, efficient manner—more in line with this body's tradition—thanks to the modest reform the Senate passed just a few weeks ago.

Until recently, our colleagues across the aisle had succeeded in subjecting even the least controversial nominees to day after day of so-called debate.

Countless hours of valuable floor time were spent on individuals who passed through committees of jurisdiction without any opposition and for individuals whose final confirmation votes frequently cleared 90 votes, but now the Senate has begun to clear the backlog and put more public servants to work on behalf of the American people.

Last evening we voted to advance the nomination of William Cooper of Maryland to serve as general counsel at the Department of Energy. Mr. Cooper's nomination first arrived in the Senate 9 months ago. It has twice been reported favorably by our colleagues on the Energy and Natural Resources Committee. Mr. Cooper of Florida has

waited even longer to begin his service as Assistant Secretary of State for Political-Military Affairs, and the story is not much different for the jurists waiting to finally be confirmed to Federal district courts either.

So I look forward to the swift consideration of this week's slate of nominees, and I would urge each of my colleagues to join me in voting for their confirmation.

HEALTHCARE

On another matter, lest there be any doubt that my Democratic colleagues here in the Congress are serious about their party's radical left turn, the House Rules Committee is actually holding a hearing today on their proposal to outlaw private health insurance and force every American into a new government-run system.

As I have said, this grand scheme ought to be called Medicare for None. Democrats want to drain the popular program that seniors have relied on for more than 50 years and slap its name on a brand-new, untried, untested government-run system, and this thing they have cooked up would become the only option—the only option—available to American families.

Democrats are so confident that Americans will love their one-size-fits-all government plan that they feel the need to ban the private sector from competing with it.

This is a fantasy pulled from the farthest corners of the left, but now leading Democrats are proudly embracing it.

Here is the chairman of the House Rules Committee: "It's a serious proposal that deserves serious consideration."

Well, it certainly is a serious proposal for more than 180 million Americans who would be unceremoniously kicked off of their private insurance plans. It certainly is a serious proposal for the tens of millions of Americans who paid into Medicare so it would actually be there now when they needed

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



Printed on recycled paper.

S2497

it—not distorted into something totally different.

This is a particularly important point, given the serious challenges that Medicare is already facing. The Administrator for the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services recently explained that “the program’s main trust fund for hospital services can only pay full benefits for seven more years,” and she noted the particular irony that this “sobering dose of reality” is being delivered as “some are calling for a complete government takeover of the American healthcare system.”

On our current trajectory, as soon as 7 years from now, in 2026, “doctors, hospitals, and nursing homes would not receive their full compensation from the program and patients could face more of the financial burden.” That is from the New York Times.

In other words, this is a time for shoring up the existing health insurance that our seniors like and rely on, not a time to risk it—risk it all—by packing millions and millions more—the whole rest of the Nation—into that very system for the sake of a snappy campaign promise.

The last time Democrats had unified control of the House, the Senate, and the White House, of course, they implemented sweeping changes that the American people were assured would keep healthcare costs down. Lots of promises were made. Lots of promises were broken.

Many families are now saddled with sky-high premiums, deductibles, and out-of-pocket costs, not to mention dwindling choices, and now Democrats are back for another, even bigger bite of the apple.

The last thing American families need is even more top-down, one-size-fits-all social engineering. We need to take practical steps to address what really matters most to American families—healthcare costs. We need to preserve what works, fix what doesn’t, bring costs down, and preserve Medicare. That is the sensible approach that American families deserve. That is the practical solutions-oriented approach that Republicans are committed to.

But as we have already seen across the Capitol this week, our Democratic friends want to wheel out the drawing board yet again and take another big whack at the healthcare plans Americans already rely on.

TRIBUTE TO JOHN ABEGG

Madam President, on one final matter, one of the most bittersweet subjects that Senators discuss on the floor is the departure of trusted staff. On one hand, I am certainly glad for any opportunity to highlight members of my all-star team, especially someone as diligent and tireless as the subject of my remarks today. The vast majority of the late-night hours and weekend projects that go on around here are repaid with much private gratitude but little to no public fanfare. So I am glad I can devote some time today to a long-

time adviser who has earned my complete trust and thrown himself heart, mind, and soul into serving Kentucky and our Nation for nearly two decades.

But I am very unhappy that the occasion for this is that John Abegg is taking leave of the Senate to pursue the next chapter for himself and his family. John, you see, is my chief counsel. He arrived on our team before I was whip and before I was leader. President Clinton was still in office, and it was one of the more fortunate days of my career when this bright, young lawyer walked into my office. He brought an outsized share of shrewd judgment, sharp wit, and an eagle eye for detail along with him.

Some 19 years later, nearly all of that is still the case. There might be a little more seasoning. The reading glasses might be a little thicker. But every ounce of the talent and dedication that were so evident back then have remained part of my operation ever since.

John has literally flourished. He has become an institution in his own right here in the Senate and in the legal community, and I feel so fortunate to have had him by my side.

Now, today, it may all sound quite impressive—the chief counsel who advises the Senate majority leader on judicial nominations and countless important policy matters. But John can attest that the original job description 19 years ago wasn’t so glamorous.

It was the beginning of the 107th Congress. I secured a temporary seat on the Judiciary Committee. It was an important assignment, but it came with some caveats. Namely, I would be last on the docket to speak at hearings. So most often, as a courtesy, I would yield my speaking time and avoid holding up the proceedings.

But this will give you a picture of how unbelievably industrious and meticulous John is, because my bright, young counsel saw this as a zero license to slack off or let up on the comprehensive briefing books he would prepare for me.

No matter how many times I opted only to listen and cast my vote, the painstaking, encyclopedic preparations came pouring in—just in case. I may have been the new guy on the block, but John made sure that every week I showed up loaded for bear, with extensive background information, potential amendments, and suggested questions, because, you see, John Abegg is never, ever caught flat-footed—not ever, and if you are around him, he will not let you be caught flat-footed either. For John, a job worth doing is a job worth doing to perfection—or as close to perfection as possible.

The man literally handled everything from nominations to policy matters to his own colleagues’ questions about Senate ethics. Now, all of that was in a half-day’s work, by the way, and yet every one of these subjects, every single time, was handled with total commitment, stunning professionalism,

and the utmost care. Zero stones were left unturned, zero angles left unconsidered—a true “lawyer’s lawyer” from dawn until well after dusk, and then all over again.

We are talking about a mindset that you would think even a top professional might reserve for one marquee project every couple of months. John brought that high standard to 14 different things before lunchtime, and he did it every day for almost 20 years.

Now, I realize that the picture I have painted so far may sound like an incredible team asset but not necessarily the most warm and fuzzy individual. It is true that John was never afraid to state his views directly to his peers or his chief of staff or to me. Now, I am not sure anyone on my staff has been able to deliver hard news, when necessary, with more clarity or greater courage, but he has been equally reliable for the best laugh line in most meetings, the perfectly timed joke. He literally lifts everyone up by bringing the house down.

And for all of the priorities he juggles, anybody who has seen John in the presence of his lovely wife and their three girls knows exactly what his real top priority is.

During his tenure, John has offered me peerless advice and analysis on countless judicial nominations. A majority of the sitting Supreme Court was confirmed while John has been on this job. He takes the judiciary as seriously as it deserves. The third branch and our Nation are better for his service.

Then, there is a lengthy catalog of legislative work that John has steered and helped me to shape. Some of his legacy is what you might expect from a no-nonsense lawyer for a Republican Member of this body—work on causes like class action reform or medical liability reform.

But anyone who spent time around John would be equally unsurprised by the long nights he put in to help bring about comprehensive legislation to address the opioid crisis or crack down on the scourge of human trafficking or to help local law enforcement care for fallen officers’ families and search for missing children. In every single case, John was on the case—rock-solid legal advice, keen strategy. Before an issue even popped up, he would have his finger on the pulse of the Senate.

Once we were in the thick of it, he was often our field general and backbone, and after our work was done, but only then, it was time for a well-earned smile.

But John’s smile is widest when he is talking about his beautiful wife Heidi and their three lovely daughters, Abigail, Ingrid, and Erika.

So while his friends and colleagues here in the Senate are sad to see John go, we know he does nothing rashly, and so we are confident that he has thought this calculus through as completely as he has everything else.

Fewer full-day hearings and more bedtime stories. Fewer dinners crackling up his colleagues over takeout food

during some all-night session and more times at his own kitchen table.

Well, after nearly two decades, I suppose we can let this slacker head for the hills, and we will know that he has made the right call because John Abegg is the one who made it.

So I really can't thank him enough for his loyal friendship, wise counsel, and exceptionally well done job.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. THUNE. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

MEDICARE

Mr. THUNE. Madam President, shortly before Easter, the junior Senator from Vermont introduced a new version of his so-called Medicare for All plan. Given the staggering pricetag of his previous plan, it was reasonable to wonder if he would think about producing something that was at least a bit more modest and achievable. So what is the new plan like? Is it any more realistic? Did he figure out a way to actually pay for a government takeover of healthcare? Well, the answer is no. In fact, the new plan is even worse. It is more unrealistic, more costly, and even more likely to result in massive tax hikes on middle-class Americans.

Analysis of a previous version of the Vermont Senator's Medicare for All plan found that it would cost \$32 trillion over 10 years. Now, to put that number in perspective, that is more money than the Federal Government has spent combined in the last 8 years on everything—defense, law enforcement, Social Security, Medicare, Medicaid, education, the environment, agriculture, Foreign Affairs—everything.

Here is what the Washington Post had to say back in 2017 about the pricetag for government-run healthcare:

But the government's price tag would be astonishing. When Sen. Bernie Sanders . . . proposed a "Medicare for all" health plan in his presidential campaign, the nonpartisan Urban Institute figured that it would raise government spending by \$32 trillion over 10 years, requiring a tax increase so huge that even the democratic socialist Mr. Sanders did not propose anything close to it.

Fast-forward to today, and, once again, the Senator from Vermont has proposed a government-run health plan without even coming close to presenting a way to pay for it. The only difference this time is that the pricetag is likely to be even higher—much higher. Why? Because the Senator from Vermont's new plan also includes coverage for long-term care—an incredibly expensive part of the healthcare system.

The Democrats' last attempt to have the government run a long-term care program fell apart before it was even implemented because the program was

not financially viable. Thirty-two trillion dollars was a staggering enough figure, and now we are talking about having the Federal Government spend even more. Where do the Democrats think we are going to find the money? The list of proposed tax hikes that the Senator from Vermont released would not even come close to covering the estimated cost of his original plan, much less the cost of his new, expanded Medicare fantasy. This is not a plan that can be paid for by using the Democrats' favorite solution of taxing the rich. If Medicare for All ever became law, it would be paid for on the backs of middle-class families.

It is impossible to have a discussion of Medicare for All—or maybe we should call it Medicare for None given the fact that it would end Medicare as we know it—without focusing on the insane pricetag. Yet that is not the only unrealistic aspect of this bill. The Senator from Vermont is proposing to implement his plan in 4 years. That is right—in 4 years. The Obama administration had 3½ years to implement the ObamaCare exchanges, which were intended to cover a tiny fraction of the number of people who would be covered under Medicare for All. As I am sure most Americans remember, the government couldn't put together a working website in that time period. The idea that the government could successfully transition more than 180 million Americans into government-run healthcare in the space of 4 years is ludicrous, not to mention what that healthcare would be like when Americans would have made it into the system.

As a recent Vox article pointed out, the Senator from Vermont is proposing extremely generous benefits—benefits that are substantially more generous than those that are offered by other countries with government-run healthcare. Yet, again, he has no viable way of paying for any of this. The likelihood that Americans would actually see all of those benefits is slim.

When the government reaches a point where it can't pay for all of the benefits it promised, it has basically two options. It can raise taxes even further—and that would undoubtedly happen; I think that is a given—but the government would also inevitably have to turn to the other option: the kind of control over healthcare we have seen in other countries with socialized medicine. Americans would also undoubtedly soon find themselves facing that other hallmark of socialized medicine: long wait times for care.

The leader recently said on the floor that Republicans stand for "preserving what works and fixing what doesn't." That is exactly it. Republicans know that our healthcare system is not perfect. We are committed to finding solutions to make healthcare more affordable, but we don't think tearing down our entire system is the answer. We can address the healthcare challenges we face without ripping away Americans' health insurance and forcing

them into a government-run, one-size-fits-all plan and then raising their taxes to pay for it. We can make healthcare more affordable without destroying Medicare as we know it.

Democrats' socialist healthcare fantasy sounds nice in theory, but the reality would be anything but—huge new tax hikes for the middle class, long wait times and lower quality of care, government involvement in your healthcare decisions, and no choice at all when it comes to your insurance.

Let's hope the Democratic Party halts its mad rush to the extreme left before Americans are forced to live under the ugly reality of socialized medicine.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. MENENDEZ. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

NOMINATION OF R. CLARKE COOPER

Mr. MENENDEZ. Madam President, I rise in support of the nomination of R. Clarke Cooper to be an Assistant Secretary of the Bureau of Political-Military Affairs at the Department of State.

The Bureau of Political-Military Affairs plays a critical role in the State Department and in broader diplomatic and national security efforts around the world. Every day, the Bureau works to ensure that our foreign policy goals are driving our security partnerships and security assistance around the world, including nearly \$100 billion annually in arms sales.

I am prepared to support Mr. Cooper's nomination as Assistant Secretary because I believe he brings experience, insight, and leadership that will benefit the Bureau and our foreign policy. I also expect Mr. Cooper to uphold the commitments he made during his confirmation hearing, including that he will not only be responsive to all inquiries from the Senate Foreign Relations Committee and its staff about the Bureau's work but that he will also proactively keep us fully informed about issues under his jurisdiction.

3D GUNS

Madam President, if confirmed by the Senate, Mr. Cooper will assume his position at a time when the Bureau is at the center of, quite frankly, some appalling decisions by the Trump administration that will undermine the safety and security of Americans abroad.

I cannot wrap my head around the administration's policies, for example, on the issue of 3D-printed firearms. The Trump administration apparently believes it is a good idea to indiscriminately distribute around the world—to foreign adversaries, terrorist organizations, and future mass shooters—the literal blueprints for using 3D printers

to make nearly undetectable firearms and components.

Apparently, the Trump administration believes this information should be readily available to anyone as it seeks to transfer the export control licensing of military-style firearms and ammunition from the Department of State to the less stringent Department of Commerce. Even the Commerce Department has admitted that its own regulations will not permit them to effectively stop the publication of these firearm blueprints online.

It is not difficult to imagine the devastating consequences of this reckless decision, which will make more lethal weapons available to more thuggish regimes and facilitate their illicit transfer to criminals and terrorists. We are talking about making it easier for a criminal to build his own weapons without having to get a background check. We are talking about making it easier for terrorists to board a plane with deadly guns, perhaps to hijack them and use the aircraft as weapons, just as the 9/11 terrorists did. We are talking about making it easier for armed militants to enter a U.S. Embassy undetected, endangering the lives of our diplomats abroad. Simply put, we are talking about preventable tragedies made possible by the thoughtless actions of this administration. These are undetectable. That is the big challenge here. Indeed, this decision could place all American citizens and officials—even the President himself—at greater security risk.

It is not too late to reverse this mistake. The Trump administration can halt its decision to transfer the export jurisdiction to the Commerce Department. At the very least, the administration could leave the blueprints for producing undetectable, 3D-printed firearms under the stronger regulatory controls of the Department of State.

HUMAN RIGHTS

Madam President, on a separate note, I have made clear to Mr. Cooper that the Bureau of Political-Military Affairs has a moral and strategic imperative to consider human rights and end-use monitoring when it comes to making decisions about arms sales, transfers, and security assistance to foreign countries.

Over the past 2 years, it has been troubling to see human rights considerations take a backseat. That includes the President's recent decision to revise the Conventional Arms Transfer Policy to disregard a country's human rights record. With Saudi Arabia, the Khashoggi murder, and the debacle of the Yemen war fresh on our minds, we need no reminder of the consequences of the President's impulse to put profit above all else, including respect for basic human rights. Human rights are not just a nice gesture; they are fundamental American values and critical to advancing peace, justice, democracy, and stability around the world.

We must ask ourselves what we as a nation want America to be. Are we a

beacon of hope for the oppressed or simply the biggest arms merchant to the world? Count me and many of my colleagues as standing firmly for the former, and I hope Mr. Cooper will stand with us.

NOMINATION PROCESS

Madam President, finally, for weeks, we have heard from the President, the majority leader, and other Republicans about vacancies at the State Department and why that contributed to the supposed need for Senator McConnell to exercise the nuclear option on nominees. As I recently explained on the floor, Republicans need to point the finger at their President. In many cases, the President has simply failed to put forward nominees for key national security positions. When he does put forward nominees, too often these individuals have not been thoroughly vetted, and issues that would be disqualifying for nominees in any other administration have simply been glossed over.

It turns out there is another issue that speaks directly to the flimsiness of the majority leader's rationale for invoking the nuclear option, and that is the fact that Republicans themselves are blocking State Department nominees, including career employees nominated to be Ambassadors to Ecuador and Cambodia. These nominees were reported out of the Foreign Relations Committee by voice vote and without any controversies several weeks ago.

They could have been confirmed and on the ground in their posts prior to Easter recess. Instead, their nominations are languishing because the majority leader has refused to move. So I now call on Senator McConnell to stop playing politics with the State Department and get these career nominees confirmed.

As I have said repeatedly, when presented with qualified, well-vetted nominees, my staff and I will work around the clock to advance the confirmation process. I would ask for the same from my Republican colleagues.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. SCOTT of Florida). The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. YOUNG. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

REMEMBERING RICHARD LUGAR

Mr. YOUNG. Mr. President, over the weekend, Indiana lost a giant in Richard G. Lugar. Senator Lugar spent 36 years as a Member of this body, and I rise today to celebrate his life, which made the world a better, safer place to live.

I had the pleasure in the early 2000s to work on Senator Lugar's staff, and I had a front row seat to history, watching a true statesman at work. He stood by me as I took my oath right here in

this Chamber. I will never forget his support of me and of so many others throughout the years.

Senator Lugar's reserved and quiet demeanor sometimes might have led people to believe he was something less than competitive. In truth, he was one of the most competitive people I have ever encountered. Senator Lugar was a runner, and his office competed every year in the Capital Challenge, the competitive race between legislative staffs. Senator Lugar had a member of his staff actually track everyone's time and their improvement, or lack thereof, from year to year. I think that spreadsheet still exists somewhere today. When I was going through the hiring process to be a legislative assistant in the Senator's office, I went through the normal series of questions—my academic background, my professional experiences, my policy knowledge, my interest in working in the office. But at the very end of the interview, the Senator asked me a pointed question. He led into the question by indicating that he had seen listed some hobbies on my résumé, and one of those hobbies was running. So he asked me pointedly: How fast can you run 3 miles? I quickly told him I thought I could break 18 minutes. A half hour later, I got a phone call saying I was hired. Looking back, I am not so sure it was because of my policy chops.

I learned a lot working for this man. I fondly remember his penchant for ice cream and the stacks and stacks of books in his office. I believe he read every one.

Senator Lugar would from time to time invite staff members or interns to run with him on the Mall. There was one rule: Never ever run in front of the Senator. He was, after all, a leader, a Rhodes Scholar, a Navy veteran, mayor of Indianapolis where he spurred economic growth, which is still spoken of today, by consolidating the city and county governments into Univox.

As a U.S. Senator, he led on food security, energy independence, and free trade. At a time when nuclear proliferation was regarded as civilization's greatest threat, Senator Lugar helped save the world. The Nunn-Lugar Act, for which he is most well known, has led to the securing and destruction of thousands of weapons of mass destruction and delivery devices.

Dick Lugar was a very shrewd politician until his last days. His instincts were very good. I know this from personal experience. In fact, last year, he and I did a forum together at Indiana University. Present on the panel were a former World Food Prize winner, the leader of an international NGO, Senator Lugar, and I. After formal presentations were done and some questions were asked by the moderator, questions were opened up to the audience. Some particularly difficult questions were tendered initially, and whenever one of those questions was asked, Senator Lugar would put on that trademark smile of his—and everyone back

home knows what I am talking about. He would just look over at me and let the junior Senator from Indiana field that question. After about three or four times, I decided it was his turn, so I tried to use his method right back at him. He simply smiled back at me until I couldn't stand the silence anymore. I was the first to break. The man still had the gift. The entire audience laughed. He was not to be underestimated.

He was not to be underestimated as a boss in the impact he could have on a young, idealistic staffer looking for role models in public life. He was not to be underestimated as a mentor who understood that the most important thing a leader can do is to simply set a good example—comport yourself in a way that others might want to model. He was not to be underestimated as a human being. Richard Lugar had a heart. He ran for office not to be somebody, but to do things, important things to improve the lives of hundreds of millions—in the end, billions of people around the world.

Dick Lugar was the gold standard. He leaves a legacy as an exemplar of wisdom, civility, and bipartisanship. Always staying true to his temperament, he was a quiet man, a dignified statesman. He thought before he spoke. He emphasized substance over personality. In short, he set the bar for public leaders, and he set it high. I would go further and say that he set the bar high for leaders, more generally.

We should all look to Dick Lugar. We should all learn from his example.

I am not sure we will ever see another Richard Lugar. I sure pray we do. May God watch over him and his family during this difficult time.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Indiana.

Mr. BRAUN. Mr. President, you just heard the story from Senator YOUNG. He had the benefit of knowing Richard Lugar more recently.

My story is a little different. I am going to have to think back to 45 years ago. I was between my sophomore and junior years at Wabash College. I never knew I had an interest in politics, let alone that someday I would be serving in the Lugar seat. How life drives you in certain directions.

I remember that Richard Lugar took on Senator Birch Bayh, who I think had served several terms—he recently passed away himself, another icon of Hoosier politics—and I said that I wanted to get involved. When you have a man like Richard Lugar, who took a risk, stuck his neck out to run for mayor after he had been on a school board—ironically, I was on a school board for 10 years when I decided to stick my neck out to run for State legislator—you think back about how life drives you in certain directions.

With Richard Lugar, most notably, during his entire life, he lived with character and integrity.

I think back to when I first met him. I was dressed in a white turtleneck

with a blue blazer and plaid pants. Wow, I can't believe we even dressed that way back in the seventies. I found those pictures stored away in a box about 4 or 5 years ago. I pulled them out, and my high school sweetheart, my wife now—she and I were looking at Dick as he was preparing to run for Senate. The look on our faces, looking into the face of someone with his stature, really stood out.

When you get this far down the trail, I get asked: Who were your mentors who got you to run for school board, State rep, and then the Senate? Mostly, it would have been my parents and my community. I say that often. But if there was one politician I would have looked up to, even when I wasn't certain I ever wanted to get involved in politics at all, I would look back to that year, back in the midseventies, when I decided to do it.

He was in the Senate for a long time. During the entirety of his terms, he always did it to where, as a Hoosier and as an American, you were proud of him. The thing he did as well as anyone is that he was able to look across the aisle in times when we were less polarized. Now, I think that trait, more than ever, would be something we need to pay attention to.

When you close the chapter on one individual's life, one whose life was as exemplary as Richard Lugar's, it should mostly be inspiration for others to follow in his footsteps.

I know in the State of Indiana—in an op-ed that was just put out by an individual, it cites Richard Lugar as the most important public servant ever to come from our State. Gosh, I think you would have to say there was a lot of credibility to push that point of view.

All I can tell you is that for the time I am here in the Lugar seat, I intend to do what he did. On things he knew a little something about, he stuck his neck out, made a statement, and he led. In the entirety of his career here in the Senate, he was impeccable in his integrity and character. Gosh, we could sure use a good dose of that in this day and age.

It is an honor for me to be serving in his seat, and I hope to do even half as good a job in my stint here as he did over many, many years.

Thank you.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the Cooper nomination?

The Senator from Texas.

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I ask for the yeas and nays on the upcoming vote.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from California (Ms. HARRIS) is necessarily absent.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. CRUZ). Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The result was announced—yeas 68, nays 31, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 79 Ex.]

YEAS—68

Alexander	Gardner	Perdue
Barrasso	Graham	Portman
Blackburn	Grassley	Risch
Blunt	Hassan	Roberts
Boozman	Hawley	Romney
Braun	Hoeven	Rounds
Burr	Hyde-Smith	Rubio
Cantwell	Inhofe	Sasse
Capito	Isakson	Scott (FL)
Carper	Johnson	Scott (SC)
Cassidy	Jones	Shaheen
Collins	Kaine	Shelby
Coons	Kennedy	Sinema
Cornyn	King	Sullivan
Cotton	Lankford	Tester
Cramer	Lee	Thune
Crapo	Manchin	Tillis
Cruz	McConnell	Toomey
Daines	McSally	Van Hollen
Enzi	Moran	Warner
Ernst	Murkowski	Wicker
Feinstein	Murphy	Young
Fischer	Paul	

NAYS—31

Baldwin	Heinrich	Sanders
Bennet	Hirono	Schatz
Blumenthal	Klobuchar	Schumer
Booker	Leahy	Smith
Brown	Markey	Stabenow
Cardin	Menendez	Udall
Casey	Merkley	Warren
Cortez Masto	Murray	Whitehouse
Duckworth	Peters	Wyden
Durbin	Reed	
Gillibrand	Rosen	

NOT VOTING—1

Harris

The nomination was confirmed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the motion to reconsider is considered made and laid upon the table, and the President will be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

The majority leader.

ORDER OF BUSINESS

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that if cloture is invoked, the postcloture time on the R. Clarke Cooper nomination expire at 2:15 p.m. today. I further ask that if confirmed, the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table, and the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action. Finally, I ask that following the cloture vote on the R. Clarke Cooper nomination, the Senate recess until 2:15 p.m. today.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

CLOTURE MOTION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Pursuant to rule XXII, the Chair lays before the Senate the pending cloture motion, which the clerk will state.

The bill clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of R. Clarke Cooper, of Florida, to be an Assistant Secretary of State (Political-Military Affairs).

Mitch McConnell, Thom Tillis, Mike Crapo, John Hoeven, Johnny Isakson,

John Thune, Shelley Moore Capito, John Boozman, Mike Rounds, Pat Roberts, James E. Risch, Richard Burr, John Barrasso, Roy Blunt, David Perdue, John Cornyn, Tom Cotton.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. By unanimous consent, the mandatory quorum call has been waived.

The question is, Is it the sense of the Senate that debate on the nomination of R. Clarke Cooper, of Florida, to be an Assistant Secretary of State (Political-Military Affairs), shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant bill clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from California (Ms. HARRIS) is necessarily absent.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 91, nays 8, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 80 Ex.]

YEAS—91

Alexander	Fischer	Portman
Baldwin	Gardner	Reed
Barrasso	Graham	Risch
Bennet	Grassley	Roberts
Blackburn	Hassan	Romney
Blumenthal	Hawley	Rosen
Blunt	Heinrich	Rounds
Boozman	Hoeben	Rubio
Braun	Hyde-Smith	Sasse
Brown	Inhofe	Schatz
Burr	Isakson	Schumer
Cantwell	Johnson	Scott (FL)
Capito	Jones	Scott (SC)
Cardin	Kaine	Shaheen
Carper	Kennedy	Shelby
Casey	King	Sinema
Cassidy	Klobuchar	Smith
Collins	Lankford	Sullivan
Coons	Leahy	Tester
Cornyn	Lee	Thune
Cortez Masto	Manchin	Tillis
Cotton	McConnell	Toomey
Cramer	McSally	Udall
Crapo	Menendez	Van Hollen
Cruz	Merkley	Warner
Daines	Moran	Whitehouse
Duckworth	Murkowski	Wicker
Durbin	Murphy	Wyden
Enzi	Murray	Young
Ernst	Paul	
Feinstein	Perdue	

NAYS—8

Booker	Markey	Stabenow
Gillibrand	Peters	Warren
Hirono	Sanders	

NOT VOTING—1

Harris

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The yeas are 91, the nays are 8.

The motion is agreed to.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The bill clerk read the nomination of R. Clarke Cooper, of Florida, to be an Assistant Secretary of State (Political-Military Affairs).

TARGET PRACTICE AND MARKSMANSHIP TRAINING SUPPORT ACT

The PRESIDING OFFICER. For the information of the Senate, pursuant to the order of April 11, 2019, the Senate

having received from the House H.R. 1222, and its being identical to S. 94, H.R. 1222 is considered read the third time and passed, and the motion to reconsider is considered made and laid upon the table.

The passage of S. 94 is thus vitiated, and the bill is indefinitely postponed.

The bill (H.R. 1222) was ordered to a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

RECESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate stands in recess until 2:15 p.m.

Thereupon, the Senate at 12:58 p.m., recessed until 2:15 p.m. when called to order by the Presiding Officer (Mrs. CAPITO).

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR—Continued

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, all postcloture time has expired.

The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the Cooper nomination?

Mr. PAUL. I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senator is necessarily absent: the Senator from Utah (Mr. LEE).

Further, if present and voting, the Senator from Utah (Mr. LEE) would have voted "yea."

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from California (Ms. HARRIS) is necessarily absent.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The result was announced—yeas 90, nays 8, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 81 Ex.]

YEAS—90

Alexander	Feinstein	Perdue
Baldwin	Fischer	Portman
Barrasso	Gardner	Reed
Bennet	Graham	Risch
Blackburn	Grassley	Roberts
Blumenthal	Hassan	Romney
Blunt	Hawley	Rosen
Boozman	Heinrich	Rounds
Braun	Hoeben	Rubio
Brown	Hyde-Smith	Sasse
Burr	Inhofe	Schatz
Cantwell	Isakson	Schumer
Capito	Johnson	Scott (FL)
Cardin	Jones	Scott (SC)
Carper	Kaine	Shaheen
Casey	Kennedy	Shelby
Cassidy	King	Sinema
Collins	Klobuchar	Smith
Coons	Lankford	Sullivan
Cornyn	Leahy	Tester
Cortez Masto	Manchin	Thune
Cotton	McConnell	Tillis
Cramer	McSally	Toomey
Crapo	Menendez	Udall
Cruz	Merkley	Van Hollen
Daines	Moran	Warner
Duckworth	Murkowski	Whitehouse
Durbin	Murphy	Wicker
Enzi	Murray	Wyden
Ernst	Paul	Young

NAYS—8

Booker	Markey	Stabenow
Gillibrand	Peters	Warren
Hirono	Sanders	

NOT VOTING—2

Harris Lee

The nomination was confirmed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the motion to reconsider is considered made and laid upon the table, and the President will be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

CLOTURE MOTION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Pursuant to rule XXII, the Chair lays before the Senate the pending cloture motion, which the clerk will state.

The senior assistant bill clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Gordon Hartogensis, of Connecticut, to be Director of the Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation for a term of five years.

Mitch McConnell, Thom Tillis, Mike Crapo, John Hoeven, Johnny Isakson, John Thune, Shelley Moore Capito, John Boozman, Mike Rounds, Pat Roberts, James E. Risch, Richard Burr, John Barrasso, Roy Blunt, David Perdue, John Cornyn, Tom Cotton.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. By unanimous consent, the mandatory quorum call has been waived.

The question is, Is it the sense of the Senate that debate on the nomination of Gordon Hartogensis, of Connecticut, to be Director of the Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation for a term of five years, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from California (Ms. HARRIS) is necessarily absent.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mrs. BLACKBURN). Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 72, nays 27, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 82 Ex.]

YEAS—72

Alexander	Cornyn	Hawley
Barrasso	Cortez Masto	Hoeben
Bennet	Cotton	Hyde-Smith
Blackburn	Cramer	Inhofe
Blumenthal	Crapo	Isakson
Blunt	Cruz	Johnson
Boozman	Daines	Jones
Braun	Durbin	Kennedy
Brown	Enzi	King
Burr	Ernst	Lankford
Cantwell	Feinstein	Lee
Capito	Fischer	Manchin
Carper	Gardner	McConnell
Casey	Graham	McSally
Cassidy	Grassley	Moran
Collins	Hassan	Murkowski

Murphy	Rounds	Sullivan
Paul	Rubio	Thune
Perdue	Sasse	Tillis
Portman	Scott (FL)	Toomey
Risch	Scott (SC)	Warner
Roberts	Shaheen	Wicker
Romney	Shelby	Wyden
Rosen	Sinema	Young

NAYS—27

Baldwin	Klobuchar	Schatz
Booker	Leahy	Schumer
Cardin	Markey	Smith
Coons	Menendez	Stabenow
Duckworth	Merkley	Tester
Gillibrand	Murray	Udall
Heinrich	Peters	Van Hollen
Hirono	Reed	Warren
Kaine	Sanders	Whitehouse

NOT VOTING—1

Harris

The PRESIDING OFFICER. On this vote, the yeas are 72, the nays are 27.

The motion is agreed to.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Gordon Hartogensis, of Connecticut, to be Director of the Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation for a term of five years.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Kansas.

ORDER OF BUSINESS

Mr. MORAN. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the postcloture time on the Hartogensis nomination expire at 5 p.m. today. I further ask that if confirmed, the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table and the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. MORAN: I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The Democratic leader is recognized.

MUELLER REPORT

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, the Mueller report, released earlier this month, was divided into two sections. One is detailing the concerted and coordinated effort by President Putin to interfere in our Presidential election, an effort the Trump campaign welcomed and at times amplified. It also included a second section, which laid out a pattern of dishonesty and interference with a Federal investigation by the President and his team.

Now, today I want to focus the Senate's attention on the first half of the report: the coordinated effort by President Putin to interfere in our elections, which is an unbelievable thing, a threat to our democracy, and some-

thing every American should be concerned about.

Though we have long known about President Putin's interference in the 2016 elections—we have all known about that—the conclusions of the Mueller report demand a vigorous response by this Congress to ensure that Putin pays a significant price for his actions and that Putin and other adversaries will not consider a similar action in the 2020 election cycle. What occurred in 2016 was nothing short of an assault on our democracy and an attack on our most revered traditions. It was the kind of foreign influence feared by the Framers and warned about in the Federalist Papers. It is the very reason we have an emoluments clause in our Constitution.

Even so, President Trump and his administration met these attacks with apathy. The President has routinely sought to undermine and weaken efforts by this Chamber to sanction Russia. The Treasury Department recently cut a deal to reduce sanctions on the Russian oligarch Oleg Deripaska.

Just last week, the Times reported that then-Homeland Security Secretary Nielsen was told to not even mention election security in front of the President, even though she reportedly considered it one of America's highest priorities as we head into 2020.

In the face of the administration's disturbing indifference, it is clear the Senate must act. In the past, this body has proudly come together, bipartisan, to pass sanctions on Russia. We have not done enough yet to hold the guilty parties of 2016 accountable, and we must do more to ensure that a foreign power cannot meddle in our elections ever again. With that in mind, I have three proposals for my colleagues to consider.

First, we should pass additional sanctions against President Putin, his cronies, and other adversaries considering similar malign activities. There are multiple bipartisan sanctions bills awaiting action, including the Defending American Security from Kremlin Aggression Act, called DASKA, and the Defending Elections from Threats by Establishing Redlines Act, the DETER Act. I would urge the chairmen of those committees to take up those bills and send them to the floor, where Leader McConnell should bring them up for serious consideration.

Second, we should commit serious—and I mean serious—resources to election security. FBI Director Wray and other intelligence officials have testified that 2016 was not an isolated incident. Foreign powers will try again to interfere in our elections, they posited, in 2020 and beyond. Director Wray—and this should trouble every American—called 2018 a dress rehearsal for our adversaries. It might not just be Moscow next time. It could be Beijing, Tehran, or Pyongyang. If our elections are susceptible to foreign influence, our democracy is at risk.

We know—we know right now—that another foreign influence campaign is

coming, and if we don't take steps to secure our elections, it would be astonishingly irresponsible. In fiscal year 2018, we were able to allocate \$380 million in funding through the appropriations process for States to harden their election infrastructure and help improve election administration. I thought this was very important and pushed hard to get it in that budget, that appropriation. Unfortunately, though, in fiscal year 2019, our Republican colleagues blocked us from allocating more funding to the States, despite overwhelming demand. Why? Why would Republicans want to not stop Russia or someone else from interfering in our elections? It is befuddling. Make no mistake, though, Democrats will push for more election security money in the upcoming appropriations process.

We should also take up the bipartisan Secure Elections Act. Ranking Member LEAHY and Ranking Member KLOBUCHAR are the leaders on this issue, and I hope their diligence will pay off once again.

Third, we must hear from the intelligence and defense community about the coming threats of 2020. So today I would like to request that Leader McConnell—I am officially requesting him to schedule an all-Senators classified briefing with the leaders of the Departments of Homeland Security, FBI, and the Cyber Command to inform Senators about the threat of foreign interference in the 2020 election cycle. We must be very aware of these threats and take immediate steps to avoid the repeat of 2016.

The Senate can do these three things quickly, and each one of them should be bipartisan and noncontroversial. There are no doubt other ideas and legislation along these lines we should consider, but this is a place to get started. I look forward to having discussions with my colleagues about these items in the coming days.

SENATE LEGISLATIVE AGENDA

Madam President, Leg Graveyard. Now, on another and related matter, the three items I just mentioned are examples of the things that the Senate could—could—be doing in a bipartisan way to address a serious challenge. I hope the Republican leader sees the value in pursuing them because so far this year the Republican leader has shown little interest in pursuing meaningful bipartisan legislation.

With over a year and a half left in Congress, Leader McConnell has turned this Chamber into a legislative graveyard, and without a shred of irony, he has proudly bragged that he is the Senate's Grim Reaper. Is that what the American people want? They urge us to work together in a bipartisan way, but Leader McConnell takes all the bills that have passed the House, puts them in his drawer, and spends his time simply doing nominations.

We are one-quarter of the way through the year, so let's do a quick

quarterly review. Our colleagues in the House have been busy. In 4 months, over 100 pieces of legislation passed their Chamber. Here are some of them: Legislation to oppose the lawsuit that would eliminate protections for Americans with preexisting conditions. Who is opposed to that? Leader McConnell is. Legislation to reform our democracy and improve elections, restore voting rights, and get the money out of politics; legislation on paycheck fairness so women are treated equally to men; commonsense background checks for which 98 percent of Americans support; upgrades to the Violence Against Women Act; legislation to restore net neutrality; and despite the fact that the President shut down the government for over a month, these bills have passed the House, most every one of them, with bipartisan support. These aren't partisan bills. They are commonsense proposals to help the middle class solve our country's basic problems.

The Republican leader told the American people that under his leadership, the Senate would debate and vote on issues of the day no matter if his party supported them. Yet not one, not one of these bills has come to the floor of the Senate—not one. Not one has been debated in the Chamber. These are the bills. If the Republican leader doesn't love every aspect of one of these House bills, fine, we are not saying take them or leave them. Let's have a debate. Let's have amendments. At least let's try to compromise on language that can get through both Chambers.

What has the Senate been doing instead? Leader McConnell has wasted precious time on basically two issues, "gotcha" votes like a stunt on climate change and Republicans' cynical attempts to limit women's reproductive health choices. The remainder has been spent on approval of alarmingly unqualified nominees to executive agencies in the judiciary.

What are we doing this week on the calendar? Not one piece of legislation, just nominees. Next week could probably be more of the same. So over the next 2 years, the Republican Senate is in danger of becoming little more than a staffing agency to the administration's radical nominees. That is a tragedy because at the start of this Congress, the American people sent a clear message. They wanted us to work together on legislation in a bipartisan way. The American people voted for action: action on healthcare, action on prescription drugs, action on climate change, and gun safety. Poll after poll shows that these issues are on the minds of Americans. Substantial majorities, Democrats and Republicans, supported them. We cannot, simply because we have a divided government, allow this entire Congress to go by without making meaningful progress on these issues. This is not good for the country, certainly not good for the Senate or the Republican Party and the incumbents in those Chambers. The

American people cannot afford to have Leader McConnell turn one Chamber of their government into a legislative graveyard for 2 full years. We hope he will realize the folly of this both substantively and politically, and maybe we will start doing some real work.

ECONOMIC GROWTH

Madam President, finally, on the economy, that is one area that deserves our attention, although you wouldn't guess it if you were listening to President Trump. President Trump repeatedly brags about low unemployment numbers and a rising stock market—two trends that actually began long before he took office. President Trump should say "Thanks, Obama" for handing him an economy that was well into recovery from the worst financial crisis since the Great Depression. But what the President has done since taking office has been to tilt the playing field to allow most of the benefits of this recovery to flow to those at the very top. He can brag about GDP numbers, but when most of the wealth is going more and more to the highest level of people, it doesn't benefit enough people.

President Trump has consistently weakened programs that help middle-class Americans afford healthcare. He has rolled back critical worker and consumer protections and rammed through a tax bill that gave egregious giveaways to big corporations. Instead of the wealth trickling down, corporations have spent the lion's share of their new profits on corporate stock buybacks, which benefit shareholders and the CEOs—most of them very wealthy—not average Americans or workers.

If the economy is so strong, why is it that 4 out of 10 Americans can't afford a \$400 emergency expense? Why is it that income disparity grows, with the middle class left holding the bag? Recent polls confirm—and this should be a watch word, Mr. President—Americans don't believe the Trump economy is working for them. In a recent ABC poll, most Americans see the Trump economy as primarily benefiting those who are already in power, those who are already wealthy. According to Monmouth, most Americans say the economy hasn't benefited them much, if at all.

To simply brag about large macro numbers but not look at the effect on the average person who is making \$40-, \$50-, \$60,000 a year—that is wrong. That is not helping them. The group who believes the economy is benefiting them the most is making over \$100,000 a year. God bless them, but we ought to be working to spread economic benefits to the middle class.

Despite the President's trumpeting of self-selected economic data, the bottom line is this: The Trump economy is working OK if you are already doing quite well, but it is not doing enough—not close to enough—for working America and the middle class.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mrs. MURRAY. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

NOMINATION OF GORDON HARTOGENSIS

Mrs. MURRAY. Madam President, I come to the floor to oppose the nomination of Mr. Gordon Hartogensis to serve as Director of the Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation and, really, to express my continued frustration with the Republicans' efforts to weaponize the nomination process for partisan gain, including their unprecedented refusal to move Democratic nominees for important Agencies, like the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission and the National Labor Relations Board, in order to tilt them in favor of corporations, and including their continued attacks on women's healthcare and reproductive rights by stacking our courts with far-right judges.

The Director of the PBGC is responsible for protecting the retirement security of almost 40 million people. We owe it to workers and retirees to make absolutely sure a nominee for this position has the relevant pension-related experience and knowledge to handle that challenge. One needs to have the determination to fight for workers and retirees and to have the willingness to work with Members on both sides of the aisle.

When it comes to Mr. Hartogensis, I am simply not convinced that this is the case. It is unclear to me why he was nominated to replace Director Reeder, who is doing a commendable job, well before Director Reeder's term was completed. What makes this even worse is that the Senate HELP Committee didn't have a hearing at which members could question Mr. Hartogensis.

I have asked the Trump administration why it decided to replace Mr. Reeder. No response. My Democratic colleagues on the committee asked the chairman for a hearing with Mr. Hartogensis. No hearing. We should be giving Mr. Hartogensis' nomination serious scrutiny, including having a hearing with the Senate HELP Committee, especially considering the complex challenges that the PBGC Director must help the Agency navigate amid our country's multiemployer pension crisis. Millions of workers and retirees across the country are at risk of seeing the pensions they were promised—that they earned and planned their financial futures around—thrown into jeopardy through absolutely no fault of their own.

I am hopeful we can focus on this issue more going forward, and I look forward to taking bipartisan steps to address this crisis, but I am disappointed that our committee, which

should be most focused on this critical issue, was not even able to have a hearing with Mr. Hartogensis in order to dive into this crisis more deeply. So, given my doubts about his credentials for this position and my frustration with this nomination process, I will be voting against this nomination.

Unfortunately, Mr. Hartogensis is just one example of a broader effort by the Republicans to play political games with the nomination process in ways that, ultimately, harm workers and families nationwide.

NOMINATIONS

Madam President, I remain deeply disturbed by the Republicans' continued partisanship, particularly their obstruction of highly qualified Democratic nominees for the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission and the National Labor Relations Board.

It has been a longstanding practice to respect the minority party's selection of nominees and to move majority and minority nominees together to independent Agencies. Yet my colleagues across the aisle have jammed through Republican nominees to the NLRB and have hampered the EEOC's work by allowing one Republican Senator to essentially veto the Democratic nominee to the Agency, effectively tilting the playing field even more in favor of corporations and against workers' rights.

In this moment, as so many brave women and men have come forward to share their stories of workplace harassment and brought this issue to the forefront and as the Trump administration continues to undermine workers' rights to organize and collectively bargain for higher wages and better working conditions, the EEOC and the NLRB have very critical roles to play in protecting workers' rights. They have to be able to function fully and with balanced voices. I am going to keep fighting for workers across the country and keep pushing to get Democratic nominees confirmed to this Commission and this Board.

NOMINATION OF J. CAMPBELL BARKER

Madam President, the Republicans' nomination antics, of course, go far beyond those important Agencies. The Republicans are also continuing to work with President Trump to veer our courts far right by stacking them with ideological judges, especially when it comes to women's health and reproductive rights, which brings me to another nominee before us whom I strongly oppose—Mr. John Campbell Barker. As we have seen with Justice Kavanaugh and with so many other nominees, President Trump is seizing every opportunity he gets to appoint judges who will be willing to chip away at the right to safe, legal abortion. Unfortunately, Mr. Barker fits that pattern to a tee.

As deputy solicitor general of Texas, in the Whole Woman's Health case, he defended a law that imposed medically unnecessary requirements on physi-

cians and clinics that were meant to make it harder for women to access safe, legal care. He has also made it clear that he believes employers should be able to decide whether the women who work for them can get birth control through their insurance coverage. These alarming positions are just a few of the reasons I oppose Mr. Barker's nomination. I urge my colleagues to do the same.

The Republicans may be determined to continue their crusade of tipping the judiciary against women's health and reproductive rights, but they should know that the Democrats and women and men across the country are just as determined to stand up, call them out, and fight back.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. CASSIDY). Without objection, it is so ordered.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, all postcloture time has expired.

The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the Hartogensis nomination?

Mr. GRASSLEY. I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

Mr. GRASSLEY. Yes, there is.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from California (Ms. HARRIS) is necessarily absent.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. MCSALLY). Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote or change their vote?

The result was announced—yeas 72, nays 27, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 83 Ex.]

YEAS—72

Alexander	Enzi	Murphy
Barrasso	Ernst	Paul
Bennet	Feinstein	Perdue
Blackburn	Fischer	Portman
Blumenthal	Gardner	Risch
Blunt	Graham	Roberts
Boozman	Grassley	Romney
Braun	Hassan	Rosen
Brown	Hawley	Rounds
Burr	Hoeven	Rubio
Cantwell	Hyde-Smith	Sasse
Capito	Inhofe	Scott (FL)
Carper	Isakson	Scott (SC)
Casey	Johnson	Shaheen
Cassidy	Jones	Shelby
Collins	Kennedy	Sinema
Cornyn	King	Sullivan
Cortez Masto	Lankford	Thune
Cotton	Lee	Tillis
Cramer	Manchin	Toomey
Crapo	McConnell	Warner
Cruz	McSally	Wicker
Daines	Moran	Wyden
Durbin	Murkowski	Young

NAYS—27

Baldwin	Klobuchar	Schatz
Booker	Leahy	Schumer
Cardin	Markey	Smith
Coons	Menendez	Stabenow
Duckworth	Merkley	Tester
Gillibrand	Murray	Udall
Heinrich	Peters	Van Hollen
Hirono	Reed	Warren
Kaine	Sanders	Whitehouse

NOT VOTING—1

Harris

The nomination was confirmed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the motion to reconsider is considered made and laid upon the table, and the President will be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

CLOTURE MOTION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Pursuant to rule XXII, the Chair lays before the Senate the pending cloture motion, which the clerk will state.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of J. Campbell Barker, of Texas, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Texas.

Mitch McConnell, Johnny Isakson, Roger F. Wicker, John Boozman, John Cornyn, Mike Crapo, Shelley Moore Capito, Pat Roberts, Roy Blunt, Deb Fischer, David Perdue, Todd Young, John Thune, Mike Rounds, Steve Daines, John Hoeven, Thom Tillis.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. By unanimous consent, the mandatory quorum call has been waived.

The question is, Is it the sense of the Senate that debate on the nomination of J. Campbell Barker, of Texas, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Texas, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant bill clerk called the roll.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senator is necessarily absent: the Senator from West Virginia (Mrs. CAPITO).

Further, if present and voting, the Senator from West Virginia (Mrs. CAPITO) would have voted "yea."

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from California (Ms. HARRIS) is necessarily absent.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 52, nays 46, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 84 Ex.]

YEAS—52

Alexander	Cornyn	Gardner
Barrasso	Cotton	Graham
Blackburn	Cramer	Grassley
Blunt	Crapo	Hawley
Boozman	Cruz	Hoeven
Braun	Daines	Hyde-Smith
Burr	Enzi	Inhofe
Cassidy	Ernst	Isakson
Collins	Fischer	Johnson

Kennedy	Portman	Shelby
Lankford	Risch	Sullivan
Lee	Roberts	Thune
McConnell	Romney	Tillis
McSally	Rounds	Toomey
Moran	Rubio	Wicker
Murkowski	Sasse	Young
Paul	Scott (FL)	
Perdue	Scott (SC)	

NAYS—46

Baldwin	Heinrich	Sanders
Bennet	Hirono	Schatz
Blumenthal	Jones	Schumer
Booker	Kaine	Shaheen
Brown	King	Sinema
Cantwell	Klobuchar	Smith
Cardin	Leahy	Stabenow
Carper	Manchin	Tester
Casey	Markey	Udall
Coons	Menendez	Van Hollen
Cortez Masto	Merkley	Warner
Duckworth	Murphy	Warren
Durbin	Murray	Whitehouse
Feinstein	Peters	Wyden
Gillibrand	Reed	
Hassan	Rosen	

NOT VOTING—2

Capito	Harris
--------	--------

The PRESIDING OFFICER. On this vote, the yeas are 52, the nays are 46.

The motion is agreed to.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The bill clerk read the nomination of J. Campbell Barker, of Texas, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Texas.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Louisiana.

CLIMATE CHANGE

Mr. CASSIDY. Madam President, I am joined on the floor by my colleague Senator SHELDON WHITEHOUSE, who has recently visited coastal Louisiana and will share his observations following my remarks. He will speak objectively about that which we in Louisiana see not only objectively but emotionally.

We see our coastline melting away, and with the loss of that coastline, increasing vulnerability to hurricanes coming off the gulf, as well as a loss of villages, beautiful oak trees as salinity kills their roots, whole communities, and ways of life. I shall elaborate because Louisiana's coastal erosion impacts local businesses, communities, and I would say even our entire Nation.

Some of the Nation's most important trade, energy, and commercial fishing assets are associated with South Louisiana. Now, every Senator gets up and is proud of his or her State, and they will make statements such as that, but these statements are objectively true.

By tonnage, 5 of the 25 largest ports in the country are located in South Louisiana and along the Mississippi River. Twenty percent of the Nation's waterborne commerce moves through Louisiana. Approximately, 11,000 vessels use the lower Mississippi annually. If you think of a map of our country, from Wyoming to Pennsylvania, that is the territory of our country drained by the Mississippi and its tributaries. If you are shipping goods from Ohio to South America, most likely you are sending it down the Mississippi. The

prosperity of the farmer along the Missouri River can depend upon the navigation of the lower Mississippi. It is truly a nation-impacting resource, but coastal erosion threatens the flow of commerce that is essential and vital to all of these areas.

Approximately, 20 percent of the Nation's oil supply originates off the coast of Louisiana, and countless oil-field service companies are located in South Louisiana to process that energy. Companies like Cheniere, Tellurian, Sempra, and others are investing billions in liquefied natural gas facilities, demonstrating the value of the United States but of Louisiana, in particular, in the global LNG market.

By the way, the workers who work in these rigs or work in these industries may live in Louisiana, but sometimes they will live far inland. I saw a map where somebody commuted from Montana, coming down by airplane, working for a month, and then going back to Montana. So the folks who work in our energy industry may come from any part of our country. Coastal erosion puts this energy infrastructure in jeopardy, threatening our Nation's energy security.

Louisiana has the largest commercial fishing industry in the lower 48, harvesting and selling shrimp, crawfish, crabs, and oysters to restaurants and grocery stores around the country. Coastal erosion puts this industry and the livelihoods of the workers who depend upon it in jeopardy.

For these reasons, among many more, I fight in Congress to protect the Louisiana coastline. Senator WHITEHOUSE frequently has a floor chart when speaking on the environmental issues and says: "Time to wake up." Everyone in Louisiana is very awakened to this crisis.

Our State has developed its Coastal Master Plan to help restore and maintain our coast. I think Senator WHITEHOUSE will refer to that. We may not be able to save every parcel of land, but it is imperative that we work to protect the vulnerable marshland, as we can, and, in turn, the businesses and communities from the effects that we see today.

By the way, oftentimes we only hear about industry and environmental organizations attacking one another, but in Louisiana, we found that without one, the other cannot survive. We have found that the environmentalists and the energy industry have a way to co-exist and to work for the betterment of the other. One example is that the State receives revenues from offshore energy production and other grant programs to protect and restore our coastline. Louisiana's constitution mandates that these dollars go to coastal restoration, creating a unique partnership where the royalty payments from the energy industry fund the environmental restoration upon which my State's future depends.

Projects funded with this revenue include the Mid-Barataria and Mid-Bret-

on diversion projects, designed to direct more sediment from the Mississippi River to rebuild marshland lost due to coastal erosion, in part because the Mississippi River was previously leveed. Other projects seek to protect vulnerable marshland from further losses by controlling saltwater intrusion in the Houma Navigation Canal or the Calcasieu River ship channel. However, more needs to be done to protect Louisiana's coastline and the impact upon the United States' economic and energy security.

In a previous Congress, I introduced legislation in the House and now in the Senate to amend the Gulf of Mexico Energy Security Act to provide more offshore energy revenue to energy-producing States in the gulf to fund coastal restoration and other environmental protection projects. Most recently, in the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act bill and in another bill, there was an increase to the current cap on GOMESA dollars for fiscal years 2020 and 2021. I am currently working on another version of revenue-sharing legislation for the Gulf States, which I plan to introduce later this spring.

As part of that effort, working with Senator WHITEHOUSE's staff, we have been working on legislation to create a revenue-sharing program with the Federal and State governments for offshore wind to fund coastal resiliency efforts, an issue important to us and probably about 80 percent of America's population that I roughly judge lives within 100 miles of the coastline.

I look forward to working with Senator WHITEHOUSE and other colleagues to ensure that the coastal restoration needs important to Louisiana and to the United States are met. Again, I so appreciate Senator WHITEHOUSE's coming to visit and learn more about coastal Louisiana. I look forward to working with him on our mutual interests to protect our environment and our communities.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Rhode Island.

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Madam President, I am very grateful to be joined by the senior Senator from Louisiana on the floor today. I think this is about 240 in my series of "Time to Wake Up" speeches, and this is the first time we have a bipartisan presentation on the floor, which is significant to me.

I had the great pleasure of visiting Louisiana last month to see firsthand how a combination of decreased sedimentation, erosion, subsidence, habitat degradation, and rising seas are threatening Louisiana's coastline. I was joined by Congressman GARRET GRAVES, former Louisiana Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority chairman, and I thank the Congressman for sharing his time and expertise of Louisiana's coastal issues. I have also enjoyed working with Louisiana's junior Senator on coastal resiliency efforts, and I look forward to continuing that work.

Senator CASSIDY and I share home States that are lively, diverse, coastal, proud, and a little bit eccentric and that have great food. There is a lot in common between Louisiana and Rhode Island. Like Rhode Island, Louisiana's coast drives the State's economy and has shaped the State's history and culture. Coastal Louisiana is home to around 2 million people and is responsible for over a quarter of the continental United States' fisheries landings. According to the U.S. Geological Survey, Louisiana's wetlands today represent about 40 percent of the wetlands of the continental United States and about 80 percent of the losses.

Coastal wetlands are critical habitat and nurseries for commercially important fisheries and other wildlife. They also improve coastal water quality and buffer against storm surge, flooding, and other storm effects. Across the United States, we have lost ground. About half of our original wetlands in the past 200 years are gone. That is significant, and the scale and speed of wetland loss in coastal Louisiana is almost impossible to comprehend. From 1932 until 2010, the State lost nearly 1,900 square miles, or 25 percent, of its coastal land. All the red is land lost from 1932 to 2010. Between 1985 and 2010, the State was losing ground, about a football field's worth, every hour. Hurricanes Katrina, Rita, Gustav, and Ike caused the loss of more than 300 square miles of wetlands.

I saw firsthand what Louisiana's shredded coastline looks like from the air. The Mississippi River is one of the most heavily managed rivers in the world and is certainly one of the most important rivers in the world. A combination of flood prevention and irrigation interventions upriver have cut off the tap of sediment that used to flow naturally to Louisiana's wetlands. Now erosion outpaces natural rebuilding.

Though erosion is a natural phenomenon, oil and gas development exacerbates the problem. The dredged tracks left in the marsh by exploration and pipelines accelerate erosion, and here you see photos we took from our little airplane of some of those dredged channels. Strong storms, ratcheting up in strength on warmer ocean waters, thanks to climate change, also take a heavy toll on these vulnerable marshes, and you can see how these have been just washed out by the sea down here as well, again, looking out from our little aircraft.

Thank you, by the way, to SouthWings for sharing their aircraft with us so we could fly and see this.

On top of sediment loss, the Louisiana coastline is also sinking at around one-third of an inch each year due to the natural movement of the Earth's surface, and oil and gas development probably accelerates that process.

Then, there is sea level rise. Louisiana's Coastal Planning and Restoration Authority estimates as much as 2.7 feet of sea level rise by 2050. Tulane

University researchers concluded that current sea level rise estimates for Louisiana are actually probably too conservative, as the tide gauges used to track sea level rise don't accurately account for the fact that coastal marshes are sinking at the same time. So these current sea level rise projections don't fully express what the relative sea level rise is expected to be.

Following Hurricanes Katrina and Rita, Louisiana undertook the daunting task of assembling a Coastal Master Plan. This 50-year, \$50 billion plan identifies 124 projects aimed at maintaining 800 square miles of land over time. Experts there hope to reduce over \$150 billion in damage by 2067 through a combination of hard infrastructure, restoring shoreline and barrier islands, diverting sediment, and protecting structures by doing things like flood-proofing and elevating them.

The Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority, which led the development of this master plan, looked at three potential scenarios for the next 50 years. It considered changes in precipitation, sea level rise, subsidence, and storm frequency and intensity.

We will look at the medium scenario. Under the medium scenario, the Coastal Authority expects more precipitation, over 2 feet of sea level rise, stronger though less frequent storms, and a continued slowing of subsidence. The agency then modeled what the coastline would look like 50 years out under these medium conditions with and without this \$50 billion investment. Without the \$50 billion investment, all that is red is lost to the sea. With the investment, there is still a lot of red lost, but these green areas show areas that are saved, and if you live in one of these green areas, hunt in one of these green areas, and have a business in one of these green areas, it is pretty darn important to you to see that they are saved.

Louisiana is at a point of no return, where the forward march of sea level rise and stronger storms will continue to erode the State's shore. Although Louisianians are faced with this discouraging future, I was very impressed by the optimism of the Louisianians I met. I spoke with Governor John Bel Edwards, with CPRA Chairman Chip Kline, CPRA Director Bren Haase, and Deputy for Coastal Activities Megan Terrell and had dinner together with many of them and Senator CASSIDY to discuss implementation of this Coastal Master Plan.

The Governor, who has said that "climate change is real; I do not deny it," is committed to implementing the Coastal Master Plan. The price tag is hefty, but the potential losses to Louisiana are much greater. I also went to Baton Rouge and met with Mayor-President Sharon Weston Broome. While I was there in Baton Rouge, the Mississippi was steadily climbing the levees that protect the city. These are the handrails for the steps down to the Mississippi River, and, as you can see,

it was high enough that it was not only over the steps but over the handrails.

By March 21 of this year, the number of days at or above flood stage in Baton Rouge was on track to set new records. The mayor pointed out that getting the help communities need to prepare for severe but unnamed storms can be difficult, which is why I so appreciate working with Senator CASSIDY on ways to improve our response to coastal resilience, both of ours being Coastal States.

Following the release of the fifth National Climate Assessment back in November, Mayor-President Broome said:

After the 1,000-year rain event of 2016 in my city, I have been paying close attention to credible projections for future events. . . . the combined impacts of sea level rise and storm surge in the southeast have the potential to cost up to \$60 billion each year in 2050 and up to \$99 billion in 2090; that level of impact cannot be dismissed or put off for the next generation to deal with.

Baton Rouge is home to Louisiana State University, the LSU Tigers, and the impressive Center for River Studies. This is the main room at the Center for River Studies. This is an enormous physical model of the Mississippi River through which actual water runs and through which they can put small, sort of simulated sediment to model sediment flow, and these projectors on the roof can project down onto the surface to show various models and to provide all this color. So that is actually like a flat movie screen with projectors on the surface, which is three-dimensional in the sense that they built a model of the Mississippi River through it. It is an amazing educational tool, and it lets researchers at LSU and at the Army Corps of Engineers and others better understand the sediment dynamics in the Mississippi River.

I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD a terrific article by the legendary Louisiana Pulitzer prize-winning outdoor columnist Bob Marshall.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

[Apr. 7, 2019]

OUR COAST ISN'T DISAPPEARING OR
VANISHING; IT'S BEING VIOLENTLY DESTROYED
(By Bob Marshall)

Today's tip for Louisiana's coastal survival: Ban the terms "vanishing" and "disappearing" from being used in connection with the words "Louisiana coast."

You see, in the world of addiction recovery, practitioners know words are important. Until the addict admits to having a problem, they will never find a cure.

For example, the abuser who says, "I just get a little high now and then" will never kick the habit until he says, "I am an addict."

So it has occurred to me one of the reasons for the inability of Louisiana residents and politicians to take some necessary steps to save what's left of our coast is that we've been taught to use gentle euphemisms for a major cause of our demise: We say our wetlands and coast have been "vanishing" or "disappearing."

Nothing could be further from the truth.

Those descriptions evoke a gentle passage, a slow, almost comforting process of fading into history. And the term “lost coast” is equally off target. It’s like saying we misplaced a treasured item, or it was taken by an act of God.

None of those gentle things caused 2,000 square miles of marsh, swamp and uplands to become open water since the 1930s.

They were destroyed. By us.

And anyone who has spent time on the wet side of our levees—or has driven across the wetlands on elevated roadways—could see it wasn’t a gentle act.

This was a brutal assault, a battery, a vicious mugging. We used machines to dig up and toss aside marshes and cypress tupelo swamps to turn more than 10,000 miles (at last count) of our coastal zone into canals for barges to float drilling rigs, to lay tens of thousands of miles of pipelines for oil and gas, and to carve out shipping channels to make it easier and faster for boats to assist in the destruction. This was no gentle, whispering vanishing act; it was a noisy, diesel-fumed mauling of a pristine ecosystem we claim to love.

It was as violent and ugly to our homeland as the way companies eviscerated Western desert landscapes to strip mine for copper, or the way others dynamited entire Appalachian mountaintops—throwing their waste into adjacent streams—to make it easiest to harvest coal profits.

No one in Nevada or West Virginia says those deserts and mountains “disappeared” or “vanished.” They admit they were willfully destroyed.

Our ongoing embrace of these misleading euphemisms for what we did hides an even uglier aspect of this disaster: our silence. In many ways, this has been the Kitty Genovese of environmental crimes—because most of us stood by and did nothing even as the crime was being committed in front of us, then just walked silently away. We chose not to get involved because we were told it could cost us money.

Yes, levees on the rivers presaged the crimes, but those were unavoidable if we intended to live here. And 36 to 60 percent of what was destroyed—the portion researchers tie to oil and gas work—might still be here today if we had chosen another way.

Maybe we didn’t truly understand the systemic damage we were doing until the 1960s. But even then—even when the crime reports came out and the perpetrators were identified—we chose to look the other way.

Worse, we have taught the rest of the nation to join us in that deception. Google “Louisiana coast and disappearing,” and you’ll get 3.1 million hits. We have been so successful in this dissembling that our denial is now repeated regularly by journalists. The latest example is an in-depth New Yorker piece entitled “Louisiana’s Disappearing Coast”—which gave one sentence to the impact of those 10,000 miles of canals.

Indeed, our penchant for avoiding responsibility for our self-destruction extends to other another crime against our landscape and our children’s futures. Many of our politicians and residents now are ignoring or denying the mugging of the atmosphere by the emissions many of us help produce, emissions that are pushing the sea level rise acceleration that will send us to even earlier watery grave.

The only way to kick this deadly habit is to finally admit we have a problem.

So, let’s take the first step. Let’s look in the mirror and say to the people we see staring back that our coast isn’t disappearing or vanishing. It has been, and continues to be, willfully destroyed by our inaction—and we have no future here unless we kick that habit.

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Madam President, after Baton Rouge, I went to the legendary city of New Orleans where I met with Mayor LaToya Cantrell. Around half of that city lives below sea level. Strong partnerships between the public and private sectors help make the city a national leader in resiliency planning.

In 2017, the city’s “Climate Action for a Resilient New Orleans” plan pledged to cut greenhouse gas emissions by 50 percent by 2030. In March, New Orleans sued 11 oil, gas, and pipeline companies for damage to the wetlands that protect the city from storm surge and flooding.

Mayor Cantrell spoke to me about “learning to live with water” in the post-Katrina city. I visited community leaders in the recovering Lower Ninth Ward who are turning wetlands restoration projects in the area into education, community engagement, tourism, and other opportunities to rebuild a healthy connection between the city and the water that surrounds it.

I also met with a number of community leaders to discuss how businesses, nonprofits, researchers, and government agencies work together to save Louisiana’s working coastline. I heard from a business owner about a property he was having difficulty insuring due to anticipated flood risks.

I learned about the changes fishermen see in the gulf and how some of them have switched to nontraditional fisheries or changed careers completely. Hunters and recreational fishermen also notice worrying changes in their sportsmen’s paradise.

Though the evidence of climate change is everywhere in Louisiana and is reshaping the lives of Louisianans, the phrase “climate change” still brings apprehension in some circles.

Let me go back. This is us in the Ninth Ward, and here we are with some of the boats down at the fishing pier off of the Mississippi. I will describe a little bit more. This is the inlet that flows to Davis Pond, and it has brought water and sediment to the Davis Pond area.

You can’t see this very clearly, but these are white pelicans. I had never seen so many together in my life. It is rare for a Rhode Islander to see a white pelican. Here they pile in thick because the fish get drawn in coming off the river, and it makes a wonderful chow line. So there is a big population of white pelicans that have learned to show up this time of year and enjoy the chow line at this particular entry point.

I do want to say that although there is some hesitancy in talking about climate change in some quarters, some people are not hesitant, and I refer to the legendary Bob Marshall, who has described this as the “mugging of the atmosphere” by our emissions.

Having spoken with resiliency experts and seen Louisiana by both sky and in that terrific LSU model, I then took to the water to visit this restora-

tion work in action. This is Davis Pond here, and it was conceived as a freshwater diversion to push back saltwater intrusion into the marshes with counterpressure from added saltwater, but it turned out that it grew marshland, and it is now teaming with coastal wildlife and dozens of different bird species.

Here we are. We traveled in an airboat to get down there. I also visited hunter and fisherman Ryan Lambert at his lodge in Buras. He showed me some of his personal efforts to restore the delta and its wetlands. I am out here on his boat driving around the area that he has been working, pointing out how quickly, if you give nature a chance, she can rebound. A scientist with the National Wildlife Federation counted over 30 species of birds just while we were waiting to board the boat, and he spotted over 40 species while we were out on the water.

The sights and sounds of a healthy marsh were encouraging and a reminder of nature’s God-blessed ability to find a way to not only survive but flourish, given the chance.

Louisiana faces challenges ahead, but Louisianans are united in a David versus Goliath-scale battle to protect their State. To achieve that goal, I believe Louisiana must urge its fossil fuel tenants to accept responsibility for the climate crisis and commit to being part of the solution. Louisiana can be the crucible of compromise between the environment and the industry.

So thank you to all the wonderful advocates, researchers and community and State leaders I met in my visit to Louisiana. Thank you to Senator CASSIDY for his hospitality to me while I was down there. The dedication of the Louisianans I met to their coast is admirable and inspiring, and Louisiana’s coastal plan is a model for other coastal States.

I would also like to thank the senior Senator from Louisiana for welcoming me the way he did and for joining me here today. This is a big moment for me to have this be the first bipartisan “Time to Wake Up.” We share a commitment to giving our coast the respect, attention, and support they are due. I look forward to working together with Senator CASSIDY to find opportunities for our government to play its role in supporting our coastal resiliency and restoration.

Thank you, my friend.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Louisiana.

ORDER OF BUSINESS

Mr. CASSIDY. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the postcloture time on the Barker nomination expire at 11:45 a.m., Wednesday, May 1; I further ask that if confirmed, the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table, and the President be immediately notified of the Senate’s action.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. CASSIDY. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate resume legislative session and be in a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

TRIBUTE TO SANDY HART

Mr. MCCONNELL. Madam President, every American has the solemn responsibility to show our gratitude to the brave men and women who have answered the call to serve our Nation in uniform. We have an obligation to honor the values for which they fought and praise their efforts to preserve the freedom of this great country and the world.

This year marks the 75th anniversary of the Allied invasion of the beaches of Normandy on D-Day. With every step onto the European continent, the forces of freedom moved closer to ending the reign of tyranny. Kentucky's World War II veteran community also marks another important milestone this year. Fifteen years ago, Sandy Hart, of Wickliffe, organized a groundbreaking project to honor the service of Kentucky's veterans. Because of Sandy's remarkable leadership, more than 500 World War II veterans traveled to our Nation's Capital in 2004 to visit the new memorial dedicated in their honor.

It is my privilege to recognize Sandy for her many years of dedicated service to American veterans, whom she calls true heroes. For many of the members of the Greatest Generation, a visit to the World War II Memorial in Washington, DC, simply wouldn't have been possible without her. Through more than a year and a half of hard work, Sandy, the daughter of a World War II veteran, collected the necessary donations to fill 17 busloads and give every veteran the chance to visit their memorial free of charge. Although shy by nature, she is animated by her passion for honoring veterans.

To foster greater understanding and appreciation of the sacrifice veterans made for this country, Sandy and her husband Ray established the Kentucky Veteran and Patriot Museum. With donations of both funds and memorabilia, Sandy hopes the museum can be a meaningful place of engagement and remembrance both for current veterans and for future generations. With focuses on each of the modern American military engagements, Sandy's museum pays tribute to the heroes who defended our Nation.

I am not the only one who admires Sandy for her tireless work in Kentucky. In his series of books entitled "Kentucky's Everyday Heroes: Ordinary People Doing Extraordinary Things," Steve Flairty profiled inspira-

tional men and women throughout the Commonwealth who, in his words, "go quietly about their daily living, making others' lives better, with little or no thoughts of personal benefit." Sandy's remarkable servant leadership clearly belongs among the ranks of these Kentuckians. Her inclusion in the book is a well-earned tribute to her lifetime spent in service to others.

To celebrate the 15th anniversary, the Wickliffe community will host a parade and a ceremony. They will also unveil new memorials to brave American veterans. This anniversary gathering is the latest opportunity for Kentuckians to honor our heroes that would be impossible without Sandy's committed vision. I am sure she would try to avoid the praise I am offering, but she deserves this and so much more. Sandy is an inspirational woman who has dedicated her life to the benefit of those around her, especially our veterans. So I hope my Senate colleagues will join me in marking this important anniversary and in thanking Sandy Hart for her extraordinary leadership honoring America's heroes.

VACCINES

Mr. ALEXANDER. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that a copy of my opening statement at the Senate Health Education, Labor, and Pensions Committee be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

VACCINES SAVE LIVES

Mr. ALEXANDER. The Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions will please come to order.

Senator Murray and I will each have an opening statement, and then we will introduce the witnesses. After the witnesses' testimony, senators will each have 5 minutes of questions.

It was not that long ago that, as a boy, I remember the terror in the hearts of parents that their children might contract polio and my classmates in iron lungs.

The Majority Leader, Senator McConnell, contracted polio when he was young. His mother took him to Warm Springs, because that is where President Roosevelt received treatment for polio. Fortunately, because of her dedication, Leader McConnell is able to walk today, but thousands of others were not as lucky.

Following the introduction of a vaccine in 1955, polio was eliminated in the United States in 1979, and since then, from every country in the world except for three. Polio is just one of the diseases we have eradicated in the United States thanks to vaccines.

Before the vaccine for measles was developed, up to four million Americans each year contracted the highly contagious, airborne virus.

In 2000, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) declared measles eliminated from the United States. And in 1980, smallpox was declared eradicated from the world by the CDC and the World Health Organization (WHO).

This is a remarkable demonstration of modern medicine.

Four years ago, this Committee held a hearing on vaccines, following the 2014 outbreak of measles—the worst outbreak since the disease was declared eliminated in 2000.

And even though 91.1 percent of Americans had been vaccinated for measles in 2017, according to the CDC, we continue to see outbreaks of this preventable disease because there are pockets in the United States that have low vaccination rates.

Last year, there were 372 cases of measles—the second highest number since 2000. And so far this year, there have been 159 cases reported and outbreaks confirmed in Washington State, New York, Texas, and Illinois.

We know that some Americans are hesitant about vaccines, so today I want to stress the importance of vaccines: not only has the Food and Drug Administration found them to be safe, but vaccines also save lives.

Vaccines have been so successful that, until recently, Americans have lived without fear of getting measles, polio, or rubella. We have made significant strides in improving vaccination rates.

In 2009, about 44 percent of Americans had received vaccines for seven preventable diseases: Diphtheria, Tetanus, Pertussis, Polio, Measles, Mumps, and Rubella, Haemophilus influenza type b, Hepatitis B, Chickenpox, and Pneumococcal, according to the CDC.

Today, over 70 percent of Americans are vaccinated against all seven of these diseases.

Vaccines protect not only those who have been vaccinated, but the larger community. This is called herd immunity.

There are some people who cannot be vaccinated—they are too young, or have a weak immune system because of a genetic disorder or are taking medicine that compromises their immune system, like cancer treatment.

Vaccines protect those who cannot be vaccinated by preventing the spread of diseases. However, low immunization rates can destroy a community's herd immunity.

While the overall vaccination rate nationwide is high enough to create this herd immunity, certain areas—the pockets of the country where vaccination rates are low—are vulnerable to outbreaks. There is a lot of misleading and incorrect information about vaccines that circulates online, including through social media.

Here is what I want parents in Tennessee, in Washington, in Texas, everywhere in our country to know: Vaccines are approved by the Food and Drug Administration, and meet the FDA's gold standard of safety. The Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices makes recommendations on the use of vaccines in the United States and annual child and adult vaccine schedules. This Advisory Committee is made up of medical doctors and public health professionals from medical schools, hospitals, and professional medical organizations from around the country. They are among the best our country has to offer and they have dedicated their lives to helping others. These recommendations are reviewed and approved by the CDC director, and are available on the CDC's website.

There is nothing secret about any of this science. Countless studies have been done to show that vaccines are safe. Charlatans and internet fraudsters who claim that vaccines aren't safe are preying on the unfounded fears and daily struggles of parents, and they are creating a public health hazard that is entirely preventable.

It is important for those who have questions about vaccines, especially parents, to speak with a reputable health care provider. As with many topics, just because you found it on the internet doesn't make it true.

The science is sound: Vaccines save lives—the lives of those who receive vaccines and the lives of those who are too young or vulnerable to be immunized.

Before I turn this over to Senator Murray, I want to add that the National Childhood

Vaccine Injury Act of 1986 required the Department of Health and Human Services to submit a report to Congress within 2 years after the legislation was signed into law.

The HELP Committee has two reports from the Department submitted to Congress dated May 4, 1988, and July 21, 1989.

I would like to ask for unanimous consent that the reports be submitted into the committee record so that they can be more accessible to the public.

THE OPIOID CRISIS

Mr. ALEXANDER. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that a copy of my opening statement at the Senate Health Education, Labor, and Pensions Committee be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

MANAGING PAIN DURING THE OPIOID CRISIS

Mr. ALEXANDER. The Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions will please come to order. Senator Murray and I will each have an opening statement, and then we will introduce the witnesses. After the witnesses' testimony, senators will each have 5 minutes of questions.

Dan, a constituent of mine who lives in Maryville, Tennessee, recently wrote me about his wife, who has a rare disease that causes her chronic pain. Dan is concerned because it has become more difficult for her to access painkillers. Dan wrote, "She is not an abuser, and is doing everything right. Now it's harder for her to get the medicine she needs."

Dan's wife is one out of 100 million Americans who, according to a 2011 report by what was then the Institute of Medicine, now the National Academy of Medicine, are living with some pain—that is about 30 percent of Americans. 25 million of those have moderate or severe pain.

A new report released in 2018, from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, says that about 50 million Americans have chronic pain, and nearly 20 million of those Americans have high-impact chronic pain.

Here is the reality: we are engaged in a massive effort to make dramatic reductions in the supply and use of opioids—the most effective painkiller we have. But on the theory that every action has an unintended consequence, we want to make sure that as we deal with the opioid crisis, we keep in mind those people that are hurting.

We are holding this hearing to better understand the causes of pain, how we can improve care for patients with pain, and where we are on developing new medicines and ways to treat pain.

We know that pain is one of the most frequent reasons people see a doctor, and, according to the Mayo Clinic, the number of adults in the United States with pain is higher than the number of people with diabetes, heart disease, and cancer combined. These Americans need more effective ways than opioids or other addictive painkillers to manage pain. Opioids, which are commonly used to treat pain, can lead to addiction and overdose. More than 70,000 Americans died from drug overdoses last year, including prescription opioids, making it the biggest public health crisis in our country.

Last year, Congress passed comprehensive opioid legislation to combat this crisis, which President Trump called "the single largest bill to combat a drug crisis in the history of our country."

Our legislation included more than 70 ideas from 72 Senators, and eight committees in the House and five Committees in the Senate that included: Reauthorizing training pro-

grams for doctors and nurses who prescribe treatments for pain; increasing access to behavioral and mental health providers; and encouraging the use of blister packs for opioids, such as a 3 or 7-day supply, and safe ways of disposing unused drugs.

We also took steps to ensure our new law wouldn't make life harder for patients with pain, but now we need to take the next step to try to find new ways to help them: first—we gave the National Institutes of Health more flexibility and authority to spur research and development of new non-addictive painkillers. We also asked the Food and Drug Administration to provide guidance for those developing new non-addictive painkillers to help get them to patients more quickly. I'm pleased to see Commissioner Gottlieb's announcement this morning that the agency is developing new guidances on how FDA evaluates the risks and the benefits of new opioid treatments for patients with pain and to help the development of non-opioid treatments for pain.

Sam Quinones, a witness at one of our hearings, called new non-addictive painkillers the "holy grail" to solving the opioid crisis. We have backed up those new authorities with substantial funding—most recently \$500 million to help the National Institutes of Health find a new nonaddictive painkiller.

Second, we included provisions to encourage new pain management strategies, such as physical therapy. Third, the new law requires experts to study chronic pain and report to the Director of the NIH how patients can better manage their pain. And fourth, the new law requires the Secretary of Health and Human Services to report the impact on pain patients that Federal and State laws and regulations that limit the length, quantity, or dosage of opioid prescriptions.

Now that we have started to turn the train around and head in a different direction on the use of opioids, everyone—doctors, nurses, insurers, and patients—will need to think about the different ways we should treat and manage pain. There are other things the federal government is doing to better understand what causes pain and how we treat and manage it.

For example, the National Pain Strategy, developed by the Interagency Pain Research Coordinating Committee, which develops recommendations to prevent, treat, manage, and research pain. Through the National Institute on Drug Abuse and the National Institutes of Health's HEAL Initiative, researchers are working to better understand pain and why some people experience it differently than others. This will help us find more ways to more effectively treat pain and help get people the treatment they need.

For example—physical therapy or exercise may be the best course of treatment for some kinds of back pain. It may also help us understand why some people can take opioids to manage their pain for years without becoming addicted, while others more easily become addicted.

Today, I hope to hear about how close are we to having a non-addictive painkiller, and how doctors and nurses can better treat people with pain.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO WILLIAM ARMSTRONG

• Ms. ERNST. Madam President, today I wish to honor Mr. William "Bill" Armstrong of Mount Ayr, IA. Bill is a lifelong Iowan and outgoing president of the Iowa Funeral Directors Association.

Bill Armstrong has served as one of the most effective advocates for both Iowa morticians and morticians across the country for almost 40 years. He graduated from Dallas Institute of Mortuary Science in 1984 and soon after moved to his current hometown of Mount Ayr, where he accepted a position as a funeral director at Wilson-Watson Funeral Home. His journey was only just beginning.

In remarkably short order, he achieved partnership at the funeral home and ultimately acquired the business from Jay and Donna Watson in 2009, officially making the funeral home, Armstrong Funeral Homes.

This prompted Bill to become an outspoken leader for current and future funeral professionals. He proudly represented morticians on both the local and national level by pioneering annual trips to both Des Moines and to Washington, DC, in order to raise awareness about the profession.

Bill was always forward looking, with a singular objective of training the next generation of funeral home leaders. He worked with the University of Northern Iowa to establish a 4-year degree program for mortuary studies.

These are all amazing accomplishments, and I want to thank Bill again for his service and for helping Iowans through their most difficult life moments. I wish him success in his new endeavors.●

RECOGNIZING BBQGUYS

• Mr. KENNEDY. Madam President, as a member of the U.S. Senate Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship, it is my privilege to recognize a veteran-owned Louisiana small business that has not only grown and succeeded but has also steadfastly remained dedicated to their customers, employees, and community. This week, it is my honor to name BBQGuys of Baton Rouge, LA as the Senate Small Business of the Week.

In 1998, Mike Hackley began what has been an American entrepreneurial success story. After serving over 10 years in the U.S. Air Force and working in the real estate and retail sectors, Mike followed his passion of outdoor living and started his own business, opening a retail location called The Grill Store & More. Recognizing the potential that e-commerce had early on, he founded bbqguys.com in 2001. He started out with single-digit employees. Today, BBQGuys has grown to become one of the largest outdoor living online retailers in the world, employing nearly 300.

With the success of the retail operations, Mike continued growing his business, founding Blaze Grill, and began to design and manufacture premium barbecue grills with manufacturing operations in the United States. In just a few years, Blaze is already one of the top grill manufacturers in the market.

Even with BBQGuys' growth and success, Mike continues to prioritize his

employees, making an effort to say good morning every day to team members and maintaining an open-door policy for all. Mike believes in treating his employees like family—a belief he extends to his customers. This culture of hospitality has ultimately resulted in high employee retention and a reputation for outstanding customer service. BBQGuys has been named as one of the Best Places to Work several times by the Greater Baton Rouge Business Report and achieved an A+ rating from the Better Business Bureau. BBQGuys has also been named one of the 5,000 Fastest Growing Businesses in the U.S. by Inc. Magazine for 11 consecutive years. BBQGuys is also involved in the Baton Rouge community, participating in several local community activities including Toys for Tots, the Youth Oasis Children's Center, LifeShare Blood Center, and Friends of the Animals of Baton Rouge.

BBQGuys is a true representation of the American dream—following a passion, committing to hard work, treating people—customers and employees—with the utmost respect, and growing a very small business of single-digit employees into a leading global business that is constantly innovating. It is my distinct pleasure to honor Mike and the entire team at BBQGuys as the U.S. Senate Small Business of the Week. I commend them for their service to the Baton Rouge community and look forward to watching their continued growth and success. BBQGuys, you make Louisiana proud.●

175TH ANNIVERSARY OF OLIVET COLLEGE

● Ms. STABENOW. Madam President, today I wish to pay special tribute to Olivet College in Eaton County, which this year is celebrating 175 years of educating the people of Michigan.

Let's think back to 1844. Michigan had been a State for only 7 years. The very first women's rights convention at Seneca Falls in New York was still 4 years away, and it would be another 19 years before President Lincoln would sign the Emancipation Proclamation.

It was an era marked by gender and racial inequality; yet a group of leaders led by "Father" John J. Shipherd had a different vision: a college founded on the values of inclusion, mutual respect, honesty, and integrity, a Christian institution where neither gender, nor race, nor lack of financial resources would prevent people from attaining an education.

This was a radical idea. Coeducation—women and men learning alongside one another in the same classrooms—was rare at the time, so was admitting Black students alongside White students and poor students alongside the affluent.

It was so controversial, in fact, that Olivet College wasn't formally chartered by the State until 1859. Then in 1863, in the midst of the Civil War, the college honored its first graduating

class: Mary N. Barber, Sara Benedict, and Sophia A. Keys.

One hundred seventy-five years later, a lot has changed, but Olivet College's core values remain the same.

Those values include diversity. Comets come from all across Michigan and the United States and nine other nations around the world. Half are the first person in their families to go to college, and half come from low-income families. About 1 in 3 Comets are students of color.

Those values include inclusivity. That is a special focus of the Olivet College Women's Leadership Institute, which helps young women from middle school through college recognize and cultivate their unique strengths and abilities and become Michigan's and America's next generation of leaders.

Those values include community. Comets aren't just responsible for their own education. Whether they are sharing perspectives in the classroom, working together to score a goal on the soccer field, or combining their voices in the Olivet College Gospel Choir, students are committed to the growth of others.

Those values include service; 100 percent of Comets take part in service learning, where students use what they have learned in the classroom to solve real-life problems both in the community and around the world. Just as it did in 1844, Olivet College understands that the future of humanity rests in the hands, hearts, and minds of those who will accept responsibility for themselves and others.

The founders of Olivet College once wrote this: "We wish simply to do good to our students, by placing in their hands the means of intellectual, moral and spiritual improvement, and to teach them the divine art and science of doing good to others."

Doing good to others—since 1844, Olivet College has been doing just that. Congratulations to students, faculty, staff, and alumni on your first 175 years.

Thank you.●

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Ms. Ridgway, one of his secretaries.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

In executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages from the President of the United States submitting sundry nominations which were referred to the appropriate committees.

(The messages received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

At 11:09 a.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by

Mr. Novotny, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bills, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 91. An act to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to assess sanitation and safety conditions at Bureau of Indian Affairs facilities that were constructed to provide affected Columbia River Treaty tribes access to traditional fishing grounds and expend funds on construction of facilities and structures to improve those conditions, and for other purposes.

H.R. 317. An act to reaffirm the action of the Secretary of the Interior to take land into trust for the benefit of the Santa Ynez Band of Chumash Mission Indians, and for other purposes.

H.R. 1222. An act to amend the Pittman-Robertson Wildlife Restoration Act to facilitate the establishment of additional or expanded public target ranges in certain States.

The message further announced that pursuant to section 451 of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (Public Law 113-128) and the order of the House of January 3, 2019, the Speaker appoints the following individual on the part of the House of Representatives to the National Council on Disability: Mr. James T. Brett of Dorchester, Massachusetts.

The message also announced that pursuant to section 2 of the Migratory Bird Conservation Act (16 U.S.C. 715a), and the order of the House of January 3, 2019, the Speaker appoints the following Member on the part of the House of Representatives to the Migratory Bird Conservation Commission: Mr. Wittman of Virginia.

The message further announced that pursuant to section 1238(b)(3) of the Floyd D. Spence National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2001 (22 U.S.C. 7002), as amended, and the order of the House of January 3, 2019, the Speaker appoints the following individual on the part of the House of Representatives to the United States-China Economic and Security Review Commission for a term expiring on December 31, 2020: Mr. Jeffrey L. Fiedler of La Quinta, California.

The message also announced that pursuant to 22 U.S.C. 7002, the Minority Leader appoints the following member to the United States-China Economic and Security Review Commission: Mr. Andreas Borgeas of Fresno, California.

MEASURES REFERRED

The following bills were read the first and the second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

H.R. 91. An act to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to assess sanitation and safety conditions at Bureau of Indian Affairs facilities that were constructed to provide affected Columbia River Treaty tribes access to traditional fishing grounds and expend funds on construction of facilities and structures to improve those conditions, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Indian Affairs.

H.R. 317. An act to reaffirm the action of the Secretary of the Interior to take land into trust for the benefit of the Santa Ynez Band of Chumash Mission Indians, and for

other purposes; to the Committee on Indian Affairs.

EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were laid before the Senate, together with accompanying papers, reports, and documents, and were referred as indicated:

EC-998. A communication from the Under Secretary of Defense (Acquisition and Sustainment), transmitting, pursuant to law, a notice of the Department of Defense's intent to commence chemical agent destruction operations at the Blue Grass Army Depot chemical demilitarization site in Richmond, Kentucky; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-999. A communication from the Associate General Counsel, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, nine (9) reports relative to vacancies in the Department of Agriculture, received during adjournment of Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 23, 2019; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-1000. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Bentazon; Pesticide Tolerances" (FRL No. 9991-75-OCSP) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 26, 2019; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-1001. A communication from the Secretary of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, a six-month periodic report on the national emergency with respect to Syria that was declared in Executive Order 13338 of May 11, 2004; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-1002. A communication from the Secretary of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, a six-month periodic report on the national emergency with respect to the Central African Republic that was declared in Executive Order 13667 of May 12, 2014; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-1003. A communication from the Secretary of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, a six-month periodic report on the national emergency with respect to the stabilization of Iraq that was declared in Executive Order 13303 of May 22, 2003; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-1004. A communication from the Secretary of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, a six-month periodic report on the national emergency with respect to Iran as declared in Executive Order 12957 of March 15, 1995; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-1005. A communication from the Program Specialist, Office of the Comptroller of the Currency, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Regulatory Capital Rule: Implementation and Transition of the Current Expected Credit Losses Methodology for Allowances and Related Adjustments to the Regulatory Capital Rule and Conforming Amendments to Other Regulations" (RIN1557-AE32) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 15, 2019; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-1006. A communication from the Chairman, National Credit Union Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, the National

Credit Union Administration's 2018 annual report; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-1007. A communication from the Assistant Secretary for Congressional and Intergovernmental Relations, Department of Housing and Urban Development, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Department's fiscal year 2018 Annual Performance Report and fiscal year 2020 Annual Performance Plan; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-1008. A communication from the Chief Counsel, Federal Emergency Management Agency, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Final Flood Elevation Determinations" ((44 CFR Part 67) (Docket No. FEMA-2019-0002)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 16, 2019; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-1009. A communication from the Chief Counsel, Federal Emergency Management Agency, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Suspension of Community Eligibility; Alabama: Baldwin County, Unincorporated Areas, et al." ((44 CFR Part 64) (Docket No. FEMA-2019-0003)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 24, 2019; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-1010. A communication from the Assistant Secretary for Industry and Analysis, Bureau of Industry and Security, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Revisions to the Unverified List (UVL)" (RIN0694-AH73) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 17, 2019; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-1011. A communication from the Associate General Counsel for Legislation and Regulations, Office of the Chief Procurement Officer, Department of Housing and Urban Development, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "HUD Acquisition Regulation" (RIN2501-AD85) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 24, 2019; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-1012. A communication from the Secretary of Energy, transmitting, proposed legislation that would clarify that the Department of Energy has fulfilled the requirements of Section 631(b) (1) (B) of the Energy Policy Act of 2005; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-1013. A communication from the Chairman of the United States Nuclear Regulatory Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "Report to Congress on the Status of Addressing and Implementing the Recommendations Contained in 'Tasking in Response to the Assessment of the Considerations Identified in a 'Study of Reprisal and Chilling Effect for Raising Mission-Related Concerns and Differing Views at the Nuclear Regulatory Commission''"; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-1014. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Air Plan Approval; GA: Non-Interference Demonstration and Maintenance Plan Revision for Federal Low-Reid Vapor Pressure Requirement in the Atlanta Area" (FRL No. 9992-54-Region 4) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 17, 2019; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-1015. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Alabama: Final Authorization of State Hazardous Waste Management Program Revisions" (FRL No. 9992-49-Region 4) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 17, 2019; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-1016. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Approval of State Plans for Designated Facilities and Pollutants; Missouri; Diammonium Phosphate Fertilizer Units" (FRL No. 9992-09-Region 7) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 17, 2019; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-1017. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Redesignation Request for the Wisconsin Portion of the Chicago-Naperville, Illinois-Indiana-Wisconsin Area to Attainment of the 2008 Ozone Standard" (FRL No. 9992-43-Region 5) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 17, 2019; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-1018. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Air Plan Approval and Approval of Operating Permits Program; Nebraska; Adoption of the 2015 Ozone Standard and Revisions to Definitions" (FRL No. 9991-55-Region 1) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 11, 2019; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-1019. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Air Plan Approval; Ohio; Ohio Less Than 10 TPY BAT Exemption" (FRL No. 9992-18-Region 5) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 11, 2019; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-1020. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Air Plan Approval; Ohio; Redesignation of the Cleveland Area to Attainment of the 2012 Annual Standard for Fine Particulate Matter" (FRL No. 9992-21-Region 5) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 11, 2019; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-1021. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Air Plan Approval; Ohio; Removal of Obsolete Gasoline Volatility Regulations" (FRL No. 9992-20-Region 5) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 11, 2019; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-1022. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Colorado: Final Approval of State Underground Storage Tank Program Revisions and Codification" (FRL No. 9991-41-Region 8) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 11, 2019; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-1023. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division,

Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “State of North Dakota Underground Injection Control Program: Class 1, 3, 4, and 5 Primary Revisions” (FRL No. 9992-26-OW) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 11, 2019; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-1024. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Air Plan Approval; California; Antelope Valley Air Quality Management District” (FRL No. 9992-14-Region 9) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 26, 2019; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-1025. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Air Plan Approval; Maine; Infrastructure State Implementation Plan Requirements for the 2010 Sulfur Dioxide NAAQS” (FRL No. 9992-50-Region 1) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 26, 2019; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-1026. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Air Plan Revisions; California; Correcting Amendments” (FRL No. 9992-71-Region 9) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 26, 2019; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-1027. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Air Quality State Implementation Plans; Arizona: Approval and Conditional Approval of State Implementation Plan Revisions; Maricopa County Air Quality Department: Stationary Source Permits; Correction” (FRL No. 9992-61-Region 9) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 26, 2019; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-1028. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; Pennsylvania; Allegheny County Reasonably Available Control Technology for the 2008 Ozone National Ambient Air Quality Standard” (FRL No. 9993-02-Region 3) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 26, 2019; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-1029. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; Pennsylvania; Commercial Fuel Oil Sulfur Limits for Combustion Units in Allegheny County” (FRL No. 9993-01-Region 3) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 26, 2019; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-1030. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plans; Texas; Reasonably Avail-

able Control Technology in the Houston-Galveston-Brazoria Ozone Nonattainment Area” (FRL No. 9992-51-Region 6) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 26, 2019; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-1031. A communication from the Director of Congressional Affairs, Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation, Nuclear Regulatory Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Safety Evaluation for Tennessee Valley Authority Topical Report ‘TVA Overall Basin Probable Maximum Precipitation and Local Intense Precipitation Analysis’” (EPID-L-2016-TOP-0011) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 18, 2019; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-1032. A communication from the Deputy Assistant Administrator for Regulatory Programs, National Marine Fisheries Service, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Final Rule to List Two Guitarfishes as Threatened Under the Endangered Species Act” (RIN0648-XD771) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 12, 2019; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-1033. A communication from the Deputy Assistant Administrator for Regulatory Programs, National Marine Fisheries Service, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Endangered and Threatened Species: Removal of the Puget Sound/Georgia Basin District Population Segment of Canary Rockfish From the Federal List of Threatened and Endangered Species and Removal of Designated Critical Habitat, and Update and Amendment to the Listing Descriptions for the Yelloweye Rockfish DPS and Bocaccio DPS” (RIN0648-XE657) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 12, 2019; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-1034. A communication from the Deputy Assistant Administrator for Regulatory Programs, National Marine Fisheries Service, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Endangered and Threatened Species; Designation for Critical Habitat for the Endangered New York Bight, Chesapeake Bay, Carolina and South Atlantic District Population Segments of Atlantic Sturgeon and the Threatened Gulf of Maine Distinct Population Segment of Atlantic Sturgeon” (RIN0648-BF28) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 12, 2019; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-1035. A communication from the Secretary of Energy, transmitting proposed legislation; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-1036. A communication from the Assistant Secretary for Legislation, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled “The Center for Medicare and Medicaid Innovation: 2018 Report to Congress”; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-1037. A communication from the Assistant Secretary for Legislation, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled “The Medicare Secondary Payer Commercial Reimbursement Center in Fiscal Year 2018”; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-1038. A communication from the Chairman of the United States International Trade Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled “United States-Mex-

ico-Canada Agreement: Likely Impact on the United States Economy and Specific Industry Sectors”; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-1039. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Revenue Procedure: General Public Use under Section 142(d)” (Rev. Proc. 2019-17) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 15, 2019; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-1040. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Regulations to Prescribe Return and Time for Filing Payment of Section 4960, 4966, 4967, and 4968 Taxes” (RIN1545-B080) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 15, 2019; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-1041. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Arbitrage Investment Restrictions on Tax-Exempt Bonds” (RIN1545-B077) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 15, 2019; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-1042. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Treasury Decision (TD): Disclosures of Return Information Reflected on Returns to Officers and Employees of the Department of Commerce for Certain Statistical Purposes and Related Activities” (RIN1545-BN63) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 15, 2019; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-1043. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Fringe Benefits Aircraft Valuation Formula” (Rev. Rul. 2019-10) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 24, 2019; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-1044. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Update of Revenue Procedure 2018-52 (EPCRS)” (Rev. Proc. 2019-19) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 24, 2019; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-1045. A communication from the Regulations Coordinator, Office of the Inspector General, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Medicaid; Revisions to State Medicaid Fraud Control Unit Rules” (RIN0936-AA07) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 25, 2019; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-1046. A communication from the Deputy Director, Office of Strategic Operations and Regulatory Affairs, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Medicare and Medicaid Programs; Policy and Technical Changes to the Medicare Advantage, Medicare Prescription Drug Benefit, Programs of All-Inclusive Care for the Elderly (PACE), Medicaid Fee-For-Service, and Medicaid Managed Care Programs for

Years 2020 and 2021" (RIN0938-AT59) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 11, 2019; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-1047. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the designation of a group as a Foreign Terrorist Organization by the Secretary of State (OSS-2019-0364); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-1048. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to Technical Collection for the New START Treaty (OSS-2019-0365); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-1049. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "Report to Congress on Direct Commercial Sales Authorizations to Foreign Countries and International Organizations for Fiscal Year 2018 as Required by Section 655 of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961, as Amended"; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-1050. A communication from the Assistant Legal Adviser for Treaty Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to the Case-Zablocki Act, 1 U.S.C. 112b, as amended, the report of the texts and background statements of international agreements, other than treaties (List 2019-0021 - 2019-0031); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-1051. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act, the certification of a proposed license for the export of defense articles, including technical data and defense services, to Taiwan to support the manufacture, development, integration, and support for F100 engine parts and components for end-use by the United States in the amount of \$50,000,000 or more (Transmittal No. DDTC 18-082); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-1052. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act, the certification of a proposed license for the export of defense articles, including technical data and defense services, to Denmark to support the manufacture, development, integration, and support for Air-to-Ground Pylons for the F-35 Lightning II Aircraft for end-use by the United States in the amount of \$100,000,000 or more (Transmittal No. DDTC 18-089); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-1053. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act, the certification of a proposed license amendment for the export of defense articles, including technical data and defense services, to the United Kingdom to support the manufacture of Harpoon missile canisters, capsules, certification and training vehicles, inert test vehicles, and discharge verification rounds for the Harpoon Weapon System in the amount of \$100,000,000 or more (Transmittal No. DDTC 19-003); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-1054. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act, the certification of a proposed license for the export of firearms abroad controlled under Category I of the U.S. Munitions Lists of 5.56mm automatic rifles, barrels, and upper receivers to Jamaica for use by the Jamaican Defense Forces in the amount of \$1,000,000 or more (Transmittal No. DDTC 18-106); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-1055. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act, the certification of a proposed license for the export of firearms abroad controlled under Category I of the U.S. Munitions Lists of rifles and rifle conversion kits to Denmark and Sweden for commercial resale in the amount of \$1,000,000 or more (Transmittal No. DDTC 18-075); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-1056. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to section 36(c) and (d) of the Arms Export Control Act, the certification of a proposed license for the manufacture of significant military equipment in the form of firearms, parts, and components abroad controlled under Category I of the U.S. Munitions List of various calibers of centerfire shot, bolt-action, semi-automatic, lever-action rifles, and center fire pistols to Belgium, Canada, and Japan for commercial resale in the amount of \$1,000,000 or more (Transmittal No. DDTC 18-045); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-1057. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to section 36(c) and (d) of the Arms Export Control Act, the certification of a proposed license for the manufacture of significant military equipment and the export of technical data and defense services, to the Republic of Korea and Thailand to support the manufacture, integration, installation, operation, training, testing, maintenance, and repair of the T-50TH aircraft in the amount of \$50,000,000 or more (Transmittal No. DDTC 18-066); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-1058. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to section 36(c) and (d) of the Arms Export Control Act, the certification of a proposed license for the manufacture of significant military equipment and the export of technical data and defense services, to Australia, the United Kingdom, and India to support the manufacture, integration, installation, operation, training, testing, maintenance, and repair of Unmanned Aerial Systems in India in the amount of \$50,000,000 or more (Transmittal No. DDTC 18-009); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-1059. A communication from the Assistant Secretary for Legislation, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "Performance Evaluation of Accreditation Bodies under the Mammography Quality Standards Act of 1992 as Amended by the Mammography Quality Standards Reauthorizations Acts of 1998 and 2004"; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-1060. A communication from the Executive Analyst (Political), Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to a vacancy in the position of Commissioner of Food and Drugs, Food and Drug Administration, Department of Health and Human Services, received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 17, 2019; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-1061. A communication from the Director, White House Liaison, Department of Education, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to a vacancy in the position of General Counsel of the Department of Education, received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 11, 2019; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-1062. A communication from the Deputy Director, National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Removal of Compliance Deadline for Closed-Circuit Escape Respirators and Clarification of Post-Approval Testing Standards for Closed-Circuit Escape Respirators" (RIN0920-AA66 and RIN0920-AA67) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 18, 2019; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-1063. A communication from the Deputy Director, National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Compliance with Statutory Program Integrity Requirements" (RIN0937-AA07) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 18, 2019; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-1064. A communication from the Deputy Assistant Secretary for Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Uniform Resource Locator (URL) for the Agency's fiscal year 2017 Federal Activities Inventory Reform (FAIR) Act submission of its commercial and inherently governmental activities; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-1065. A communication from the Acting Director, Office of Personnel Management, transmitting proposed legislation; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-1066. A communication from the Chairman of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Commission's fiscal year 2018 annual report relative to the Notification and Federal Employee Antidiscrimination and Retaliation Act of 2002 (No FEAR Act); to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-1067. A communication from the Assistant Secretary for Congressional and Intergovernmental Relations, Department of Housing and Urban Development, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Federal Housing Administration's fiscal year 2018 Annual Management Report; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-1068. A communication from the President and CEO, Inter-American Foundation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Foundation's FY18 Annual Performance Report; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-1069. A communication from the Director of the Peace Corps, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Peace Corps' fiscal year 2018 annual report relative to the Notification and Federal Employee Antidiscrimination and Retaliation Act of 2002 (No FEAR Act); to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-1070. A communication from the Director, Office of Management, Department of Energy, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the Department's 2017 list of Government activities determined to be inherently governmental and those determined to be not inherently governmental in nature and the Uniform Resource Locator (URL) for the report; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-1071. A communication from the Associate General Counsel for General Law, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to a vacancy in the position of Under Secretary for Management, Department of Homeland

Security, received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 18, 2019; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-1072. A communication from the Associate General Counsel for General Law, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to a vacancy in the position of Secretary of Homeland Security, received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 24, 2019; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-1073. A communication from the District of Columbia Auditor, transmitting, pursuant to law, reports entitled, "Seventy-Seven Percent of District of Columbia Auditor Recommendations Implemented or In Progress," "Poor Conditions Persist at Aging D.C. Jail; New Facility Needed to Mitigate Risks," and "Certification of Fiscal Year 2019 Total Local Source General Fund Revenue Estimate (Net of Dedicated Taxes) in Support of the District's Issuance of General Obligation Bonds (Series 2019A)"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-1074. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 23-38, "Randall School Museum and Housing Development Real Property Tax Abatement Amendment Act of 2019"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-1075. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 23-39, "Small and Certified Business Enterprise Development and Assistance Temporary Amendment Act of 2019"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

The following bills and joint resolutions were introduced, read the first and second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

By Mr. LEAHY (for himself, Mr. GRAMHAM, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. COONS, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. TILLIS, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. HAWLEY, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. GARDNER, Ms. HIRONO, and Mr. TOOMEY):

S. 1231. A bill to reauthorize the Bulletproof Vest Partnership Grant Program; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. MANCHIN (for himself, Mr. WARNER, Mr. KAINE, Mr. CASEY, Mr. BROWN, and Ms. DUCKWORTH):

S. 1232. A bill to amend the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act of 1977 to provide funds to States and Indian Tribes for the purpose of promoting economic revitalization, diversification, and development in economically distressed communities through the reclamation and restoration of land and water resources adversely affected by coal mining carried out before August 3, 1977, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. ROUNDS:

S. 1233. A bill to provide relief to community banks, to promote access to capital for community banks, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Ms. MURKOWSKI (for herself, Mr. ALEXANDER, and Mrs. FEINSTEIN):

S. 1234. A bill to establish a new organization to manage nuclear waste, provide a con-

sensual process for siting nuclear waste facilities, ensure adequate funding for managing nuclear waste, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mrs. BLACKBURN (for herself, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Ms. BALDWIN, Ms. CANTWELL, Mrs. CAPITO, Ms. COLLINS, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Ms. ERNST, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mrs. FISCHER, Ms. HARRIS, Ms. HASSAN, Ms. HIRONO, Mrs. HYDE-SMITH, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Ms. MCSALLY, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Mrs. MURRAY, Ms. ROSEN, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Ms. SINEMA, Ms. SMITH, Ms. STABENOW, and Ms. WARREN):

S. 1235. A bill to require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint coins in commemoration of ratification of the 19th Amendment to the Constitution of the United States, giving women in the United States the right to vote; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. KENNEDY:

S. 1236. A bill to amend the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 to clarify the composition of the membership of the Municipal Securities Rulemaking Board, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. ROUNDS (for himself and Mr. CARDIN):

S. 1237. A bill to require the Secretary of Defense to modify the Certificate of Release or Discharge from Active Duty (DD Form 214) to include a specific block explicitly identified as the location in which a member of the Armed Forces may provide one or more email addresses by which the member may be contacted; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Ms. ERNST:

S. 1238. A bill to provide requirements for Executive agency spending at the end of a fiscal year, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. MERKLEY:

S. 1239. A bill to require the Federal Communications Commission to establish within the Enforcement Bureau of the Commission a division that specifically addresses the issue of robocalls, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. TESTER:

S. 1240. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to count resident time spent in a critical access hospital as resident time spent in a nonprovider setting for purposes of making Medicare direct and indirect graduate medical education payments; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. DURBIN (for himself, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. MARKEY, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, and Ms. SMITH):

S. 1241. A bill to expand the private right of action under the Telephone Consumer Protection Act for calls in violation of the Do Not Call rules; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. BOOKER (for himself and Mr. LANKFORD):

S. 1242. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to ensure that bonds used to finance professional stadiums are not treated as tax-exempt bonds; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. BOOKER:

S. 1243. A bill to provide standards for facilities at which aliens in the custody of the Department of Homeland Security are detained, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Ms. DUCKWORTH (for herself, Mr. CASEY, and Mr. BLUMENTHAL):

S. 1244. A bill to promote the provision of exercise or fitness equipment, and exercise

or fitness classes and instruction, that are accessible to individuals with disabilities; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. HOEVEN (for himself and Mr. MANCHIN):

S. 1245. A bill to improve energy performance in Federal buildings, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. KAINE (for himself, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. KING, Ms. HASSAN, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Ms. BALDWIN, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. MENENDEZ, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, Mr. WYDEN, Ms. SMITH, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. MERKLEY, Ms. HARRIS, and Ms. CANTWELL):

S. 1246. A bill to extend the protections of the Fair Housing Act to persons suffering discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation or gender identity, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. BLUMENTHAL (for himself and Mr. WHITEHOUSE):

S. 1247. A bill to amend the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971 to require reporting to the Federal Election Commission and the Federal Bureau of Investigation of offers by foreign nationals to make prohibited contributions, donations, expenditures, or disbursements, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Rules and Administration.

By Mr. MERKLEY (for himself and Mr. WYDEN):

S. 1248. A bill to exclude the discharge of certain Federal student loans from the calculation of gross income; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. DURBIN (for himself, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. SCHATZ, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, and Ms. BALDWIN):

S. 1249. A bill to prioritize funding for an expanded and sustained national investment in basic science research; to the Committee on the Budget.

By Mr. DURBIN (for himself, Mr. BROWN, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. CASEY, Mr. MARKEY, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, and Ms. KLOBUCHAR):

S. 1250. A bill to prioritize funding for an expanded and sustained national investment in biomedical research; to the Committee on the Budget.

By Mrs. SHAHEEN (for herself and Mr. PORTMAN):

S. 1251. A bill to improve coordinate inter-agency Federal actions and provide assistance to States for responding to public health challenges posed by emerging contaminants, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mr. MENENDEZ (for himself, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. MURPHY, Mr. UDALL, Mr. MARKEY, Ms. BALDWIN, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. KAINE, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. COONS, Mrs. MURRAY, Ms. HARRIS, Mr. WYDEN, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. SCHATZ, and Mr. WHITEHOUSE):

S. 1252. A bill to direct the Secretary of State to review the termination characterization of former members of the Department of State who were fired by reason of the sexual orientation of the official, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mrs. FEINSTEIN (for herself, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Ms. HARRIS, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. WYDEN, and Mr. DURBIN):

S. 1253. A bill to apply requirements relating to delivery sales of cigarettes to delivery sales of electronic nicotine delivery systems,

and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. YOUNG (for himself and Mr. PETERS):

S. 1254. A bill to require the Secretary of Transportation to review and report on certain laws, safety measures, and technologies relating to the illegal passing of school buses, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. SASSE (for himself, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. RISCH, Mr. DAINES, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. TESTER, Ms. SMITH, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. ROBERTS, Mrs. HYDE-SMITH, Mr. MORAN, Mr. JONES, Mr. HOEVEN, Mr. ROUNDS, Mr. BRAUN, Mr. ENZI, Ms. ERNST, Mrs. FISCHER, and Mr. LANKFORD):

S. 1255. A bill to require the Secretary of Transportation to modify provisions relating to hours of service requirements with respect to transportation of livestock and insects, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. REED (for himself and Mr. GRASSLEY):

S. 1256. A bill to promote transparency by permitting the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board to allow its disciplinary proceedings to be open to the public, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. CRAMER (for himself and Ms. STABENOW):

S. 1257. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to expand tax-free distributions from individual retirement accounts to include rollovers for charitable life-income plans for charitable purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. SCHATZ (for himself, Mr. YOUNG, Mr. DURBIN, and Mr. ROMNEY):

S. 1258. A bill to prohibit the sale of tobacco products to individuals under the age of 21; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

The following concurrent resolutions and Senate resolutions were read, and referred (or acted upon), as indicated:

By Mr. WICKER (for himself and Mr. PETERS):

S. Res. 174. A resolution expressing support for the designation of the week of June 1, 2019, through June 9, 2019, as "National Fishing and Boating Week"; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Ms. BALDWIN (for herself and Mr. BLUNT):

S. Res. 175. A resolution supporting increased awareness of sepsis and the importance of early diagnosis and appropriate intervention; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. HAWLEY (for himself, Mr. COTTON, Mr. BLUNT, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. ROBERTS, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. RUBIO, and Mr. PERDUE):

S. Res. 176. A resolution condemning the terrorist attacks on Christian worshippers in Sri Lanka on Easter Sunday, April 21, 2019, and standing with the Government of Sri Lanka to encourage the protection and preservation of religious liberties; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Ms. HIRONO (for herself and Mr. KING):

S. Res. 177. A resolution expressing support for the designation of April 30, 2019, as "National Adult Hepatitis B Vaccination Awareness Day"; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mrs. FEINSTEIN (for herself, Ms. ERNST, and Mr. GRASSLEY):

S. Res. 178. A resolution recognizing and supporting the goals and ideals of National Sexual Assault Awareness and Prevention Month; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 26

At the request of Mr. WYDEN, the name of the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. SCHATZ) was added as a cosponsor of S. 26, a bill to amend the Help America Vote Act of 2002 to allow all eligible voters to vote by mail in Federal elections, to amend the National Voter Registration Act of 1993 to provide for automatic voter registration.

S. 30

At the request of Ms. BALDWIN, the names of the Senator from Michigan (Mr. PETERS) and the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. BLUMENTHAL) were added as cosponsors of S. 30, a bill to require the Secretary of Defense to develop and implement a plan to provide chiropractic health care services for certain covered beneficiaries as part of the TRICARE program.

S. 69

At the request of Mr. CORNYN, the name of the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. BOOZMAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 69, a bill to allow reciprocity for the carrying of certain concealed firearms.

S. 75

At the request of Mr. RUBIO, the name of the Senator from Missouri (Mr. HAWLEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 75, a bill to prohibit certain business concerns from receiving assistance from the Small Business Administration, and for other purposes.

S. 83

At the request of Mr. RUBIO, the name of the Senator from Missouri (Mr. HAWLEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 83, a bill to amend section 203 of Public Law 94-305 to ensure proper authority for the Office of Advocacy of the Small Business Administration, and for other purposes.

S. 84

At the request of Mr. RUBIO, the name of the Senator from Missouri (Mr. HAWLEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 84, a bill to amend the Small Business Act to require that consumer reporting agencies and other credit reporting companies provide certain protections to small businesses, and for other purposes.

S. 91

At the request of Mr. GARDNER, the names of the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. REED) and the Senator from Arizona (Ms. SINEMA) were added as cosponsors of S. 91, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to authorize per diem payments under comprehensive service programs for homeless veterans to furnish care to dependents of homeless veterans, and for other purposes.

S. 99

At the request of Mr. SANDERS, the name of the Senator from Connecticut

(Mr. BLUMENTHAL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 99, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for the negotiation of lower covered part D drug prices on behalf of Medicare beneficiaries and the establishment and application of a formulary by the Secretary of Health and Human Services under Medicare part D, and for other purposes.

S. 151

At the request of Mr. THUNE, the names of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. PERDUE), the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. HEINRICH), and the Senator from Oregon (Mr. MERKLEY) were added as cosponsors of S. 151, a bill to deter criminal robocall violations and improve enforcement of section 227(b) of the Communications Act of 1934, and for other purposes.

S. 164

At the request of Mr. DAINES, the name of the Senator from Maine (Mr. KING) was added as a cosponsor of S. 164, a bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to remove the prohibition on eligibility for TRICARE Reserve Select of members of the reserve components of the Armed Forces who are eligible to enroll in a health benefits plan under chapter 89 of title 5, United States Code.

S. 178

At the request of Mr. MENENDEZ, the name of the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. REED) was added as a cosponsor of S. 178, a bill to condemn gross human rights violations of ethnic Turkic Muslims in Xinjiang, and calling for an end to arbitrary detention, torture, and harassment of these communities inside and outside China.

S. 225

At the request of Mr. ISAKSON, the name of the Senator from Illinois (Ms. DUCKWORTH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 225, a bill to provide for partnerships among State and local governments, regional entities, and the private sector to preserve, conserve, and enhance the visitor experience at nationally significant battlefields of the American Revolution, War of 1812, and Civil War, and for other purposes.

S. 260

At the request of Mr. CASEY, the name of the Senator from Maine (Mr. KING) was added as a cosponsor of S. 260, a bill to assist employers providing employment under special certificates issued under section 14(c) of the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 to transform their business and program models, to support individuals with disabilities to transition to competitive integrated employment, to phase out the use of such special certificates, and for other purposes.

S. 266

At the request of Mr. REED, the name of the Senator from Delaware (Mr. COONS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 266, a bill to provide for the long-term improvement of public school facilities, and for other purposes.

S. 296

At the request of Mr. CARDIN, the name of the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. MARKEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 296, a bill to amend XVIII of the Social Security Act to ensure more timely access to home health services for Medicare beneficiaries under the Medicare program.

At the request of Ms. COLLINS, the name of the Senator from Colorado (Mr. GARDNER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 296, *supra*.

S. 331

At the request of Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, the name of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. BROWN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 331, a bill to amend the Home Mortgage Disclosure Act of 1975 to modify the exemptions from certain disclosure requirements.

S. 336

At the request of Mr. TESTER, the name of the Senator from Massachusetts (Ms. WARREN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 336, a bill to direct the Comptroller General of the United States to submit a report on the response of law enforcement agencies to reports of missing or murdered Indians.

S. 427

At the request of Mr. MENENDEZ, the names of the Senator from Maryland (Mr. VAN HOLLEN) and the Senator from West Virginia (Mrs. CAPITO) were added as cosponsors of S. 427, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to enhance activities of the National Institutes of Health with respect to research on autism spectrum disorder and enhance programs relating to autism, and for other purposes.

S. 436

At the request of Mr. VAN HOLLEN, the name of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. MERKLEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 436, a bill to amend title 49, United States Code, to require the development of public transportation operations safety risk reduction programs, and for other purposes.

S. 474

At the request of Mr. WYDEN, the name of the Senator from Nevada (Ms. CORTEZ MASTO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 474, a bill to amend title XI of the Social Security Act to require drug manufacturers to publicly justify unnecessary price increases.

S. 500

At the request of Mr. WARNER, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. SMITH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 500, a bill to amend title 54, United States Code, to establish, fund, and provide for the use of amounts in a National Park Service Legacy Restoration Fund to address the maintenance backlog of the National Park Service, and for other purposes.

S. 514

At the request of Mr. TESTER, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. SMITH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 514, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to improve the

benefits and services provided by the Department of Veterans Affairs to women veterans, and for other purposes.

S. 531

At the request of Mr. TESTER, the name of the Senator from New York (Mrs. GILLIBRAND) was added as a cosponsor of S. 531, a bill to permit disabled law enforcement officers, customs and border protection officers, firefighters, air traffic controllers, nuclear materials couriers, members of the Capitol Police, members of the Supreme Court Police, employees of the Central Intelligence Agency performing intelligence activities abroad or having specialized security requirements, and diplomatic security special agents of the Department of State to receive retirement benefits in the same manner as if they had not been disabled.

S. 546

At the request of Mrs. GILLIBRAND, the name of the Senator from West Virginia (Mrs. CAPITO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 546, a bill to extend authorization for the September 11th Victim Compensation Fund of 2001 through fiscal year 2090, and for other purposes.

S. 560

At the request of Ms. BALDWIN, the names of the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. CRAMER) and the Senator from New Hampshire (Mrs. SHAHEEN) were added as cosponsors of S. 560, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act, the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974, and the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to require that group and individual health insurance coverage and group health plans provide coverage for treatment of a congenital anomaly or birth defect.

S. 595

At the request of Mr. CASSIDY, the name of the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. CRAMER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 595, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for the coordination of programs to prevent and treat obesity, and for other purposes.

S. 622

At the request of Mr. JONES, the names of the Senator from Missouri (Mr. BLUNT), the Senator from Florida (Mr. SCOTT), and the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. BLUMENTHAL) were added as cosponsors of S. 622, a bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to repeal the requirement for reduction of survivor annuities under the Survivor Benefit Plan by veterans' dependency and indemnity compensation, and for other purposes.

S. 634

At the request of Mr. CRUZ, the name of the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. CASSIDY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 634, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to establish tax credits to encourage individual and corporate taxpayers to contribute to scholarships for students through eligi-

ble scholarship-granting organizations and eligible workforce training organizations, and for other purposes.

S. 649

At the request of Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, the names of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. BOOKER), the Senator from California (Ms. HARRIS), the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR), the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS), the Senator from Massachusetts (Ms. WARREN), and the Senator from New York (Mrs. GILLIBRAND) were added as cosponsors of S. 649, a bill to require the Secretary of Energy to obtain the consent of affected State and local governments before making an expenditure from the Nuclear Waste Fund for a nuclear waste repository, and for other purposes.

S. 665

At the request of Mrs. GILLIBRAND, the name of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. MERKLEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 665, a bill to reduce the number of preventable deaths and injuries caused by underside crashes, to improve motor carrier and passenger motor vehicle safety, and for other purposes.

S. 679

At the request of Ms. BALDWIN, the names of the Senator from Michigan (Ms. STABENOW) and the Senator from Alaska (Mr. SULLIVAN) were added as cosponsors of S. 679, a bill to exempt from the calculation of monthly income certain benefit paid by the Department of Veterans Affairs and the Department of Defense.

S. 683

At the request of Mr. BROWN, the name of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 683, a bill to establish a voluntary program in the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration to encourage consumers to purchase or lease new automobiles made in the United States, and for other purposes.

S. 692

At the request of Mr. TOOMEY, the name of the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. SCOTT) was added as a cosponsor of S. 692, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to repeal the excise tax on medical devices.

S. 693

At the request of Ms. WARREN, the name of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. TOOMEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 693, a bill to amend title 36, United States Code, to require that the POW/MIA flag be displayed on all days that the flag of the United States is displayed on certain Federal property.

S. 696

At the request of Mr. MERKLEY, the name of the Senator from Arizona (Ms. MCSALLY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 696, a bill to designate the same individual serving as the Chief Nurse Officer of the Public Health Service as the National Nurse for Public Health.

S. 727

At the request of Mr. COONS, the name of the Senator from Illinois (Mr.

DURBIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 727, a bill to combat international extremism by addressing global fragility and violence and stabilizing conflict-affected areas, and for other purposes.

S. 750

At the request of Mr. BLUNT, the names of the Senator from New Hampshire (Ms. HASSAN) and the Senator from Tennessee (Mrs. BLACKBURN) were added as cosponsors of S. 750, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to permanently extend the new markets tax credit, and for other purposes.

S. 785

At the request of Mr. TESTER, the name of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. MERKLEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 785, a bill to improve mental health care provided by the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes.

S. 803

At the request of Mr. TOOMEY, the names of the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. WICKER), the Senator from Maine (Ms. COLLINS), the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. CASSIDY), the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. ROUNDS), the Senator from Wyoming (Mr. ENZI), the Senator from Montana (Mr. DAINES), the Senator from Tennessee (Mrs. BLACKBURN), the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. BURR), and the Senator from Mississippi (Mrs. HYDE-SMITH) were added as cosponsors of S. 803, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to restore incentives for investments in qualified improvement property.

S. 818

At the request of Mr. RISCH, the names of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. WYDEN), the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. SCOTT), and the Senator from Idaho (Mr. CRAPO) were added as cosponsors of S. 818, a bill to exempt certain 16- and 17-year-old individuals employed in logging operations from child labor laws.

S. 820

At the request of Mr. CORNYN, the name of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 820, a bill to strengthen programs authorized under the Debbie Smith Act of 2004.

S. 827

At the request of Mr. WHITEHOUSE, the name of the Senator from Maryland (Mr. CARDIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 827, a bill to designate certain National Forest System land and certain public land under the jurisdiction of the Secretary of the Interior in the States of Idaho, Montana, Oregon, Washington, and Wyoming as wilderness, wild and scenic rivers, wildland recovery areas, and biological connecting corridors, and for other purposes.

S. 839

At the request of Mr. KAINE, the name of the Senator from Alabama (Mr. JONES) was added as a cosponsor

of S. 839, a bill to extend Federal Pell Grant eligibility of certain short-term programs.

S. 846

At the request of Mr. CORNYN, the names of the Senator from Missouri (Mr. BLUNT), the Senator from Oregon (Mr. MERKLEY), and the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. GRAHAM) were added as cosponsors of S. 846, a bill to amend title 49, United States Code, to limit certain rolling stock procurements, and for other purposes.

S. 861

At the request of Mr. MARKEY, the names of the Senator from Maryland (Mr. VAN HOLLEN) and the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. WHITEHOUSE) were added as cosponsors of S. 861, a bill to establish in the Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights, and Labor of the Department of State a Special Envoy for the Human Rights of LGBTI Peoples, and for other purposes.

S. 867

At the request of Ms. HASSAN, the names of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. WYDEN) and the Senator from Wisconsin (Ms. BALDWIN) were added as cosponsors of S. 867, a bill to protect students of institutions of higher education and the taxpayer investment in institutions of higher education by improving oversight and accountability of institutions of higher education, particularly for-profit colleges, improving protections for students and borrowers, and ensuring the integrity of postsecondary education programs, and for other purposes.

S. 875

At the request of Mr. TOOMEY, the names of the Senator from Maine (Ms. COLLINS) and the Senator from Illinois (Ms. DUCKWORTH) were added as cosponsors of S. 875, a bill to provide for the reporting to State and local law enforcement authorities of cases in which the national instant criminal background check system indicates that a firearm has been sought to be acquired by a prohibited person, so that authorities may pursue criminal charges under State law, and to ensure that the Department of Justice reports to Congress on prosecutions secured against prohibited persons who attempt to acquire a firearm.

S. 877

At the request of Mr. BOOKER, the names of the Senator from Indiana (Mr. BRAUN) and the Senator from Illinois (Ms. DUCKWORTH) were added as cosponsors of S. 877, a bill to prohibit the sale of shark fins, and for other purposes.

S. 879

At the request of Mr. VAN HOLLEN, the names of the Senator from Illinois (Ms. DUCKWORTH) and the Senator from California (Ms. HARRIS) were added as cosponsors of S. 879, a bill to provide a process for granting lawful permanent resident status to aliens from certain countries who meet specified eligibility requirements, and for other purposes.

S. 880

At the request of Ms. STABENOW, the names of the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR), the Senator from Montana (Mr. TESTER), the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. REED), the Senator from Nevada (Ms. CORTEZ MASTO), the Senator from Maine (Mr. KING), and the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MORAN) were added as cosponsors of S. 880, a bill to provide outreach and reporting on comprehensive Alzheimer's disease care planning services furnished under the Medicare program.

S. 901

At the request of Ms. COLLINS, the names of the Senator from Delaware (Mr. COONS), the Senator from Maine (Mr. KING), and the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MORAN) were added as cosponsors of S. 901, a bill to amend the Older Americans Act of 1965 to support individuals with younger onset Alzheimer's disease.

S. 970

At the request of Mr. TESTER, the name of the Senator from Arizona (Ms. SINEMA) was added as a cosponsor of S. 970, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to provide for the participation of physical therapists in the National Health Service Corps Loan Repayment Program, and for other purposes.

S. 980

At the request of Mr. BURR, the name of the Senator from Montana (Mr. TESTER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 980, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to improve the provision of services for homeless veterans, and for other purposes.

S. 998

At the request of Mr. HAWLEY, the name of the Senator from Colorado (Mr. GARDNER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 998, a bill to amend the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 to expand support for police officer family services, stress reduction, and suicide prevention, and for other purposes.

S. 1004

At the request of Mr. PETERS, the names of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. PORTMAN), the Senator from Utah (Mr. ROMNEY), and the Senator from Arizona (Ms. SINEMA) were added as cosponsors of S. 1004, a bill to increase the number of U.S. Customs and Border Protection Office of Field Operations officers and support staff and to require reports that identify staffing, infrastructure, and equipment needed to enhance security at ports of entry.

S. 1007

At the request of Mr. WARNER, the names of the Senator from California (Ms. HARRIS) and the Senator from Washington (Mrs. MURRAY) were added as cosponsors of S. 1007, a bill to amend the Horse Protection Act to designate additional unlawful acts under the Act, strengthen penalties for violations of the Act, improve Department of Agriculture enforcement of the Act, and for other purposes.

At the request of Mr. CRAPO, the name of the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. WHITEHOUSE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1007, *supra*.

S. 1032

At the request of Mr. PORTMAN, the names of the Senator from Iowa (Ms. ERNST) and the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. BOOZMAN) were added as cosponsors of S. 1032, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to modify the definition of income for purposes of determining the tax-exempt status of certain corporations.

S. 1035

At the request of Mr. ROUNDS, the names of the Senator from Wyoming (Mr. BARRASSO) and the Senator from Kansas (Mr. ROBERTS) were added as cosponsors of S. 1035, a bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to prohibit dismemberment abortions, and for other purposes.

S. 1086

At the request of Mr. BOOKER, the name of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. MENENDEZ) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1086, a bill to establish certain duties for pharmacies to ensure provision of Food and Drug Administration-approved contraception, medication related to contraception, and for other purposes.

S. 1107

At the request of Mr. RUBIO, the name of the Senator from Maryland (Mr. VAN HOLLEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1107, a bill to require a review of women and lung cancer, and for other purposes.

S. 1136

At the request of Mr. HOEVEN, the name of the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1136, a bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to authorize concurrent use of Department of Defense Tuition Assistance and Montgomery GI Bill-Selected Reserve benefits, and for other purposes.

S. 1151

At the request of Mr. SCOTT of Florida, the name of the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. COTTON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1151, a bill to prohibit contracting with persons that have business operations with the Maduro regime, and for other purposes.

S. 1167

At the request of Mrs. MURRAY, the name of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1167, a bill to require the Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Communications and Information to establish a State Digital Equity Capacity Grant Program, and for other purposes.

S. 1186

At the request of Mr. CARDIN, the name of the Senator from Maryland (Mr. VAN HOLLEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1186, a bill to promote democracy and human rights in Burma, and for other purposes.

S. 1195

At the request of Mrs. GILLIBRAND, the names of the Senator from Illinois

(Mr. DURBIN), the Senator from Arizona (Ms. MCSALLY), the Senator from Michigan (Ms. STABENOW), and the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS) were added as cosponsors of S. 1195, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to clarify presumption relating to the exposure of certain veterans who served in the vicinity of the Republic of Vietnam, and for other purposes.

S. 1200

At the request of Mr. MERKLEY, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1200, a bill to create protections for depository institutions that provide financial services to cannabis-related legitimate businesses and service providers for such businesses, and for other purposes.

S. 1201

At the request of Mr. MANCHIN, the name of the Senator from Alabama (Mr. JONES) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1201, a bill to amend the fossil energy research and development provisions of the Energy Policy Act of 2005 to enhance fossil fuel technology, and for other purposes.

S. 1212

At the request of Mr. BLUMENTHAL, the name of the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. MARKEY) was withdrawn as a cosponsor of S. 1212, a bill to amend the Communications Act of 1934 to expand and clarify the prohibition on inaccurate caller identification information and to require providers of telephone service to offer technology to subscribers to reduce the incidence of unwanted telephone calls and text messages, and for other purposes.

S. 1218

At the request of Mr. VAN HOLLEN, the names of the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. BOOZMAN), the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MORAN) and the Senator from Alabama (Mr. JONES) were added as cosponsors of S. 1218, a bill to require the review of the service of certain members of the Armed Forces during World War I to determine if such members should be awarded the Medal of Honor, to authorize the award of the Medal of Honor based on the results of the review, and for other purposes.

S. RES. 80

At the request of Mr. COONS, the name of the Senator from Maine (Ms. COLLINS) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 80, a resolution establishing the John S. McCain III Human Rights Commission.

S. RES. 102

At the request of Mr. PORTMAN, the names of the Senator from Vermont (Mr. LEAHY), the Senator from Utah (Mr. LEE), the Senator from Illinois (Ms. DUCKWORTH), the Senator from Texas (Mr. CORNYN), the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. CASEY), and the Senator from Ohio (Mr. BROWN) were added as cosponsors of S. Res. 102, a resolution designating April 2019 as "Second Chance Month".

S. RES. 120

At the request of Mr. CARDIN, the names of the Senator from Virginia

(Mr. WARNER) and the Senator from Georgia (Mr. PERDUE) were added as cosponsors of S. Res. 120, a resolution opposing efforts to delegitimize the State of Israel and the Global Boycott, Divestment, and Sanctions Movement targeting Israel.

S. RES. 128

At the request of Mrs. MURRAY, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. SMITH) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 128, a resolution commemorating the 100th anniversary of the National Parks Conservation Association.

S. RES. 143

At the request of Mr. CRAMER, the name of the Senator from Kansas (Mr. ROBERTS) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 143, a resolution recognizing Israeli-American culture and heritage and the contributions of the Israeli-American community to the United States.

S. RES. 160

At the request of Mr. JONES, the name of the Senator from Alaska (Mr. SULLIVAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 160, a resolution recognizing the contributions of defense laboratories to the technological dominance of the United States Armed Forces and supporting the designation of April 25, 2019, as "Department of Defense Laboratory Day 2019".

S. RES. 170

At the request of Ms. BALDWIN, the name of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. BLUMENTHAL) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 170, a resolution recognizing the Fifth Anniversary of the Chibok Girls Kidnapping by the Boko Haram Terrorist Organization and calling on the Government of Nigeria to redouble efforts to bring an end to the conflict in northeast and central Nigeria and to provide assistance to the victims.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. KAINE (for himself, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. KING, Ms. HASSAN, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Ms. BALDWIN, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. MENENDEZ, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, Mr. WYDEN, Ms. SMITH, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. MERKLEY, Ms. HARRIS, and Ms. CANTWELL):

S. 1246. A bill to extend the protections of the Fair Housing Act to persons suffering discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation or gender identity, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

Mr. KAINE. Mr. President, I rise today to re-introduce the Fair and Equal Housing Act of 2019, legislation to ensure equal housing opportunities for all Americans. This bipartisan bill would protect Americans from housing discrimination based on gender identity and sexual orientation. No American should be turned away from a home they love because of who they love.

I began my career as a civil rights attorney. My initial focus was on fair housing, and I learned early on that a home is more than just structure or a shelter. A home plays an integral role in one's identity, and it is central to the life of every American.

Housing discrimination nevertheless continues to plague many Americans. And it is a reality for LGBT Americans because of incomplete protections in the Fair Housing Act (FHA), the landmark Federal housing law.

The FHA prohibits housing discrimination based on race, color, religion, national origin, sex, familial status, or disability. It does not, however, protect against discrimination based upon sexual orientation or gender. More than 20 states and over 200 localities safeguard sexual orientation and gender identity in their housing discrimination laws. That's telling. It's time for the federal government to do the same.

A study released this month analyzed national mortgage data from 1990 to 2015. It found that same-sex applicants were 73 percent more likely to be denied approval for a mortgage than opposite-sex couples.

The study also found that same-sex couples often pay more for their loans in interest and fees. This despite the fact that the study found no evidence that same-sex couples carried a higher default risk. In fact, the study's findings suggest that same-sex borrowers may perform better. The analysis indicated that, on average, same-sex couples paid 0.2 percent more in interest and fees, which adds up to as much as \$86 million per year.

These findings confirm the need to include gender identity and sexual orientation as protected classes under federal housing laws. Loan decisions should be based on fundamental economic considerations, not race, religion, sexual orientation or gender.

The job of perfecting our Union is an ongoing quest requiring continued stewardship. Our history is replete with examples of manifest action from the Bill of Rights, to the 14th Amendment, to the Civil Rights Act of 1964. The Fair and Equal Housing Act of 2019 is one more step in our longer journey to perfect our Union and to extinguish discrimination in places which call for our leadership. I urge my colleagues to join us in support of this legislation.

By Mr. DURBIN (for himself, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. SCHATZ, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, and Ms. BALDWIN):

S. 1249. A bill to prioritize funding for an expanded and sustained national investment in basic science research; to the Committee on the Budget.

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the text of the bill be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the text of the bill was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

S. 1249

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "American Innovation Act".

SEC. 2. CAP ADJUSTMENT.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 251(b)(2) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985 (2 U.S.C. 901(b)(2)) is amended—

(1) by redesignating subparagraph (D) as subparagraph (E); and

(2) by inserting after subparagraph (C), the following:

“(D) BASIC SCIENCE RESEARCH.—

“(i) NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION.—If a bill or joint resolution making appropriations for a fiscal year is enacted that specifies amounts for the National Science Foundation, then the adjustments for that fiscal year shall be the amount of additional new budget authority provided in that Act for such programs for that fiscal year, but shall not exceed—

“(I) for fiscal year 2020, \$565,000,000 in additional new budget authority;

“(II) for fiscal year 2021, \$1,170,000,000 in additional new budget authority;

“(III) for fiscal year 2022, \$1,820,000,000 in additional new budget authority;

“(IV) for fiscal year 2023, \$2,510,000,000 in additional new budget authority; and

“(V) for fiscal year 2024, \$3,250,000,000 in additional new budget authority.

“(ii) DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY, OFFICE OF SCIENCE.—If a bill or joint resolution making appropriations for a fiscal year is enacted that specifies amounts for the Office of Science at the Department of Energy, then the adjustments for that fiscal year shall be the amount of additional new budget authority provided in that Act for such programs for that fiscal year, but shall not exceed—

“(I) for fiscal year 2020, \$461,000,000 in additional new budget authority;

“(II) for fiscal year 2021, \$954,000,000 in additional new budget authority;

“(III) for fiscal year 2022, \$1,480,000,000 in additional new budget authority;

“(IV) for fiscal year 2023, \$2,050,000,000 in additional new budget authority; and

“(V) for fiscal year 2024, \$2,650,000,000 in additional new budget authority.

“(iii) DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY PROGRAMS.—If a bill or joint resolution making appropriations for a fiscal year is enacted that specifies amounts for the Department of Defense science and technology programs, then the adjustments for that fiscal year shall be the amount of additional new budget authority provided in that Act for such programs for that fiscal year, but shall not exceed—

“(I) for fiscal year 2020, \$1,120,000,000 in additional new budget authority;

“(II) for fiscal year 2021, \$2,310,000,000 in additional new budget authority;

“(III) for fiscal year 2022, \$3,590,000,000 in additional new budget authority;

“(IV) for fiscal year 2023, \$4,960,000,000 in additional new budget authority; and

“(V) for fiscal year 2024, \$6,430,000,000 in additional new budget authority.

“(iv) NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF STANDARDS AND TECHNOLOGY SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL RESEARCH AND SERVICES.—If a bill or joint resolution making appropriations for a fiscal year is enacted that specifies amounts for the scientific and technical research and services of the National Institute of Standards and Technology at the Department of Commerce, then the adjustments for that fiscal year shall be the amount of additional new budget authority provided in that Act for such programs for that fiscal year, but shall not exceed—

“(I) for fiscal year 2020, \$51,000,000 in additional new budget authority;

“(II) for fiscal year 2021, \$105,000,000 in additional new budget authority;

“(III) for fiscal year 2022, \$163,000,000 in additional new budget authority;

“(IV) for fiscal year 2023, \$225,000,000 in additional new budget authority; and

“(V) for fiscal year 2024, \$292,000,000 in additional new budget authority.

“(v) NATIONAL AERONAUTICS AND SPACE ADMINISTRATION SCIENCE MISSION DIRECTORATE.—If a bill or joint resolution making appropriations for a fiscal year is enacted that specifies amounts for the Science Mission Directorate at the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, then the adjustments for that fiscal year shall be the amount of additional new budget authority provided in that Act for such programs for that fiscal year, but shall not exceed—

“(I) for fiscal year 2020, \$483,000,000 in additional new budget authority;

“(II) for fiscal year 2021, \$1,000,000,000 in additional new budget authority;

“(III) for fiscal year 2022, \$1,500,000,000 in additional new budget authority;

“(IV) for fiscal year 2023, \$2,150,000,000 in additional new budget authority; and

“(V) for fiscal year 2024, \$2,780,000,000 in additional new budget authority.

“(vi) DEFINITIONS.—As used in this subparagraph:

“(I) ADDITIONAL NEW BUDGET AUTHORITY.—The term ‘additional new budget authority’ means—

“(aa) with respect to the National Science Foundation, the amount provided for a fiscal year, in excess of the amount provided in fiscal year 2019, in an appropriation Act and specified to support the National Science Foundation;

“(bb) with respect to the Department of Energy Office of Science, the amount provided for a fiscal year, in excess of the amount provided in fiscal year 2019, in an appropriation Act and specified to support the Department of Energy Office of Science;

“(cc) with respect to the Department of Defense science and technology programs, the amount provided for a fiscal year, in excess of the amount provided in fiscal year 2019, in an appropriation Act and specified to support the Department of Defense science and technology programs;

“(dd) with respect to the National Institute of Standards and Technology scientific and technical research services, the amount provided for a fiscal year, in excess of the amount provided in fiscal year 2019, in an appropriation Act and specified to support the National Institute of Standards and Technology scientific and technical research services; and

“(ee) with respect to the National Aeronautics and Space Administration Science Mission Directorate, the amount provided for a fiscal year, in excess of the amount provided in fiscal year 2019, in an appropriation Act and specified to support the National Aeronautics and Space Administration Science Mission Directorate.

“(II) DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY PROGRAMS.—The term ‘Department of Defense science and technology programs’ means the appropriations accounts that support the various institutes, offices, and centers that make up the Department of Defense science and technology programs.

“(III) DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY OFFICE OF SCIENCE.—The term ‘Department of Energy Office of Science’ means the appropriations accounts that support the various institutes, offices, and centers that make up the Department of Energy Office of Science.

“(IV) NATIONAL AERONAUTICS AND SPACE ADMINISTRATION SCIENCE MISSION DIRECTORATE.—The term ‘National Aeronautics and Space Administration Science Mission Directorate’ means the appropriations accounts that support the various institutes,

offices, and centers that make up the National Aeronautics and Space Administration Science Mission Directorate.

“(V) NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF STANDARDS AND TECHNOLOGY SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL RESEARCH AND SERVICES.—The term ‘National Institute of Standards and Technology scientific and technical research and services’ means the appropriations accounts that support the various institutes, offices, and centers that make up the National Institute of Standards and Technology scientific and technical research and services.

“(VI) NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION.—The term ‘National Science Foundation’ means the appropriations accounts that support the various institutes, offices, and centers that make up the National Science Foundation.”.

(b) FUNDING.—There are hereby authorized to be appropriated—

(1) for the National Science Foundation, the amounts provided for under clause (i) of such section 251(b)(2)(D) in each of fiscal years 2020 through 2024, and such sums as may be necessary for each subsequent fiscal year;

(2) for the Department of Energy Office of Science, the amounts provided for under clause (ii) of such section 251(b)(2)(D) in each of fiscal years 2020 through 2024, and such sums as may be necessary for each subsequent fiscal year;

(3) for the Department of Defense science and technology programs, the amounts provided for under clause (iii) of such section 251(b)(2)(D) in each of fiscal years 2020 through 2024, and such sums as may be necessary for each subsequent fiscal year;

(4) for the National Institute of Standards and Technology scientific and technical research and services, the amounts provided for under clause (iv) of such section 251(b)(2)(D) in each of fiscal years 2020 through 2024, and such sums as may be necessary for each subsequent fiscal year; and

(5) for the National Aeronautics and Space Administration Science Mission Directorate, the amounts provided for under clause (v) of such section 251(b)(2)(D) in each of fiscal years 2020 through 2024, and such sums as may be necessary for each subsequent fiscal year.

(c) MINIMUM CONTINUED FUNDING REQUIREMENT.—Amounts appropriated for each of the programs and agencies described in section 251(b)(2)(D) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985 (as added by subsection (a)) for each of fiscal years 2020 through 2024, and each subsequent fiscal year, shall not be less than the amounts appropriated for such programs and agencies for fiscal year 2019.

(d) EXEMPTION OF CERTAIN APPROPRIATIONS FROM SEQUESTRATION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Section 255(g)(1)(A) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act (2 U.S.C. 905(g)(1)(A)) is amended by inserting after “Advances to the Unemployment Trust Fund and Other Funds (16-0327-0-1-600).” the following:

“Appropriations under the American Innovation Act.”.

(2) APPLICABILITY.—The amendment made by this section shall apply to any sequestration order issued under the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985 (2 U.S.C. 900 et seq.) on or after the date of enactment of this Act.

By Mr. DURBIN (for himself, Mr. BROWN, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. CASEY, Mr. MARKEY, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, and Ms. KLOBUCHAR):

S. 1250. A bill to prioritize funding for an expanded and sustained national in-

vestment in biomedical research; to the Committee on the Budget.

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the text of the bill be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the text of the bill was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

S. 1250

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “American Cures Act”.

SEC. 2. CAP ADJUSTMENT.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 251(b)(2) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985 (2 U.S.C. 901(b)(2)) is amended—

(1) by redesignating subparagraphs (D), (E), and (F) as subparagraphs (E), (F), and (G), respectively; and

(2) by inserting after subparagraph (C), the following:

“(D) BIOMEDICAL RESEARCH.—

“(i) NATIONAL INSTITUTES OF HEALTH.—If a bill or joint resolution making appropriations for a fiscal year is enacted that specifies amounts for the National Institutes of Health at the Department of Health and Human Services, then the adjustments for that fiscal year shall be the amount of additional new budget authority provided in that Act for such programs for that fiscal year, but shall not exceed—

“(I) for fiscal year 2020, \$2,737,000,000 in additional new budget authority;

“(II) for fiscal year 2021, \$5,666,000,000 in additional new budget authority;

“(III) for fiscal year 2022, \$8,800,000,000 in additional new budget authority;

“(IV) for fiscal year 2023, \$12,153,000,000 in additional new budget authority; and

“(V) for fiscal year 2024, \$15,741,000,000 in additional new budget authority.

“(ii) CENTERS FOR DISEASE CONTROL AND PREVENTION.—If a bill or joint resolution making appropriations for a fiscal year is enacted that specifies amounts for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention at the Department of Health and Human Services, then the adjustments for that fiscal year shall be the amount of additional new budget authority provided in that Act for such programs for that fiscal year, but shall not exceed—

“(I) for fiscal year 2020, \$511,000,000 in additional new budget authority;

“(II) for fiscal year 2021, \$1,057,000,000 in additional new budget authority;

“(III) for fiscal year 2022, \$1,642,000,000 in additional new budget authority;

“(IV) for fiscal year 2023, \$2,268,000,000 in additional new budget authority; and

“(V) for fiscal year 2024, \$2,938,000,000 in additional new budget authority.

“(iii) DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE HEALTH PROGRAM.—If a bill or joint resolution making appropriations for a fiscal year is enacted that specifies amounts for the Department of Defense health program, then the adjustments for that fiscal year shall be the amount of additional new budget authority provided in that Act for such programs for that fiscal year, but shall not exceed—

“(I) for fiscal year 2020, \$167,510,000 in additional new budget authority;

“(II) for fiscal year 2021, \$346,745,700 in additional new budget authority;

“(III) for fiscal year 2022, \$538,527,899 in additional new budget authority;

“(IV) for fiscal year 2023, \$743,734,852 in additional new budget authority; and

“(V) for fiscal year 2024, \$963,306,292 in additional new budget authority.

“(iv) MEDICAL AND PROSTHETICS RESEARCH PROGRAM OF THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS.—If a bill or joint resolution making appropriations for a fiscal year is enacted that specifies amounts for the medical and prosthetics research program of the Department of Veterans Affairs, then the adjustments for that fiscal year shall be the amount of additional new budget authority provided in that Act for such programs for that fiscal year, but shall not exceed—

“(I) for fiscal year 2020, \$54,530,000 in additional new budget authority;

“(II) for fiscal year 2021, \$58,350,000 in additional new budget authority;

“(III) for fiscal year 2022, \$62,440,000 in additional new budget authority;

“(IV) for fiscal year 2023, \$66,810,000 in additional new budget authority; and

“(V) for fiscal year 2024, \$71,490,000 in additional new budget authority.

“(v) DEFINITIONS.—As used in this subparagraph:

“(I) ADDITIONAL NEW BUDGET AUTHORITY.—The term ‘additional new budget authority’ means—

“(aa) with respect to the National Institutes of Health, the amount provided for a fiscal year, in excess of the amount provided in fiscal year 2019, in an appropriation Act and specified to support the National Institutes of Health;

“(bb) with respect to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the amount provided for a fiscal year, in excess of the amount provided in fiscal year 2019, in an appropriation Act and specified to support the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention;

“(cc) with respect to the Department of Defense health program, the amount provided for a fiscal year, in excess of the amount provided in fiscal year 2019, in an appropriation Act and specified to support the Department of Defense health program; and

“(dd) with respect to the medical and prosthetics research program of the Department of Veterans Affairs, the amount provided for a fiscal year, in excess of the amount provided in fiscal year 2019, in an appropriation Act and specified to support the medical and prosthetics research program of the Department of Veterans Affairs.

“(II) CENTERS FOR DISEASE CONTROL AND PREVENTION.—The term ‘Centers for Disease Control and Prevention’ means the appropriations accounts that support the various institutes, offices, and centers that make up the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

“(III) DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE HEALTH PROGRAM.—The term ‘Department of Defense health program’ means the appropriations accounts that support the various institutes, offices, and centers that make up the Department of Defense health program.

“(IV) MEDICAL AND PROSTHETICS RESEARCH PROGRAM OF THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS.—The term ‘medical and prosthetics research program of the Department of Veterans Affairs’ means the appropriations accounts that support the various institutes, offices, and centers that make up the medical and prosthetics research program of the Department of Veterans Affairs.

“(V) NATIONAL INSTITUTES OF HEALTH.—The term ‘National Institutes of Health’ means the appropriations accounts that support the various institutes, offices, and centers that make up the National Institutes of Health.”.

(b) FUNDING.—There are hereby authorized to be appropriated—

(1) for the National Institutes of Health, the amounts provided for under clause (i) of such section 251(b)(2)(D) in each of fiscal years 2020 through 2024, and such sums as may be necessary for each subsequent fiscal year;

(2) for the Secretary of Health and Human Services, acting through the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the amounts provided for under clause (ii) of such section 251(b)(2)(D) in each of fiscal years 2020 through 2024, and such sums as may be necessary for each subsequent fiscal year;

(3) for the Department of Defense health program, the amounts provided for under clause (iii) of such section 251(b)(2)(D) in each of fiscal years 2020 through 2024, and such sums as may be necessary for each subsequent fiscal year; and

(4) for the medical and prosthetics research program of the Department of Veterans Affairs, the amounts provided for under clause (iv) of such section 251(b)(2)(D) in each of fiscal years 2020 through 2024, and such sums as may be necessary for each subsequent fiscal year.

(c) MINIMUM CONTINUED FUNDING REQUIREMENT.—Amounts appropriated for each of the programs and agencies described in section 251(b)(2)(D) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985 (as added by subsection (a)) for each of fiscal years 2020 through 2024, and each subsequent fiscal year, shall not be less than the amounts appropriated for such programs and agencies for fiscal year 2019.

(d) EXEMPTION OF CERTAIN APPROPRIATIONS FROM SEQUESTRATION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Section 255(g)(1)(A) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act (2 U.S.C. 905(g)(1)(A)) is amended by inserting after “Advances to the Unemployment Trust Fund and Other Funds (16–0327–0–1–600).” the following:

“Appropriations under the American Cures Act.”

(2) APPLICABILITY.—The amendment made by this section shall apply to any sequestration order issued under the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985 (2 U.S.C. 900 et seq.) on or after the date of enactment of this Act.

By Mrs. FEINSTEIN (for herself, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Ms. HARRIS, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. WYDEN, and Mr. DURBIN):

S. 1253. A bill to apply requirements relating to delivery sales of cigarettes to delivery sales of electronic nicotine delivery systems, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

Mrs. FEINSTEIN. Mr. President, I rise in support of the “Preventing Online Sales of E-Cigarettes to Children Act,” which would help address the concerning rise of electronic cigarette use among America’s youth.

This common-sense bill would protect children by requiring online retailers of e-cigarettes to meet the same standards as those that sell regular cigarettes and other tobacco products online.

E-cigarette use among teenagers has increased dramatically over the past few years. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, approximately 20 percent of high school students used electronic cigarettes in 2018. In comparison, only about 1.5 percent of high school students reportedly used e-cigarettes in 2011.

Even more disturbing, the rise of teenage use of e-cigarettes appears to be accelerating. Between 2017 and 2018, e-cigarettes use among high school-

aged children jumped 78%. Today, e-cigarettes have become the most commonly used tobacco product among America’s youth. These severe levels of e-cigarette use by middle and high school-aged children are staggering.

According to a U.S. Surgeon General report on e-cigarette use among youth and young adults, the developing adolescent brain is uniquely sensitive to nicotine. Studies have also shown that the development of the brain during adolescence can be permanently altered by nicotine. As a result, children exposed to nicotine may be at greater risk for acting out drug-seeking behaviors, experiencing deficits in attention and cognition, and suffering from mood disorders. These effects may continue into adulthood, long after e-cigarette use has stopped.

Given the effects of nicotine on children, it is critical that we close any legal loopholes that have allowed underage youth to gain access to tobacco, particularly through e-cigarettes.

Among underage e-cigarette users, 86 percent reported that they obtained the product from somewhere other than a retail store. And a recent survey of adolescent e-cigarette users showed that 32 percent of them reported purchasing their products online, making online sales the single largest source of underage purchases.

Our legislation would build off the “Prevent All Cigarette Trafficking Act,” which has been a tremendous success in preventing underage use of cigarettes. Since it passed, the number of middle and high school students who use cigarettes has been nearly cut in half. We should expand on this success by requiring e-cigarette retailers to meet the same requirements as those that sell regular cigarettes online.

By applying the same safeguards that have worked with online sales of regular cigarettes, our bill would ensure that online e-cigarette sellers are verifying the age of their customers, properly labeling packages, and checking identification at delivery.

In addition, our bill requires deliveries of e-cigarettes to comply with relevant State tobacco taxes and reporting requirements, as is currently required of online sales of regular cigarettes and smokeless tobacco products. E-cigarette retailers will also need to register and maintain a record of their online sales, which will be accessible to State and Federal law officials. Law enforcement will be able to identify and shut down online vendors that are systematically breaking the law by marketing their e-cigarette products to children.

This bill complements efforts by the Food and Drug Administration, which has recognized the epidemic of youth e-cigarette use and proposed a number of policies meant to prevent underage retail purchases, limit flavors that appeal to children, and enforce age verifications.

Over the last 50 years, the United States has made remarkable progress

in reducing the number of Americans that use tobacco products. However, the dramatic recent rise of e-cigarette use among our youth threatens that progress and requires a strong response.

I want to thank Senator CORNYN for joining me in introducing legislation on this important issue. I urge my colleagues to join us in supporting this bill to address the epidemic of e-cigarette use among America’s youth. Thank you Mr. President. I yield the floor.

By Mr. REED (for himself and Mr. GRASSLEY):

S. 1256. A bill to promote transparency by permitting the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board to allow its disciplinary proceedings to be open to the public, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

Mr. REED. Mr. President, the PCAOB Enforcement Transparency Act, which I reintroduce today with Senator GRASSLEY, will permit the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board (PCAOB) to make public the disciplinary proceedings it has brought against auditors and audit firms earlier in the process.

More than fifteen years ago, our markets were victimized by a series of massive financial reporting frauds, including those involving Enron and WorldCom. In response to this crisis, the Senate Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs conducted multiple hearings, which produced consensus on a number of underlying causes, including weak corporate governance, a lack of accountability, and inadequate oversight of accountants charged with auditing public companies’ financial statements.

In a 99 to 0 vote, the Senate passed the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002 to address the structural weaknesses and faults revealed by the hearings. Among its many provisions, this law called for the creation of a strong and independent board, the PCAOB, responsible for overseeing auditors of public companies in order to protect investors who rely on independent audit reports on the financial statements of public companies.

To conduct its duties, the PCAOB, under the oversight of the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC), oversees more than 1,800 registered accounting firms, as well as the audit partners and staff who contribute to a firm’s work on each audit. The Board’s ability to begin proceedings that can determine whether there have been violations of its auditing standards or rules of professional practice is an important component of its oversight.

However, unlike the SEC, the U.S. Department of Labor, the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, the U.S. Commodity Futures Trading Commission, the Financial Industry Regulatory Authority, and other oversight bodies, the Board’s disciplinary proceedings cannot be made public without consent from the parties involved.

Of course, parties subject to disciplinary proceedings have no incentive to consent to publicizing their alleged wrongdoing and thus these proceedings typically remain cloaked behind a veil of secrecy. In addition, the Board cannot publicize the results of its disciplinary proceedings until after the appeals process has been completely exhausted, which can often take several years.

Concealing PCAOB disciplinary proceedings from the public creates a lack of transparency that invites abuse and undermines the Congressional intent behind the PCAOB, which was to shine a bright light on auditing firms and practices, and to bolster the accountability of auditors of public companies to the investing public.

Over the years, some bad actors have used this loophole to shield themselves from public scrutiny and accountability. Former PCAOB Chairman James Doty repeatedly stated in testimony provided to both the Senate and House of Representatives that the secrecy of the proceedings “has a variety of unfortunate consequences” and that such secrecy is harmful to investors, the auditing profession, and the public at large.

For example, an accounting firm continued to issue no fewer than 29 additional audit reports on public companies without those companies knowing that it was subject to a PCAOB disciplinary proceeding. Disturbingly, these investors and the public company clients of that audit firm were deprived of important information about the proceeding against the firm and the substance of any violations. There are other critical reasons why the Board’s enforcement proceedings should be open and transparent.

First, the incentive to litigate cases in order to shield conduct from public scrutiny as long as possible frustrates the process and requires both litigants and the PCAOB to expend needless resources.

Second, agencies such as the SEC have found that open and transparent disciplinary proceedings can be valuable because they inform peer audit firms of the type of activity that could lead to enforcement action by the regulator. In effect, transparent proceedings can serve as a deterrent to misconduct because of a perceived increase in the likelihood of “getting caught.” Accordingly, the audit industry as a whole would also benefit from timely, public, and non-secret enforcement proceedings.

Our bill will make hearings by the PCAOB, and all related notices, orders, and motions, transparent and available to the public unless otherwise ordered by the Board. This would more closely align the PCAOB’s procedures with those of the SEC for analogous matters.

Increasing transparency and accountability of audit firms subject to PCAOB disciplinary proceedings bolsters investor confidence in our financial markets

and better protects companies from problematic auditors. I hope our colleagues will join Senator GRASSLEY and me in supporting this legislation to enhance transparency in the PCAOB’s enforcement process.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 174—EX-PRESSING SUPPORT FOR THE DESIGNATION OF THE WEEK OF JUNE 1, 2019, THROUGH JUNE 9, 2019, AS “NATIONAL FISHING AND BOATING WEEK”

Mr. WICKER (for himself and Mr. PETERS) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation:

S. RES. 174

Whereas more than 141,600,000 people in the United States go boating each year, including approximately 71,100,000 adults and 70,500,000 children;

Whereas, in 2018, the recreational boating industry contributed an estimated \$170,300,000,000 to the national economy in direct, indirect, and induced spending, supporting more than 35,000 businesses and 691,000 direct and indirect jobs in the United States;

Whereas the Bureau of Economic Analysis of the Department of Commerce estimated that recreational boating and fishing accounted for \$36,900,000,000 of real gross output in the United States in 2016;

Whereas 95 percent of boats sold in the United States are made in the United States;

Whereas there are approximately 1,300 active marine manufacturers in the United States, using materials and services contributed from all 50 States;

Whereas boaters are stewards of the environment, contributing approximately \$600,000,000 in excise taxes annually to the Sport Fish Restoration and Boating Trust Fund, which funds habitat conservation and restoration efforts, preserving the natural resources of the United States for future generations; and

Whereas boating provides opportunities for families to be together, appeals to all age groups, and has a beneficial effect on the physical fitness and scholastic performance of those who participate: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) supports the designation of the week of June 1, 2019, through June 9, 2019, as “National Fishing and Boating Week”; and

(2) recognizes that the recreational boating community and the boating industry of the United States should be commended for their numerous contributions to the economy of the United States, the well-being of United States citizens, and responsible environmental stewardship of water resources of the United States.

SENATE RESOLUTION 175—SUPPORTING INCREASED AWARENESS OF SEPSIS AND THE IMPORTANCE OF EARLY DIAGNOSIS AND APPROPRIATE INTERVENTION

Ms. BALDWIN (for herself and Mr. BLUNT) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions:

S. RES. 175

Whereas sepsis is a medical condition resulting from an immune system response to an infection;

Whereas the overwhelming response of the immune system to an infection can rapidly lead to tissue damage, organ failure, and death;

Whereas more than 1,700,000 individuals in the United States develop sepsis each year;

Whereas more than 270,000 individuals in the United States die from sepsis each year, which is more than the number of individuals who die from prostate cancer, breast cancer, and HIV/AIDS combined;

Whereas the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention estimates that 1 in 3 patients who die in a hospital have sepsis;

Whereas, according to the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality, sepsis is the most common diagnosis for inpatient hospital stays in the United States;

Whereas sepsis is the most expensive condition treated in hospitals in the United States, costing more than \$24,000,000,000 each year;

Whereas sepsis is the number 1 cause of hospital readmissions, generating more than \$2,000,000,000 in costs annually;

Whereas more than 80 percent of septic patients are septic upon admission to the hospital;

Whereas mortality rates from septic shock increase by up to 8 percent for every hour that treatment is delayed;

Whereas rapid diagnosis and treatment can prevent up to 80 percent of fatalities from sepsis; and

Whereas the combination of early detection of sepsis and appropriate interventions can significantly improve the chances of survival for patients with all types of sepsis: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) is committed to increasing awareness of sepsis and encouraging the education of patients, families, health care professionals, and government agencies on the critical importance of early diagnosis as the key for patients to survive sepsis; and

(2) supports innovative public-private partnerships and the pursuit of innovative financing tools, incentives, and other mechanisms to accelerate the pursuit of improved early detection and appropriate intervention for patients with sepsis.

SENATE RESOLUTION 176—CONDEMNING THE TERRORIST ATTACKS ON CHRISTIAN WORKSHIPPERS IN SRI LANKA ON EASTER SUNDAY, APRIL 21, 2019, AND STANDING WITH THE GOVERNMENT OF SRI LANKA TO ENCOURAGE THE PROTECTION AND PRESERVATION OF RELIGIOUS LIBERTIES

Mr. HAWLEY (for himself, Mr. COTTON, Mr. BLUNT, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. ROBERTS, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. RUBIO, and Mr. PERDUE) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. RES. 176

Whereas, on the morning of April 21, 2019, Easter Sunday, 7 Islamist suicide bombers carried out coordinated attacks on—

(1) the Shrine of St. Anthony Church in Colombo, Sri Lanka;

(2) St. Sebastian’s Church in Negombo, Sri Lanka;

(3) Cinnamon Grand Hotel in Colombo, Sri Lanka;

(4) Zion Evangelical Church in Batticaloa, Sri Lanka;

(5) a guest house near the National Zoo of Sri Lanka; and

(6) a housing complex in Dematagoda, Sri Lanka;

Whereas more than 250 people were killed and more than 500 people were injured in the attacks;

Whereas the attackers acted in the name of National Thowheeth Jama'ath (referred to in this preamble as "NTJ"), a local Islamist group that had previously attacked Buddhist monks and statues;

Whereas NTJ has ties to global Islamist terrorist organizations and subscribes to an intolerant Wahhabi ideology that condones violence against non-Muslims and fellow Muslims; and

Whereas the Wall Street Journal has reported that, according to SITE, a terrorist-monitoring firm, on Tuesday, April 23, 2019, the Islamic State released a video claiming responsibility for the attacks, stating that "the executors of the attack that targeted citizens of coalition states and Christians in Sri Lanka two days ago were Islamic State fighters": Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) condemns the April 21, 2019, terrorist attacks in Sri Lanka as—

(A) targeted principally against Christians because of their faith, on their holy day of Easter, during their Easter prayers; and

(B) perpetrated by radical Islamist terrorists acting in the name of a hateful radical Islamist ideology;

(2) considers the April 21, 2019, terrorist attacks to be an attack on—

(A) all Christians and members of all faiths in Sri Lanka and around the world; and

(B) the basic human liberty of freedom of religion;

(3) stands with the Government of Sri Lanka in bringing peace and security to the citizens of Sri Lanka, particularly the religious communities of Sri Lanka; and

(4) calls on Sri Lanka and all governments—

(A) to protect the freedom of religion, at home and abroad; and

(B) to partner with the United States in advancing security and freedom.

SENATE RESOLUTION 177—EX-PRESSING SUPPORT FOR THE DESIGNATION OF APRIL 30, 2019, AS "NATIONAL ADULT HEPATITIS B VACCINATION AWARENESS DAY"

Ms. HIRONO (for herself and Mr. KING) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions:

S. RES. 177

Whereas as many as 2,200,000 individuals in the United States are chronically infected with hepatitis B, and as many as % of those individuals are unaware of the infection;

Whereas hepatitis B is a viral infection of the liver that is transmitted via infected blood and other bodily fluids, including through—

(1) mother-to-child transmission; and

(2) injection drug use;

Whereas individuals with chronic diseases, such as diabetes, HIV, hepatitis C, and chronic liver disease, and individuals on hemodialysis, are at an increased risk for hepatitis B co-infection;

Whereas there is no cure for hepatitis B, and individuals with chronic hepatitis B require lifelong medical care;

Whereas chronic hepatitis B is a common cause of liver cancer;

Whereas 1 in every 4 individuals with unmanaged chronic hepatitis B will develop liver cancer, cirrhosis, or liver failure, with liver cancer having a 5-year survival rate of only 18 percent in the United States;

Whereas safe and highly effective vaccines to protect against hepatitis B are available;

Whereas, in accordance with universal childhood hepatitis B vaccination recommendations in the United States, infants and children in the United States have routinely been vaccinated against hepatitis B since the 1990s;

Whereas the hepatitis B vaccine, which is 95 percent effective and was the first anticancer vaccine to be developed, is projected to prevent 310,000,000 cases of hepatitis B worldwide from 1990 to 2020;

Whereas only 25 percent of adults in the United States are vaccinated against hepatitis B;

Whereas the number of reported acute hepatitis B cases increased by 20 percent nationwide in 2015;

Whereas, as a result of the opioid epidemic, there have been significant regional increases in acute hepatitis B cases in the United States, including—

(1) a reported 729 percent increase from 2015 to 2017 in Maine;

(2) a reported 114 percent increase from 2009 to 2013 in Kentucky, West Virginia, and Tennessee;

(3) a reported 78 percent increase in 2017 in southeastern Massachusetts; and

(4) a reported 62 percent increase from 2012 to 2016 in North Carolina;

Whereas, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, hepatitis B is 50 to 100 times more infectious than HIV, and 5 to 10 times more infectious than hepatitis C; and

Whereas there are significant opportunities, particularly within the setting of the opioid epidemic, to prevent new hepatitis B infections, and thereby reduce the incidence of liver cancer and cirrhosis, through efforts to—

(1) increase adult hepatitis B vaccination; and

(2) maintain childhood hepatitis B vaccination: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) supports the designation of April 30, 2019, as "National Adult Hepatitis B Vaccination Awareness Day";

(2) recognizes the importance of providing support and encouragement—

(A) for all individuals to be tested for hepatitis B;

(B) for individuals susceptible to infection to be vaccinated against hepatitis B; and

(C) for individuals diagnosed with hepatitis B to be linked to appropriate care; and

(3) in order to reduce the number of new hepatitis B infections and hepatitis B-related deaths, encourages a commitment to—

(A) increasing adult hepatitis B vaccination rates;

(B) maintaining childhood hepatitis B vaccination rates; and

(C) promoting provider and community awareness of adult hepatitis B vaccination.

SENATE RESOLUTION 178—RECOGNIZING AND SUPPORTING THE GOALS AND IDEALS OF NATIONAL SEXUAL ASSAULT AWARENESS AND PREVENTION MONTH

Mrs. FEINSTEIN (for herself, Ms. ERNST, and Mr. GRASSLEY) submitted the following resolution; which was re-

ferred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. RES. 178

Whereas the Senate is committed to the awareness, prevention, and deterrence of sexual violence affecting individuals in the United States;

Whereas, according to the Department of Justice and the Department of Health and Human Services, an estimated 399,861 individuals, including victims under 18 years of age, in the United States experienced sexual violence during 2017;

Whereas, according to the National Crime Victimization Survey, between 2007 and 2017, approximately—

(1) 3,018,600 women were victims of rape and sexual assault; and

(2) 453,200 men were victims of rape and sexual assault;

Whereas, according to the 2017 Child Maltreatment Report of the Department of Health and Human Services, in 2017, child protective services agencies substantiated 58,114 cases of sexual abuse of children under 18 years of age;

Whereas, in fiscal year 2018, the Department of Justice reported 9,100 State and local arrests of individuals charged with on-line sexual victimization of children under 18 years of age;

Whereas, according to the Rape, Abuse & Incest National Network (commonly known as "RAINN"), an individual is sexually assaulted every 92 seconds in the United States, but for every 1,000 rapes committed in the United States, on average only—

(1) 330 rapes are reported to law enforcement agencies;

(2) 59 reported rape cases lead to an arrest;

(3) 10 rape cases are referred for prosecution;

(4) 6 rape cases lead to a felony conviction; and

(5) 5 convicted rapists are sentenced to some form of incarceration;

Whereas, according to the National Crime Victimization Survey, between 2013 and 2017, an average of only 33 percent of rapes or sexual assaults in the United States were reported to law enforcement agencies;

Whereas studies have suggested that the rate at which American Indians and Alaska Natives experience sexual violence is significantly higher than for other populations in the United States;

Whereas, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, nearly 1 in 5 women, or 18.3 percent, and 1 in 71 men, or 1.4 percent, surveyed in the United States in 2010 experienced a rape or attempted rape at some time in their lives;

Whereas, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, more than ½ of all female rape victims reported being raped by an intimate partner;

Whereas sexual violence is a burden for many individuals who serve in the Armed Forces, and the Department of Defense estimates that approximately 14,900 members of the Armed Forces experienced some form of sexual assault during 2016;

Whereas sexual assault does not discriminate on any basis and can affect any individual in the United States;

Whereas sexual violence may take many forms, including acquaintance, stranger, spousal, and gang rape, incest, child sexual abuse, child sexual exploitation, elder sexual abuse, sexual abuse and exploitation of disabled persons, commercial sex trafficking, sexual harassment, and stalking;

Whereas, according to the National Alliance to End Sexual Violence, in addition to immediate physical and emotional costs, sexual assault can have numerous adverse

consequences for the victim, which may include post-traumatic stress disorder, substance abuse, major depression, homelessness, eating disorders, and suicide;

Whereas many sexual assaults are not reported to law enforcement agencies, and many States have restrictive criminal statutes of limitations, which enable many rapists to evade punishment for their crimes;

Whereas sexual assault survivors suffer emotional complications long after their physical scars have healed;

Whereas advances in deoxyribonucleic acid (commonly known as “DNA”) technology have enabled law enforcement agencies to identify and prosecute the perpetrators in tens of thousands of previously unsolved sexual assault cases;

Whereas incarceration of sexual assault perpetrators can prevent perpetrators from committing additional crimes;

Whereas national, State, territorial, and Tribal coalitions, community-based rape crisis centers, and other organizations across the United States are committed to—

(1) increasing public awareness of sexual violence and the prevalence of sexual violence; and

(2) eliminating sexual violence through prevention and education;

Whereas important partnerships have been formed among criminal and juvenile justice agencies, health professionals, public health workers, educators, first responders, and victim service providers;

Whereas thousands of volunteers and staff at rape crisis centers, State coalitions against sexual assault, and nonprofit organizations across the United States play an important role in making crisis hotlines and other services available to survivors of sexual assault;

Whereas free, confidential help is available to all victims and survivors of sexual assault through—

(1) the National Sexual Assault Hotline—

(A) by telephone at 800-656-HOPE; and

(B) online at <https://hotline.rainn.org>; and

(2) more than 1,000 sexual assault service providers across the United States;

Whereas the victim service programs of RAINN, including the National Sexual Assault Hotline—

(1) in 2018, helped 267,621 survivors of sexual assault and their loved ones, which represented the greatest number of people assisted since the founding of the hotline in 1994; and

(2) continue to receive a record number of requests for support in 2019;

Whereas the Department of Defense provides the Safe Helpline hotline, Safe HelpRoom online chat service, and Safe Helpline mobile application, each of which offer support and help to members of the Department of Defense community—

(1) by telephone at 877-995-5247; and

(2) online at <https://safehelpline.org>;

Whereas individual and collective efforts reflect the dream of the people of the United States—

(1) for individuals and organizations to actively work to prevent all forms of sexual violence; and

(2) for no victim of sexual assault to be unserved or feel that there is no path to justice; and

Whereas April 2019 is recognized as “National Sexual Assault Awareness and Prevention Month”: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That—

(1) it is the sense of the Senate that—

(A) National Sexual Assault Awareness and Prevention Month provides a special opportunity to—

(i) educate the people of the United States about sexual violence; and

(ii) encourage—

(I) the prevention of sexual assault;

(II) improvement in the treatment of survivors of sexual assault; and

(III) the prosecution of perpetrators of sexual assault;

(B) it is appropriate to properly acknowledge survivors of sexual assault and to commend the volunteers and professionals who assist those survivors in their efforts to heal;

(C) national and community organizations and private sector supporters should be recognized and applauded for their work in—

(i) promoting awareness about sexual assault;

(ii) providing information and treatment to survivors of sexual assault; and

(iii) increasing the number of successful prosecutions of perpetrators of sexual assault; and

(D) public safety, law enforcement, and health professionals should be recognized and applauded for their hard work and innovative strategies to ensure perpetrators of sexual assault are held accountable; and

(2) the Senate supports the goals and ideals of National Sexual Assault Awareness and Prevention Month.

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I have 7 requests for committees to meet during today’s session of the Senate. They have the approval of the Majority and Minority leaders.

Pursuant to Rule XXVI, paragraph 5(a), of the Standing Rules of the Senate, the following committees are authorized to meet during today’s session of the Senate:

COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES

The Committee on Armed Services is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, April 30, 2019, at 9:30 a.m., to conduct a hearing on the following nominations: Admiral William F. Moran, USN, for reappointment to the grade of admiral and to be Chief of Naval Operations, and Lieutenant General David H. Berger, USMC, to be general and to be Commandant of the Marine Corps, both of the Department of Defense.

COMMITTEE ON BANKING, HOUSING, AND URBAN AFFAIRS

The Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, April 30, 2019, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing.

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES

The Committee on Energy and Natural Resources is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, April 30, 2019, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing.

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

The Committee on the Judiciary is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, April 30, 2019, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing on the following nominations: Ada E. Brown, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of Texas, Steven D. Grimberg, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of Georgia, David

John Novak, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Virginia, and Matthew H. Solomonson, of Maryland, to be a Judge of the United States Court of Federal Claims.

SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE

The Select Committee on Intelligence is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, April 30, 2019, at 2:30 p.m., to conduct a closed briefing

SUBCOMMITTEE ON SECURITY

The Subcommittee on Security of the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, April 30, 2019, at 2:30 p.m., to conduct a hearing.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY

The Subcommittee on Intellectual Property of the Committee on the Judiciary is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, April 30, 2019, at 2:30 p.m., to conduct a hearing.

REAFFIRMING THE UNITED STATES COMMITMENT TO TAIWAN AND TO THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE TAIWAN RELATIONS ACT

Mr. CASSIDY. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Foreign Relations Committee be discharged from further consideration and the Senate now proceed to S. Con. Res. 13.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the concurrent resolution by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A concurrent resolution (S. Con. Res. 13) reaffirming the United States commitment to Taiwan and to the implementation of the Taiwan Relations Act.

There being no objection, the committee was discharged and the Senate proceeded to consider the concurrent resolution.

Mr. CASSIDY. I ask unanimous consent that the concurrent resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The concurrent resolution (S. Con. Res. 13) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

(The concurrent resolution, with its preamble, is printed in the RECORD of February 4, 2019, under “Submitted Resolutions.”)

FEDERAL ROTATIONAL CYBER WORKFORCE PROGRAM ACT OF 2019

Mr. CASSIDY. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 46, S. 406.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 406) to establish a Federal rotational cyber workforce program for the Federal cyber workforce.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill, which had been reported from the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs, with an amendment, as follows:

S. 406

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Federal Rotational Cyber Workforce Program Act of 2019”.

SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) **AGENCY.**—The term “agency” has the meaning given the term “Executive agency” in section 105 of title 5, United States Code, except that the term does not include the Government Accountability Office.

(2) **COUNCIL.**—The term “Council” means the Chief Human Capital Officers Council established under section 1303 of the [Homeland Security] *Chief Human Capital Officers Act of 2002* (5 U.S.C. 1401 note).

(3) **CYBER WORKFORCE POSITION.**—The term “cyber workforce position” means a position identified as having information technology, cybersecurity, or other cyber-related functions under section 303 of the Federal Cybersecurity Workforce Assessment Act of 2015 (5 U.S.C. 301 note).

(4) **DIRECTOR.**—The term “Director” means the Director of the Office of Personnel Management.

(5) **EMPLOYEE.**—The term “employee” has the meaning given the term in section 2105 of title 5, United States Code.

(6) **EMPLOYING AGENCY.**—The term “employing agency” means the agency from which an employee is detailed to a rotational cyber workforce position.

(7) **ROTATIONAL CYBER WORKFORCE POSITION.**—The term “rotational cyber workforce position” means a cyber workforce position with respect to which a determination has been made under section 3(a)(1).

(8) **ROTATIONAL CYBER WORKFORCE PROGRAM.**—The term “rotational cyber workforce program” means the program for the detail of employees among rotational cyber workforce positions at agencies.

SEC. 3. ROTATIONAL CYBER WORKFORCE POSITIONS.

(a) **DETERMINATION WITH RESPECT TO ROTATIONAL SERVICE.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—The head of each agency, in the sole and exclusive discretion of the head of the agency, may determine that a cyber workforce position in that agency is eligible for the rotational cyber workforce program.

(2) **NOTICE PROVIDED.**—The head of an agency shall submit to the Director—

(A) notice regarding any determination made by the head of the agency under paragraph (1); and

(B) for each position with respect to which the head of the agency makes a determination under paragraph (1), the information required under subsection (b)(1).

(b) **PREPARATION OF LIST.**—The Director, with assistance from the Council and the Secretary of Homeland Security, shall develop a list of rotational cyber workforce positions that—

(1) with respect to each such position, to the extent that the information does not disclose sensitive national security information, includes—

(A) the title of the position;

(B) the occupational series with respect to the position;

(C) the grade level with respect to the position;

(D) the agency in which the position is located;

(E) the duty location with respect to the position; and

(F) the major duties and functions of the position; and

(2) shall be used to support the rotational cyber workforce program.

(c) **DISTRIBUTION OF LIST.**—Not less frequently than annually, the Director shall distribute an updated list developed under subsection (b) to the head of each agency and other appropriate entities.

SEC. 4. ROTATIONAL CYBER WORKFORCE PROGRAM.

(a) **OPERATION PLAN.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Not later than 270 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Director, in consultation with the Council, the Chief Information Officer of the Department of Homeland Security, representatives of other agencies, and any other entity as the Director determines appropriate, shall develop and issue a Federal Rotational Cyber Workforce Program operation plan providing policies, processes, and procedures for a program for the detailing of employees among rotational cyber workforce positions at agencies.

(2) **UPDATING.**—The Director may, in consultation with the Council and other entities as the Director determines appropriate, periodically update the operation plan developed and issued under paragraph (1).

(b) **REQUIREMENTS.**—The operation plan developed and issued under subsection (a) shall, at a minimum—

(1) identify agencies for participation in the rotational cyber workforce program;

(2) establish procedures for the rotational cyber workforce program, including—

(A) any training, education, or career development requirements associated with participation in the rotational cyber workforce program;

(B) any prerequisites or requirements for participation in the rotational cyber workforce program; and

(C) appropriate rotational cyber workforce program performance measures, reporting requirements, employee exit surveys, and other accountability devices for the evaluation of the program;

(3) provide that participation in the rotational cyber workforce program by an employee shall be voluntary;

(4) provide that an employee shall be eligible to participate in the rotational cyber workforce program if the head of the employing agency of the employee, or a designee of the head of the employing agency of the employee, approves of the participation of the employee;

(5) provide that the detail of an employee to a rotational cyber workforce position under the rotational cyber workforce program shall be on a nonreimbursable basis;

(6) provide that agencies may agree to partner to ensure that the employing agency of an employee that participates in the rotational cyber workforce program is able to fill the position vacated by the employee;

(7) require that an employee detailed to a rotational cyber workforce position under the rotational cyber workforce program, upon the end of the period of service with respect to the detail—

(A) shall be entitled to return to the position held by the employee, or a corresponding position, in the employing agency of the employee; and

(B) shall not be entitled to return to another position in the employing agency of the employee, including a more senior position, if the position held by the employee upon accepting the detail remains open;

(8) provide that discretion with respect to the assignment of an employee under the rotational cyber workforce program shall remain with the employing agency of the employee;

(9) require that an employee detailed to a rotational cyber workforce position under the rotational cyber workforce program in an agency that is not the employing agency of the employee shall have all the rights that would be available to the employee if the employee were detailed under a provision of law other than this Act from the employing agency to the agency in which the rotational cyber workforce position is located;

(10) provide that participation by an employee in the rotational cyber workforce program shall not constitute a change in the conditions of the employment of the employee; and

(11) provide that an employee participating in the rotational cyber workforce program shall receive performance evaluations relating to service in the rotational cyber workforce program in a participating agency that are—

(A) prepared by an appropriate officer, supervisor, or management official of the employing agency;

(B) based, acting in coordination with the supervisor at the agency in which the employee is performing that service, on objectives identified in the operation plan with respect to the employee; and

(C) based in whole or in part on the contribution of the employee to the agency in which the employee performed such service, as communicated from that agency to the employing agency of the employee.

(c) **PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS FOR ROTATIONAL SERVICE.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—An employee serving in a cyber workforce position in an agency may, with the approval of the head of the agency, submit an application for detail to a rotational cyber workforce position that appears on the list developed under section 3(b).

(2) **SELECTION AND TERM.**—

(A) **SELECTION.**—The head of an agency shall select an employee for a rotational cyber workforce position under the rotational cyber workforce program in a manner that is consistent with the merit system principles under section 2301(b) of title 5, United States Code.

(B) **TERM.**—Except as provided in subparagraph (C), and notwithstanding section 3341(b) of title 5, United States Code, a detail to a rotational cyber workforce position shall be for a period of not less than 180 days and not more than 1 year.

(C) **EXTENSION.**—The Chief Human Capital Officer of the agency to which an employee is detailed under the rotational cyber workforce program may extend the period of a detail described in subparagraph (B) for a period of 60 days unless the Chief Human Capital Officer of the employing agency of the employee objects to that extension.

(3) **WRITTEN SERVICE AGREEMENTS.**—

(A) **IN GENERAL.**—The detail of an employee to a rotational cyber position shall be contingent upon the employee entering into a written service agreement with the employing agency under which the employee is required to complete a period of employment with the employing agency following the conclusion of the detail that is equal in length to the period of the detail.

(B) **CONTINUED SERVICE AGREEMENTS.**—A written service agreement under subparagraph (A) shall not supersede or modify the terms or conditions of any other service agreement entered into by the employee under any other authority or relieve the obligations between the employee and the employing agency under such a service agreement. Nothing in this subparagraph prevents

an employing agency from terminating a service agreement entered into under any other authority under the terms of such agreement or as required by law or regulation.

SEC. 5. REPORTING BY GAO.

Not later than the end of the second fiscal year after the fiscal year in which the operation plan under section 4(a) is issued, the Comptroller General of the United States shall submit to Congress a report assessing the operation and effectiveness of the rotational cyber workforce program, which shall address, at a minimum—

(1) the extent to which agencies have participated in the rotational cyber workforce program, including whether the head of each such participating agency has—

(A) identified positions within the agency that are rotational cyber workforce positions;

(B) had employees from other participating agencies serve in positions described in subparagraph (A); and

(C) had employees of the agency request to serve in rotational cyber workforce positions under the rotational cyber workforce program in participating agencies, including a description of how many such requests were approved; and

(2) the experiences of employees serving in rotational cyber workforce positions under the rotational cyber workforce program, including an assessment of—

(A) the period of service;

(B) the positions (including grade level and occupational series) held by employees before completing service in a rotational cyber workforce position under the rotational cyber workforce program;

(C) the extent to which each employee who completed service in a rotational cyber workforce position under the rotational cyber workforce program achieved a higher skill level, or attained a skill level in a different area, with respect to information technology, cybersecurity, or other cyber-related functions; and

(D) the extent to which service in rotational cyber workforce positions has affected intra-agency and interagency integration and coordination of cyber practices, functions, and personnel management.

SEC. 6. SUNSET.

Effective 5 years after the date of enactment of this Act, this Act is repealed.

Mr. CASSIDY. I ask unanimous consent that the committee-reported amendment be agreed to; that the bill, as amended, be considered read a third time and passed; and that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The committee-reported amendment was agreed to.

The bill (S. 406), as amended, was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, was read the third time, and passed, as follows:

S. 406

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Federal Rotational Cyber Workforce Program Act of 2019”.

SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) AGENCY.—The term “agency” has the meaning given the term “Executive agency” in section 105 of title 5, United States Code,

except that the term does not include the Government Accountability Office.

(2) COUNCIL.—The term “Council” means the Chief Human Capital Officers Council established under section 1303 of the Chief Human Capital Officers Act of 2002 (5 U.S.C. 1401 note).

(3) CYBER WORKFORCE POSITION.—The term “cyber workforce position” means a position identified as having information technology, cybersecurity, or other cyber-related functions under section 303 of the Federal Cybersecurity Workforce Assessment Act of 2015 (5 U.S.C. 301 note).

(4) DIRECTOR.—The term “Director” means the Director of the Office of Personnel Management.

(5) EMPLOYEE.—The term “employee” has the meaning given the term in section 2105 of title 5, United States Code.

(6) EMPLOYING AGENCY.—The term “employing agency” means the agency from which an employee is detailed to a rotational cyber workforce position.

(7) ROTATIONAL CYBER WORKFORCE POSITION.—The term “rotational cyber workforce position” means a cyber workforce position with respect to which a determination has been made under section 3(a)(1).

(8) ROTATIONAL CYBER WORKFORCE PROGRAM.—The term “rotational cyber workforce program” means the program for the detail of employees among rotational cyber workforce positions at agencies.

SEC. 3. ROTATIONAL CYBER WORKFORCE POSITIONS.

(a) DETERMINATION WITH RESPECT TO ROTATIONAL SERVICE.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The head of each agency, in the sole and exclusive discretion of the head of the agency, may determine that a cyber workforce position in that agency is eligible for the rotational cyber workforce program.

(2) NOTICE PROVIDED.—The head of an agency shall submit to the Director—

(A) notice regarding any determination made by the head of the agency under paragraph (1); and

(B) for each position with respect to which the head of the agency makes a determination under paragraph (1), the information required under subsection (b)(1).

(b) PREPARATION OF LIST.—The Director, with assistance from the Council and the Secretary of Homeland Security, shall develop a list of rotational cyber workforce positions that—

(1) with respect to each such position, to the extent that the information does not disclose sensitive national security information, includes—

(A) the title of the position;

(B) the occupational series with respect to the position;

(C) the grade level with respect to the position;

(D) the agency in which the position is located;

(E) the duty location with respect to the position; and

(F) the major duties and functions of the position; and

(2) shall be used to support the rotational cyber workforce program.

(c) DISTRIBUTION OF LIST.—Not less frequently than annually, the Director shall distribute an updated list developed under subsection (b) to the head of each agency and other appropriate entities.

SEC. 4. ROTATIONAL CYBER WORKFORCE PROGRAM.

(a) OPERATION PLAN.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 270 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Director, in consultation with the Council, the Chief Information Officer of the Depart-

ment of Homeland Security, representatives of other agencies, and any other entity as the Director determines appropriate, shall develop and issue a Federal Rotational Cyber Workforce Program operation plan providing policies, processes, and procedures for a program for the detailing of employees among rotational cyber workforce positions at agencies.

(2) UPDATING.—The Director may, in consultation with the Council and other entities as the Director determines appropriate, periodically update the operation plan developed and issued under paragraph (1).

(b) REQUIREMENTS.—The operation plan developed and issued under subsection (a) shall, at a minimum—

(1) identify agencies for participation in the rotational cyber workforce program;

(2) establish procedures for the rotational cyber workforce program, including—

(A) any training, education, or career development requirements associated with participation in the rotational cyber workforce program;

(B) any prerequisites or requirements for participation in the rotational cyber workforce program; and

(C) appropriate rotational cyber workforce program performance measures, reporting requirements, employee exit surveys, and other accountability devices for the evaluation of the program;

(3) provide that participation in the rotational cyber workforce program by an employee shall be voluntary;

(4) provide that an employee shall be eligible to participate in the rotational cyber workforce program if the head of the employing agency of the employee, or a designee of the head of the employing agency of the employee, approves of the participation of the employee;

(5) provide that the detail of an employee to a rotational cyber workforce position under the rotational cyber workforce program shall be on a nonreimbursable basis;

(6) provide that agencies may agree to partner to ensure that the employing agency of an employee that participates in the rotational cyber workforce program is able to fill the position vacated by the employee;

(7) require that an employee detailed to a rotational cyber workforce position under the rotational cyber workforce program, upon the end of the period of service with respect to the detail—

(A) shall be entitled to return to the position held by the employee, or a corresponding position, in the employing agency of the employee; and

(B) shall not be entitled to return to another position in the employing agency of the employee, including a more senior position, if the position held by the employee upon accepting the detail remains open;

(8) provide that discretion with respect to the assignment of an employee under the rotational cyber workforce program shall remain with the employing agency of the employee;

(9) require that an employee detailed to a rotational cyber workforce position under the rotational cyber workforce program in an agency that is not the employing agency of the employee shall have all the rights that would be available to the employee if the employee were detailed under a provision of law other than this Act from the employing agency to the agency in which the rotational cyber workforce position is located;

(10) provide that participation by an employee in the rotational cyber workforce program shall not constitute a change in the conditions of the employment of the employee; and

(11) provide that an employee participating in the rotational cyber workforce program

shall receive performance evaluations relating to service in the rotational cyber workforce program in a participating agency that are—

(A) prepared by an appropriate officer, supervisor, or management official of the employing agency;

(B) based, acting in coordination with the supervisor at the agency in which the employee is performing that service, on objectives identified in the operation plan with respect to the employee; and

(C) based in whole or in part on the contribution of the employee to the agency in which the employee performed such service, as communicated from that agency to the employing agency of the employee.

(C) PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS FOR ROTATIONAL SERVICE.—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—An employee serving in a cyber workforce position in an agency may, with the approval of the head of the agency, submit an application for detail to a rotational cyber workforce position that appears on the list developed under section 3(b).

(2) SELECTION AND TERM.—

(A) **SELECTION.**—The head of an agency shall select an employee for a rotational cyber workforce position under the rotational cyber workforce program in a manner that is consistent with the merit system principles under section 2301(b) of title 5, United States Code.

(B) **TERM.**—Except as provided in subparagraph (C), and notwithstanding section 3341(b) of title 5, United States Code, a detail to a rotational cyber workforce position shall be for a period of not less than 180 days and not more than 1 year.

(C) **EXTENSION.**—The Chief Human Capital Officer of the agency to which an employee is detailed under the rotational cyber workforce program may extend the period of a detail described in subparagraph (B) for a period of 60 days unless the Chief Human Capital Officer of the employing agency of the employee objects to that extension.

(3) WRITTEN SERVICE AGREEMENTS.—

(A) **IN GENERAL.**—The detail of an employee to a rotational cyber position shall be contingent upon the employee entering into a written service agreement with the employing agency under which the employee is required to complete a period of employment with the employing agency following the conclusion of the detail that is equal in length to the period of the detail.

(B) **CONTINUED SERVICE AGREEMENTS.**—A written service agreement under subparagraph (A) shall not supersede or modify the terms or conditions of any other service agreement entered into by the employee under any other authority or relieve the obligations between the employee and the employing agency under such a service agreement. Nothing in this subparagraph prevents an employing agency from terminating a service agreement entered into under any other authority under the terms of such agreement or as required by law or regulation.

SEC. 5. REPORTING BY GAO.

Not later than the end of the second fiscal year after the fiscal year in which the operation plan under section 4(a) is issued, the Comptroller General of the United States shall submit to Congress a report assessing the operation and effectiveness of the rotational cyber workforce program, which shall address, at a minimum—

(1) the extent to which agencies have participated in the rotational cyber workforce program, including whether the head of each such participating agency has—

(A) identified positions within the agency that are rotational cyber workforce positions;

(B) had employees from other participating agencies serve in positions described in subparagraph (A); and

(C) had employees of the agency request to serve in rotational cyber workforce positions under the rotational cyber workforce program in participating agencies, including a description of how many such requests were approved; and

(2) the experiences of employees serving in rotational cyber workforce positions under the rotational cyber workforce program, including an assessment of—

(A) the period of service;

(B) the positions (including grade level and occupational series) held by employees before completing service in a rotational cyber workforce position under the rotational cyber workforce program;

(C) the extent to which each employee who completed service in a rotational cyber workforce position under the rotational cyber workforce program achieved a higher skill level, or attained a skill level in a different area, with respect to information technology, cybersecurity, or other cyber-related functions; and

(D) the extent to which service in rotational cyber workforce positions has affected intra-agency and interagency integration and coordination of cyber practices, functions, and personnel management.

SEC. 6. SUNSET.

Effective 5 years after the date of enactment of this Act, this Act is repealed.

ORDERS FOR WEDNESDAY, MAY 1, 2019

Mr. CASSIDY. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it adjourn until 10 a.m., Wednesday, May 1; further, that following the prayer and pledge, the morning hour be deemed expired, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day, morning business be closed, and the Senate proceed to executive session and resume consideration of the Barker nomination, with the time until 11:45 a.m. equally divided between the two leaders or their designees.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

ORDER FOR ADJOURNMENT

Mr. CASSIDY. If there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask unanimous consent that it stand adjourned under the previous order following the remarks of Senators Durbin and Casey.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The Senator from Illinois.

VENEZUELA

Mr. DURBIN. Madam President, last year, I made a visit to Caracas, Venezuela. It was a surprise that they even offered me a visa to journey to that country. In the course of several days, I saw firsthand what life in Venezuela was like. It was terrible from every aspect—malnutrition, children fainting in schools, hospitals without the basic

medicines, the return of diseases which had been eradicated decades before, people on the street emaciated and working day in and day out in a runaway inflation country. At 11:30 at night, there were queues by ATM machines where people stood patiently in line for hours to make the maximum withdrawal from their savings account, which was the money they needed the next day to take the bus to work. It is a terrible situation.

In the course of that visit, I met with President Maduro and talked to him directly about his plans to schedule an election. It was clear to me this election was rigged. He had intimidated and even jailed his opponents to make certain that there would be no serious opposition, and I told him there would be no credibility in that election. It wouldn't be accepted by countries around the world that he was the legitimate leader of that country. Yet he persisted and went through with the election.

During the time that I was there, I had a chance to meet with some of his political opponents. His tactics against these opponents were harsh. Leopoldo Lopez, a popular opponent, was put under house arrest for years. I spoke to him on the telephone and met personally with his wife, who described the bleak existence he had day to day in the same house under house arrest by Maduro.

One evening, we had dinner with opposition members of the National Assembly, and it was held at a secret location, upstairs in a darkened room, because of their fear of retribution by Maduro and his regime.

These are some pretty brave young men and women who are part of the opposition to Maduro. I can recall one of them saying to me: If you come back next year, out of the five of us, two will have been deported, two will be missing, and one of us will be dead. That is what happens when you oppose the Maduro regime.

One of those people who were at that dinner meeting with me was named Juan Guaido. His name became prominent just a few months ago when he stepped up in an extraordinary show of political courage and declared himself, under the original Constitution, as the leader of Venezuela—directly confronting Maduro and his regime. Since then, he has received a lot of publicity. He went to the border with Colombia and tried to encourage the Maduro regime to allow transports of food, medicine, and other humanitarian needs into the country. Maduro refused.

He also made it clear that he was willing to risk his life. I met here in Washington with his young wife, who had a little baby girl. His wife had come to the United States to plead his case in the Halls of Congress. She knew the danger her husband faced. Yet she understood that he was willing to risk that for the future of Venezuela.

Juan Guaido's effort to become the leader of that country has been recognized now and acknowledged by leaders

of countries around the world. The Organization of American States—the largest organization of Central and South American countries—acknowledged in a formal vote that Juan Guaido would be the leader of Venezuela by their calculation. They didn't accept the Maduro election any more than I did.

In the last several months, there has been increasing tension and concern as members of Guaido's following were jailed by the Maduro regime and concern that Guaido himself may be in danger because of this ongoing situation.

Early this morning, I received a phone call from Ambassador John Bolton, who works with the President in the White House. He knew of my interest in Venezuela, and he wanted to alert me that today was a day that could be historic, a day of reckoning. Guaido and Leopoldo Lopez, who had been under house arrest, were both appealing directly to the military leaders in Venezuela, asking those leaders to join their effort to establish a legitimate government in Venezuela and to have a free and fair election. We didn't know what was in store. There were no predictions as to who would prevail in this, and there was a great deal of danger associated with Guaido's position. Lopez, coming out of house arrest, is risking his own life in the process. We didn't know what Maduro's response would be.

In the last several weeks, there have been groups that have come to the aid and support of the Maduro regime. They include some Cuban security forces, as well as colectivos and motorcycle gangs that support the Maduro regime, but most notably the arrival of several hundred Russian military into Caracas. This, of course, complicates the situation. There are rumors in the press. We don't know which to believe and which not to believe, but at this point, there is at least a question as to whether Maduro was prepared to leave and was discouraged by the Russians and told to stay. I hope he does leave.

I hope Venezuela can turn the corner. I hope the people of that country who are leaving Venezuela by the millions to go to countries like Colombia have an opportunity to see a new life in their country and to move forward.

I have supported the efforts of the Trump administration against the Maduro regime in Venezuela with an understanding that they want to move forward with regime change in that country without the involvement of U.S. military force. I think it would be a mistake if we did that, to put in U.S. military force. We are in a situation where the history of that region is well known. There has been a lot of tension and a lot of difficulty in the past, and I hope we do not consider that military possibility. I certainly support their efforts and applaud their success in bringing the Organization of American States and other countries to the side of Juan Guaido and Leopoldo Lopez.

I urge Maduro to do the right thing for Venezuela—to avoid bloodshed, to accept Guaido's amnesty offer, and to step out of the way of a long-overdue transition and return to democracy.

Until then, I support President Guaido's peaceful effort to advance the constitutional transition period in which a credible and timely election can be prepared under his leadership. Mr. Guaido is literally putting his life on the line for the future of his country. The Russians and Cubans in Caracas who attempt to prop up Mr. Maduro must step back and let the Venezuelan people decide their own fate in an open and free election.

Madam President, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Pennsylvania.

Mr. CASEY. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent to speak as in morning business.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

JUDICIAL NOMINATIONS

Mr. CASEY. Madam President, I come to the floor tonight to discuss the troubling state of judicial nominations before the Senate. This week, we are voting on, among others, two district court nominees—Campbell Barker and Andrew Brasher—who have, in my judgment, very concerning records.

Just several weeks ago, Senate Republicans changed the Senate rules so that they can continue to put on the Federal bench highly ideological and sometimes unqualified jurists who have the corporate stamp of approval but I don't think the mainstream stamp of approval. Under new Senate rules, these nominees will receive only 2 hours of postcloture consideration time on the Senate floor, but if confirmed, they would sit on the Federal bench for life. So 2 hours postcloture for a lifetime appointment.

I will start with Mr. Campbell Barker, who has been nominated to the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Texas. He has a troubling record from his time as deputy solicitor general of the State of Texas. In 2016, he defended Texas's voter ID law, which the Fifth Circuit said violated the Voting Rights Act because it prevented minority voters from exercising their right to vote.

Second, Mr. Barker submitted amicus briefs to the U.S. Supreme Court attacking the Affordable Care Act. In those briefs, he argued that the individual mandate is unconstitutional—a position rejected by the U.S. Supreme Court. He also opposed the contraceptive coverage mandate, which was a critical part of the ACA's efforts to make sure that women have access to the medical care they need. He also signed amicus briefs arguing that businesses should be allowed to discriminate against LGBT customers and supporting the President's travel ban, which, in my judgment, was a bigoted policy that discriminated against the Muslim community.

The second nominee I will make some comments about tonight is Mr.

Andrew Brasher, a nominee to the U.S. District Court for the Middle District of Alabama. Like Mr. Barker, Mr. Brasher has a troubling record from his time in the state solicitor general's office. In 2014, he defended the Alabama State redistricting scheme, which a Federal court determined violated the Constitution because it packed African-American voters into a few districts, diluting the power of their vote on the basis of their race.

Similar to Mr. Barker, Mr. Brasher challenged the contraceptive mandate in the Affordable Care Act and argued that the reasonable accommodations made for religious nonprofits were still too burdensome—an argument that the Eleventh Circuit Court of Appeals rejected.

In 2015, he submitted an amicus brief to the U.S. Supreme Court arguing against the right of same-sex couples to marry—a position the Supreme Court has rejected.

Lastly, Mr. Brasher submitted amicus briefs to the Supreme Court arguing against commonsense gun laws, such as age requirements for gun purchases and restrictions on concealed carry licenses.

There is no good reason why we should be confirming these judges with these troubling records on matters of critical importance to many Americans. There is no shortage of qualified, mainstream attorneys or judges, State court judges and other judges across the country. Of course, in the case of a Republican Senate and Republican President, these judges are often Republican in their party affiliation or by way of their philosophy, but I think there is often a big difference between a conservative jurist or potential judge who has a conservative view on issues—that is different from being extreme right, as many of these nominees are.

Just by way of contrast to these nominees and others we will be considering, Senator TOOMEY and I have worked together jointly to recommend experienced, consensus nominees for Federal district courts in Pennsylvania. Everyone knows we are in different parties. We have different views. We rarely vote together. But we have figured out a way on most days—not every day, not every nominee or potential nominee, but on most days—to work together to try to find consensus for district court nominees.

I want to thank my colleague from Pennsylvania, Senator TOOMEY, for his commitment to our process over these many years we have served together now, since 2011. This process has allowed us to confirm 18 Federal judges to the 3 Federal district courts in Pennsylvania since 2011. We have five others who are being considered by the Senate now, including Joshua Wolson, whose nomination is on the floor this week. I returned a blue slip and will vote for Josh Wolson. He is experienced. He has strong academic credentials. He is a conservative. He probably

wouldn't be my first pick, but I am supporting him. He has been a partner at a distinguished Philadelphia law firm, the Dilworth Paxson firm, since 2008 and has both the ability and I think the integrity to serve as a Federal district court judge. So that is a demonstration that this process can work when you have consensus, even between Senators who don't often vote together.

This is a bipartisan process. It requires both parties to work very hard. It requires our staff to work hard. It requires consensus. It has required several White Houses now—the Obama administration's White House, as well as the Trump administration—to work with us. But we found a way to make it work on most days.

This bipartisan district court process is indeed the exception, not the rule. In so many other instances, especially with regard to circuit court nominees, we have seen extreme nominees being pushed through. The rule change that I referred to earlier that cut the postclosure time to just 2 hours means there is very little time to fully consider nominees to these lifetime appointments to the Bench. The Judiciary Committee has stacked multiple circuit court nominees in single hearings, giving Senators on the Judiciary Committee less time to ask nominees questions.

Circuit court nominees now receive votes over the objection of their home state Senators. That is new. That wasn't happening just a few years ago, and it wasn't happening many years before that.

The blue-slip process has been eviscerated for circuit court judicial nominees. That is a loss for the Senate, which may be the only body in the world that has the kind of rules that govern our work so that we will arrive at a consensus by empowering the minority to work with the majority to arrive at that consensus. It is a loss for the Senate, but it is also a loss for our constituents who are served by Federal district courts and Federal circuit courts.

Last year, the Senate confirmed David Porter to the Third Circuit Court of Appeals in Pennsylvania—Pennsylvania being one of the States represented in the circuit. That nomination and confirmation was over my objection as a home State Senator. This was in spite of my record of bipartisan work on judicial nominations. My record now goes back over the course of three Presidencies and different Senates—Democratic Senate, Republican Senate. Despite all the bipartisan work, this nominee was both nominated and confirmed without my consent.

For the first time in history, we have confirmed two judges to the circuit court—Eric Miller and Paul Matey—without the consent of any home State Senators, meaning you have two Democratic Senators who did not give consent, and now they have been con-

firmed. I don't think that is good for the Senate in the long run. I am certain it is not good for our constituents, as I said. I think they would prefer judges who come through a process where there is a degree of consensus, including all of the vetting that these nominees go through.

This isn't how the process is supposed to work. This process is supposed to be one of advice and consent. Advice and consent as to nominating people for lifetime appointments to the Federal courts, especially the circuit courts, has been gutted. "Gutted" might be an understatement. These nominees will impact not just the lives of the parties before them in court, but, of course, the lives of all Americans.

It is true that in our system, one Federal judge can affect the whole country. We know that from our history. And that includes both district court judges, as well as circuit court judges.

In the case of circuit court judges, often that is the last stop. Very few cases are briefed and argued before the U.S. Supreme Court. In many cases, the last stop is the Federal Circuit Court of Appeals. For all intents and purposes, that becomes the Supreme Court for a lot of cases—the highest level of review.

I hope we can return to a more inclusive process that focuses on putting experienced, mainstream judges on the bench rather than ramming through—and that is the best way to describe what has been happening lately—nominees with views and with records that are out of the mainstream. I would argue for purposes of the near-term votes that both Mr. Barker and Mr. Brasher would not fit under the umbrella of being mainstream.

I think there are plenty of folks around here in the Senate who would like to work together to arrive at more of a consensus. It doesn't mean that we will not have disagreements; it doesn't mean that one side will not have a different point of view. But I think someone can be conservative and philosophically aligned with one party or one point of view without being so far out of the mainstream that a lot of Americans would consider them extreme.

I yield the floor.

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 10 A.M. TOMORROW

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate stands adjourned until 10 a.m. tomorrow.

Thereupon, the Senate, at 6:58 p.m., adjourned until Wednesday, May 1, 2019, at 10 a.m.

NOMINATIONS

Executive nominations received by the Senate:

MERIT SYSTEMS PROTECTION BOARD

B. CHAD BUNGARD, OF MARYLAND, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE MERIT SYSTEMS PROTECTION BOARD FOR THE

TERM OF SEVEN YEARS EXPIRING MARCH 1, 2025, VICE MARK A. ROBBINS, TERM EXPIRED.

IN THE ARMY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE RESERVE OF THE ARMY TO THE GRADES INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203:

To be major general

BRIG. GEN. RODNEY L. FAULK
BRIG. GEN. DEBORAH L. KOTULICH
BRIG. GEN. FREDERICK R. MAIOCCO
BRIG. GEN. GREGORY J. MOSSER
BRIG. GEN. JOHN H. PHILLIPS
BRIG. GEN. JOE D. ROBINSON
BRIG. GEN. ALBERTO C. ROSENDE
BRIG. GEN. RICHARD C. STAATS, JR.
BRIG. GEN. KEVIN C. WULFHORST

To be brigadier general

COL. TIMOTHY E. BRENNAN
COL. CARY J. COWAN, JR.
COL. CHRISTOPHER J. DZIUBEK
COL. JEFFREY M. FARRIS
COL. ROBERT E. GUIDRY
COL. MICHELLE A. LINK
COL. LAURENCE S. LINTON
COL. PAMELA L. MCGAHA
COL. STEVEN B. MCLAUGHLIN
COL. JOSEPH A. PAPPENFUS
COL. JOSEPH A. RICCIARDI
COL. JED J. SCHAERTL
COL. PATRICIA R. WALLACE
COL. DAVID P. WARSHAW
COL. STUART E. WERNER
COL. WANDA N. WILLIAMS

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY NURSE CORPS UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 624 AND 7064:

To be colonel

TIMOTHY S. ADAMS
DANIEL A. BLAZ
DAVID F. BOYD III
CRAIG S. BUDINICH
BRETT G. BUEHNER
MITZI A. FIELDS
BRAD E. FRANKLIN
STACEY S. FREEMAN
MATTHEW K. GARRISON
JOSEPH J. HOFFERT
THERESA L. LEWIS
BIRGIT B. LISTER
RANAE T. LOWE
ALICIA A. MADORE
MARK L. MITCHELL
VINCENT B. MYERS
PRENTICE R. PRICE
THURMAN J. SAUNDERS
ANN C. SIMSCOLUMBIA
ALICIA D. SURREY
MICHAEL F. SZYMANIAK
JIMMIE J. TOLVERT
DENNIS R. TURNER

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY MEDICAL SERVICE CORPS UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 624 AND 7064:

To be colonel

CAROL A. ANDERSON
AMY A. BLANK
MERBIN CARATTINI
ROBERT CARTER III
TRISHA A. COBB
COLLEEN M. COOPER
DAVID B. COWGER
NATHANAEAL C. FORRESTER
TOBIAS J. GLISTER
JAMES B. GOETSCHUS
MATTHEW J. GRIESSER
MARK G. HARTELL
CHARLOTTE L. HILDEBRAND
RAYMOND J. JABLONKA
FREDERICK C. JACKSON
PAUL J. KASSEBAUM
DUBRAY KINNEY, SR.
BRADLEY D. LADD
PAUL W. MAETZOLD
KEVIN J. MAHONEY
MATTHEW J. MAPES
PETER B. MARKOT
YVETTE M. MCCREA
JAMES A. MORRISON
ROBERT L. NACE
WOODROW NASH, JR.
BRIAN D. OLEARY
ADAM J. PETERS
RICARDO A. REYES
DANIEL E. REYNOLDS
MICHAEL D. RONN
GINNETTE RUTH
ALICK E. SMITH
KIRSTEN S. SMITH
KENNETH D. SPICER
SABRINA R. THWEATT
BARBARA T. TRAENKNER
STUART D. TYNER
ARISTOTLE A. VASELIANES
LAWANDA D. WARTHEN
CHAN L. WEBSTER
DOUGLAS P. WEKELL
KENNEY H. WELLS

April 30, 2019

CONGRESSIONAL RECORD — SENATE

S2531

ABDUL R. WILLIS

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY MEDICAL SPECIALIST CORPS UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 624 AND 7064:

To be colonel

THOMAS A. BRYANT
RENEE E. COLE
STEPHEN M. DELELLIS
DAVID N. FELTWELL
KEVIN M. HOUCK
DAWN L. ORTA
ARTHUR F. YEAGER

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY VETERINARY CORPS UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 624 AND 7064:

JEREMY J. BEARSS
DALE R. BEEBE
TODD M. BELL
CARRIE G. BENTON
WILLIAM E. CULP
CHRISTINE A. EGE
PAUL R. FACEMIRE
MICHELLE THOMPSON

To be colonel

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

WILLIAM COOPER, OF MARYLAND, TO BE GENERAL COUNSEL OF THE DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

R. CLARKE COOPER, OF FLORIDA, TO BE AN ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF STATE (POLITICAL-MILITARY AFFAIRS).

PENSION BENEFIT GUARANTY CORPORATION

GORDON HARTOGENSIS, OF CONNECTICUT, TO BE DIRECTOR OF THE PENSION BENEFIT GUARANTY CORPORATION FOR A TERM OF FIVE YEARS.

CONFIRMATIONS

Executive nominations confirmed by
the Senate April 30, 2019:

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

RECOGNIZING THE RETIREMENT OF BOOKER T. STEPHENS, EIGHTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT JUDGE, McDOWELL COUNTY, WEST VIRGINIA

HON. CAROL D. MILLER

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 30, 2019

Mrs. MILLER. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize Judge Booker T. Stephens, as he retires from serving 34 years on the bench in the Eighth Judicial Circuit, McDowell County, West Virginia.

Judge Stephens was born in Bluefield, West Virginia, and raised in McDowell County, West Virginia. He graduated from Excelsior High School in War, West Virginia. In 1966, Judge Stephens obtained his Bachelor of Arts Degree in Political Science and Spanish from West Virginia State College (University). He served proudly in the U.S. Army from 1966 to 1968. Upon completion of his tour of duty in the U.S. Army, Judge Stephens obtained his law degree from Howard University's School of Law in Washington, DC. He returned back to Welch, WV to practice law from 1972 to 1984.

Booker T. Stephens has served as a Judge in the Eight Judicial Circuit of McDowell County, West Virginia, ascending to the bench in 1985. He was elected to the Eighth Judicial Circuit and re-elected in 1992, 2000, 2008, and 2016. Judge Stephens is admitted to practice before the Supreme Court of Appeals of West Virginia and the Supreme Court of the United States of America. He serves as a member of the prestigious Supreme Court of Appeals Mass Litigation Panel and is a former member of the Executive Committee of the National Conference of State Trial Court Judges with the American Bar Association. Judge Stephens has been appointed numerous times to sit as a Justice on the Supreme Court of Appeals of West Virginia when a Justice has been recused from a case. He was a member of the Standing Committee on Minorities in the Judiciary of the American Bar Association; a member of the Supreme Court's Task Force to Study Perceived Racial Disparity in the Juvenile Justice System in West Virginia; and a former Adjunct Professor at West Virginia University's College of Law and Bluefield State College. Judge Stephens has served as an assistant prosecutor and a member of the West Virginia House of Delegates.

Judge Stephens has received many honors during his years on the bench. He was named Outstanding Judge of the Year in 1993 and 2016 by the West Virginia Trial Lawyers Association. He has been a recipient of the Governor's Living The Dream Award by the Dr. Martin L. King, Jr. Holiday Commission; The Fred H. Caplan Civil Justice Award by the West Virginia Association of Justice; Sara Lee Neal Community Award of the Year for Health, Science and Technology Academy; inducted into the West Virginia All Black Schools Sports

and Academic Hall of Fame; presented the American Bar Association's Law Day Liberty Bell Award by Chief Justice Brent Benjamin; presented Judge of the Year Award by the West Virginia Association of Justice; presented the Achievement Award by the Mountain State Bar Association in 1985; a Fellow with the West Virginia Bar Foundation; honorary inductee to the West Virginia State University ROTC Hall of Fame; West Virginia Judicial Association Representative to the American Bar; selected by the Bluefield Daily Telegraph to be featured in the 2005 "Pride" Edition of Heroes and Legends; Layman of the Year recognition from the West Virginia Baptist State Layman's Auxiliary; Presidential Citation, National Association for Equal Opportunity in High Education; Diploma of Judicial Skills, American Academy of Judicial Education; Certificates of Achievement, The National Judicial College; Achievement Award, Mountain State Bar Association; Earl Warren Fellow, NAACP LDF; co-sponsored and Floor Leader of the Bill that created a West Virginia Holiday in recognition of Dr. Martin L. King's birthday. He is a member of the Board of West Virginia State University Foundation and a member of the Multi-Cultural Affairs Advisory Committee at Bluefield State College. Judge Stephens is a highly sought out speaker and lecturer. In 1996, Judge Stephens delivered a memorable and stirring commencement address during the commencement exercises of West Virginia State University.

Judge Stephens has presided over several noteworthy cases in the West Virginia Supreme Court of Appeals, which include H. Harvey Oakley, C.W. Ferguson, III and Elsa Louise Kingdon, as a widow and Executrix of the estate of Arthur R. Kingdon v. Glen B. Gainer, A. James Manchin, and Martha Merritt, No. 16584, May 31, 1985. Authored the Majority Opinion alone with Justice Chafin; Sam R. Harshbarger v. The Honorable Glen B. Gainer, State Auditor, November 23, 1988; TXO v. Alliance resources, 419 S.E. 2d 8870,1992 (Affirmed by the West Virginia Supreme Court of Appeals 5-0 and United States Supreme Court 6-3).

One of the many things Judge Stephens is proud of is the implementation of Law Day in McDowell County, an annual event that coincides with the American Bar Association's Law Day. In its 23rd year in McDowell County, Law Day provides an opportunity for students to learn how the judicial system works and stimulate an early desire to pursue a rewarding career in law. Judge Stephens often states, "I know of no greater profession than being a lawyer."

Judge Stephens along with his wife, Attorney Gloria Stephens believe in giving back to their community and have established an endowment scholarship fund at West Virginia State University. In recognition of this endowment, West Virginia State University's bookstore was named the Judge Booker T. and Attorney Gloria Stephens bookstore.

Outside of his legal work, Judge Stephens is a Life Member of the NAACP; a member of

the Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity; Delta Theta Phi Legal Fraternity and Sigma Pi Phi Fraternity. He is a 32nd Degree Mason and affiliated with the MWPHGL Jurisdiction of WV, Inc. F & A M; PM Excelsior Lodge No. 22; PM Kimball Lodge No. 13; and PG Trustee. Judge Stephens has taught bible study at Mt. Chapel Baptist Church, Golden Harvest Nursing Home, and Elkhorn Towers. He serves faithfully at his church, Heart of God Ministries, in Beckley, West Virginia.

Judge Stephens is married to Attorney Gloria M. Davis Stephens. They have two children, Attorney Ciara M. Stephens, of Los Angeles, California and Booker T. Stephens, II of Welch, West Virginia and a new grandson, Sebastian.

Over the course of Judge Stephens' successful law career, he has lived and practiced by the scripture in Luke 12:48 of the Bible, "From everyone to whom much is given, from him much will be required . . ." Judge Booker T. Stephens has given much to his state and community in West Virginia.

As Congresswoman for the Third Congressional District of the State of West Virginia, it is my distinct honor to rise today to recognize the outstanding contributions, distinguished career in law and community service of Judge Booker T. Stephens in the State of West Virginia, as he retires on May 31, 2019, from serving 34 years on the bench.

HONORING PAT MCCORMICK

HON. JIMMY PANETTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 30, 2019

Mr. PANETTA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. Pat McCormick for 46 years of exemplary service to our community on the central coast of California. First serving as a Planning Technician for Santa Cruz County and later as a Planning Director for the City of Capitola, Mr. McCormick's prolific career of public service is ending with his retirement from the position of Executive Officer for the Santa Cruz County Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCO), a position Mr. McCormick has held with distinction for over 39 years.

Mr. McCormick has worked passionately to encourage orderly growth of urban development and ensure that it did not interfere with agricultural lands on the Central Coast. Over the years, he has made significant contributions to the development of Santa Cruz County by proposing over 1,200 boundary changes and LAFCO actions. Working closely with City Council Members, County Supervisors, and local stakeholders, Mr. McCormick has helped the Central Coast responsibly grow into the incredible community it is today.

Throughout his career, Mr. Pat McCormick has been recognized on numerous occasions by the California Association of Local Agency Formation Commissions. In 2009, he was honored with the Outstanding LAFCO Professional Award and was recognized in 2018 with

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

the Lifetime Achievement Award. Madam Speaker, it is my honor to recognize the dedication and incredible service of Mr. Pat McCormick. I ask my distinguished colleagues to join in me in thanking him for all that he has done for our community on the Central Coast and congratulating him on a well-earned retirement.

IN RECOGNITION OF ST. JOSEPH
MERCY LIVINGSTON HOSPITAL'S
90TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. ELISSA SLOTKIN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 30, 2019

Ms. SLOTKIN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor a hospital that embodies the spirit, standard, and strength of the community it has now served for 90 years. As St. Joseph Mercy Livingston Hospital celebrates its 90th anniversary in the community, I would like to offer my congratulations and appreciation to the hospital's leaders, caregivers, and volunteers on this most extraordinary accomplishment.

In its 90 years, St. Joseph Mercy Livingston Hospital has grown its healing mission from humble roots in a 3-story home to a state-of-the-art, modern hospital with two campuses in Livingston County. With a staff that today includes more than 500 physicians, St. Joseph Mercy Livingston is the county's only full-service hospital, and includes state-of-the-art robotic surgical services, a cancer center, 3-D breast imaging, a sleep disorders facility, and Michigan's very first short-stay center, which provides overnight care for patients not requiring hospital admission.

St. Joseph Mercy Livingston Hospital has received numerous accolades for its dedication to patient safety, quality of care, and excellence. But the organization stands out not just for its commitment to the health of its patients, but for its devotion to the health of the entire region. Before a single patient enters the hospital, St. Joseph Mercy Livingston Hospital is reaching out to. As one of the county's main employers, the organization generously donates time, talent, and treasure to countless community events, school groups, and nonprofits each and every year. The residents of Livingston County are so fortunate to have at their disposal this level of quality care and community support so close to home. I am honored to represent the fine men and women who work hard every day to make St. Joseph Mercy Livingston Hospital a source of pride.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me today to honor St. Joseph Mercy Livingston Hospital for 90 years of service, and to the promise of many more years of healing to come.

CONDOLENCES IN MEMORY OF DR.
IFTIKHAR AHMAD

HON. DUSTY JOHNSON

OF SOUTH DAKOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 30, 2019

Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota. Madam Speaker, in March 2019, the Black Hills Veterans community lost one of South Dakota's

best. Dr. Iftikhar Ahmad was kidnapped and murdered when he returned to his native country, Pakistan, on a personal trip. Dr. Ahmad provided compassionate care to Veterans for over three years throughout the VA Black Hills Health Care System working in Sturgis, Hot Springs and Rapid City, South Dakota.

For years, Dr. Ahmad served our community and our Veterans and specialized in care for hospitalized patients at Fort Meade Medical Center. His courteous and friendly demeanor only amplified his dedication to helping his patients. We are grateful for his service.

On behalf of the constituents of South Dakota, I extend sincere condolences to his family. He is sorely missed.

RECOGNIZING BRUCE GLASSCOCK

HON. VAN TAYLOR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 30, 2019

Mr. TAYLOR. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. Bruce Glasscock for his twenty-nine years of dedicated service to the City of Plano and our north Texas community.

As a veteran of the United States Air Force, Bruce Glasscock earned his bachelor's degree in criminal justice management from Metropolitan State College in Denver, Colorado, and later received a master's degree in public administration from the University of Colorado at Denver.

Bruce began his career with the City of Plano in 1990 when he was selected as the Police Chief of the Plano Police Department. During this time, Mr. Glasscock was elected to the Board of Officers of the International Association of Chiefs of Police and would later be inaugurated as the President of the organization.

In 1998, the City of Plano provided Bruce with additional responsibilities as the Deputy City Manager. He would hold these dual roles until assuming the full-time position of Deputy City Manager in 2001. In 2011, he would once again be promoted to his current role as City Manager. As an executive level leader, Mr. Glasscock has been responsible for overseeing a city with \$2.5 billion in assets, and over 2,300 municipal employees.

Under Bruce's steadfast leadership, Plano has earned numerous accolades as one of the best cities in which to live and raise a family. Due to his keen foresight, he has also been instrumental in the city's economic development and unprecedented growth.

Bruce has held numerous civic positions including playing a pivotal role in the founding of the Collin County Children's Advocacy Center. As a recognized servant leader, he was chosen by his peers as President in the Plano Rotary Club and received recognition from the Plano Independent School District Council of Parent Teacher Associations (PTA). Additionally, as a longtime and active member of the nationally recognized Plano Chamber of Commerce, he was awarded the coveted Business Executive of the Year.

On a personal level, Bruce and his wife, Memrie, are the proud parents of two sons, and three grandchildren with whom he looks forward to enjoying his retirement with.

It has been an honor to know and work with Bruce Glasscock. As Bruce begins this next

season of his life, I ask my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives to join me in recognizing him for his combined forty-nine year career in municipal government, and to wish him well in all his future endeavors.

RECOGNIZING THE 30TH
ANNIVERSARY OF SAFE STREETS

HON. DEREK KILMER

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 30, 2019

Mr. KILMER. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the 30th anniversary of Safe Streets. Since its founding in 1989, Safe Streets has made a lasting and transformative impact across the many diverse neighborhoods and communities throughout Tacoma and Pierce County.

Operating as a community-led grassroots effort, Safe Streets has thrived through a dedication to building a broad coalition of friends and neighbors that seek to create vibrant and flourishing neighborhoods across Pierce County. They are made up of interfaith leaders, business owners, school teachers, law enforcement, and devoted volunteers from the community.

Safe Streets has organized and trained a network of 125 Neighborhood Groups in neighborhoods, involving over 13,500 community leaders and 190,000 residents who work daily to ensure that their neighborhoods and schools are safe. Safe Streets' Community Mobilizers help these Neighborhood Groups define and address their own needs by utilizing organized block watches, youth leadership teams, graffiti removal teams, safe routes to school, and widespread substance abuse and violence prevention education initiatives.

Safe Streets is doing significant work in adapting and evolving as an organization to meet the ever-changing needs and demands of its communities. Through the development of their Non-English Speaking (NES) program, Safe Streets now provides services to residents who have limited or no English-speaking experience. As a result, Safe Streets has been able to regularly connect and meet with community members from the Japanese, Korean, Samoan, Chinese, Philippine, and Cambodian communities, among others, of Pierce County.

Safe Streets is also revered for their work in engaging, mobilizing, and mentoring young people across Pierce County. Many high schools in our communities have established Youth Leading Change (YLC) clubs that are made up of core students, guided by a teacher and coach, and supported by Safe Streets staff. Participants in YLC learn leadership skills and present on prevention issues to their fellow students throughout the year. Alumni of this program have won numerous awards on the state and local level, including a trip to Washington, DC in 2014 and multiple City of Destiny Awards for Youth Leadership in the City of Tacoma.

Madam Speaker, I can say with certainty that our neighborhoods and communities across Tacoma and Pierce County are safer because of the work of Safe Streets. It speaks to their tenacity that even after 30 amazing years, the many volunteers and staff that make up this organization are committed to

evolving and growing to ensure that every neighborhood in Pierce County is a thriving and safe place for all its residents. I wish them the best in this effort and pledge my commitment to supporting them however I can.

IN RECOGNITION OF MS. SHARON
"NYOTA" TUCKER, J.D.

HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 30, 2019

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor a distinguished scholar, dedicated attorney, and true visionary, Ms. Sharon "Nyota" Tucker. Nyota was honored for her contributions to academia and her community on Saturday, April 13, 2019, at the University of Georgia School of Law.

A native of Dublin, Georgia, Sharon "Nyota" Tucker was born to the union of Mr. Willis Tucker and Mrs. Cornelia Tucker. During her junior year of high school, she joined six of her fellow classmates from Oconee High School in the integration of the previously all-white Dublin High School. This first-hand experience with desegregation convinced her that becoming a lawyer was the most effective means of combating racism, upholding the constitutional rights outlined in the Declaration of Independence, and forcing a system to correct itself. Nyota went on to earn her Bachelor of Arts degree in Political Science from Howard University, before becoming the first African-American woman to receive a Juris Doctorate degree from the University of Georgia in 1974.

Upon becoming a member of the State Bar of Georgia in 1974, she served in a number of legal and academic positions, including staff attorney in the Albany office of the Georgia Legal Services Program; legal intern with the Earl Warren Fellowship Program in the San Francisco office, NAACP Legal Defense Fund; and associate with the Albany, Georgia Law Firm of Mary Young & Associates. During Nyota's impressive tenure at Albany State University (ASU), she served as a faculty member and pre-law advisor, as well as a dual role as ASU's University Counsel (for eight years) and ASU's Chief of Staff (for five years). Her time at ASU allowed her to work with some of the brightest, most creative, and determined students in higher education.

Nyota has been recognized numerous times for her professional and community work. She has received several Teacher of the Year Awards in addition to the 2015 Trailblazer Award by the UGA Black Law Student Association; the Justice Leah Ward Sears Award for Distinction in the Profession by the Georgia Association of Black Women Attorneys in 2016; the USG Chancellor's Recognition for Distinguished Service to the University System of Georgia in 2016; and both the 2018 and 2019 Beverly Burton New Board Member of the Year Award for the Boys & Girls Clubs of Georgia and the Southeast Region. Moreover, on April 13, 2019, the University of Georgia School of Law unveiled a portrait of Nyota honoring her impeccable legacy and influential leadership.

Former Congresswoman Shirley Chisholm once said that "Service is the rent that we pay for the space that we occupy here on this

earth." Nyota has paid her rent many times over and still continues to give a prodigious amount of love and service back to her community. She has served on the Board of Trustees for the Harry S. Truman Scholarship Foundation, the Board of Directors for Liberty House, and as a member of the Advisory Committee on Law and Criminal Justice at the Washington Center. She currently serves on the Board of Directors for the Boys & Girls Clubs of Albany and a member of the Dougherty County Hospital Authority Board.

Nyota has accomplished many things in her life, but none of these would have been possible without the enduring love and support of her loving children, Nairobi (deceased), Sadiqa, and Macharia; and her granddaughter, Imani.

Madam Speaker, today I ask my colleagues to join my wife, Vivian, and me, along with the more than 730,000 residents of Georgia's Second Congressional District, in recognizing and commending Ms. Sharon Nyota Tucker, J.D., on receiving a well-deserved effigy recognizing her commitment and contributions to her community and academic field.

HONORING THE LIFE OF MRS.
KATHLEEN FINER

HON. TED LIEU

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 30, 2019

Mr. TED LIEU of California. Madam Speaker, today I rise to celebrate the life of Mrs. Kathleen "Kay" Finer, who passed away on March 2, 2019 at the age of 68. Kay was a dedicated member of and leader in the business community in Los Angeles County's South Bay.

Born on October 14, 1950, Kay grew up and attended school in Inglewood; after attending El Camino College, Kay started her career in the fashion industry before taking time off to raise her family. She was an active member in civic life, serving as a reserve officer for the City of Palos Verdes Estates and organizing a neighborhood watch group.

Kay also devoted herself to promoting local businesses, as a volunteer with the Malaga Cove Business Association and President and CEO of the Palos Verdes Peninsula Chamber of Commerce from 2005 to 2010. She also involved herself with a myriad of nonprofit organizations; she served as director of Community Helpline, which offers a confidential, safe, and empathetic space to talk for individuals experiencing mental health crises. Her energy, commitment, and warm smile helped her make a difference in the community she loved.

Kay is survived by her daughter, Jessica, and grandson, Colt. I hope that Kay's family takes comfort in knowing her memory will live on in the people, businesses, and organizations she touched through her work.

HONORING MAJOR GENERAL WALTER PIATT FOR HIS SERVICE TO FORT DRUM AND ON HIS CONFIRMATION TO DIRECTOR OF ARMY STAFF

HON. ELISE M. STEFANIK

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 30, 2019

Ms. STEFANIK. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize a lifetime of dedicated service. Major General Walter Piatt will be assuming his new role as Director of Army Staff at the Pentagon after serving as Commanding General of the 10th Mountain Division at Fort Drum for the past two years.

Major General Piatt's military career has spanned nearly 40 years and taken him all over the globe. He has previously served at the Pentagon as the Director of Army Operations, Readiness, and Mobilization and then as the Director of Operations, Army Rapid Capabilities Office. Through all that, his roots in the North Country remained strong. Major General Piatt served in the 10th Mountain Division twice, from 1999 to 2003 and from 2012 to 2013. During his tenure commanding Fort Drum, Major General Piatt led efforts to strengthen ties to the local community on the premise that a ready post and division depends heavily on the strength of the surrounding communities. His leadership has not only been beneficial to those stationed at Fort Drum but everyone in the surrounding communities as well. While we are sad to see him leave the North Country, I know I speak for everyone in New York's 21st Congressional District when I wish Major General Piatt great success in his new role and thank him for his service.

INTRODUCTION OF RESOLUTION
RECOGNIZING THE ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF VIETNAMESE AMERICANS

HON. J. LUIS CORREA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 30, 2019

Mr. CORREA. Madam Speaker, today, I am introducing a House Resolution recognizing the accomplishments and contributions of Vietnamese Americans. I represent one of the largest Vietnamese communities in the United States, and I am proud to recognize the valuable contribution of 1.7 million Vietnamese Americans living in this nation. The United States is home to the largest number of individuals of Vietnamese descent outside of Vietnam. Currently more than 70,000 reside in California's 46th Congressional District.

In the aftermath of the Vietnam War, approximately 800,000 Vietnamese refugees fleeing persecution resettled in the United States. Today, Vietnamese Americans contribute to American society through their work in business, education, science and technology, engineering, mathematics, literature and the arts, gastronomy, the armed forces, and public service at every level of government.

Vietnamese Americans add to the rich cultural and religious diversity of our nation. As a

member of the Congressional Vietnam Caucus, it is critical that we continue to represent and celebrate our Vietnamese families, friends, and neighbors, and recognize their significant contributions to American society.

HONORING THE LIFE OF OSCAR
DUNCAN

HON. STEPHANIE N. MURPHY

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 30, 2019

Mrs. MURPHY. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor my constituent, Oscar Duncan, who passed away on April 10th, at the age of 75.

A long-time resident of Geneva, Florida, Oscar Duncan lived an extraordinary life, and leaves behind an enduring legacy. He was a soldier, a law enforcement officer, and a successful small business owner.

Above all, Oscar was the Duncan family patriarch. He and his beloved wife Bernice were married for 44 years, and he was fiercely protective of her. Heaven help the person who said a cross word to Bernice in Oscar's presence.

Together, they had 10 children, which led to 22 grandchildren, which led to 23 great-grandchildren. That's more than a family. That's an army.

My office spoke to one of Oscar's four sons, Hannibal Duncan, about Oscar's life. Hannibal made clear that those who knew his father best had the greatest respect and affection for him.

Oscar was born and raised in Tampa, at a time in our nation's history when African-Americans were treated unequally under both law and custom.

Adversity made Oscar strong, as fire forges steel. Everything Oscar Duncan achieved in life, he had to fight for. Nothing was given to him; he earned it all.

Out of high school, Oscar volunteered for the U.S. Army, serving for five-and-a-half years, including tours in Korea and Germany, and rising to the rank of sergeant.

The same qualities that made Oscar a good soldier made him a great man. Discipline, intelligence, toughness, fairness, self-confidence, the capacity to suppress fear and doubt, a sense of purpose. He was a natural leader that others wanted to follow.

After leaving the service, Oscar earned two degrees at an Orlando-area college and became a police officer in Eatonville, famed as the first city in the country to be organized and governed by African-Americans.

In 1971, Oscar was a member of the first class of black deputies selected to join the Orange County Sheriffs Office, which had officially desegregated in the early 1960s but had accepted only a handful of African-Americans in the ensuing years. For nearly a decade, Oscar woke up every day and worked to keep central Florida safe, always the consummate professional.

Then, in his mid-30s, Oscar decided to walk a different path. He left law enforcement and opened Duncan's Food Mart in Eatonville, located next to the dry cleaning shop that Bernice ran. It became an iconic institution in the city. Oscar did everything at the store—cooking and cleaning, manning the cash register, and handling the finances. The kids were ex-

pected to help as well, and it was here they absorbed their father's lesson that success demands sacrifice.

According to Hannibal, Oscar explained his decision to change careers by saying that, "at some point in your life, you have to choose between being a mouse and being a man." For Oscar, being a man meant striking out on his own, answerable to no one but himself. It also meant giving back to the African-American community he cherished—creating jobs, economic activity, and a place for folks to gather and enjoy each other's company.

Oscar ran the store for nearly 20 years, until he suffered a series of strokes and his health began to unravel. Hannibal said his father died like he lived—no complaints, no self-pity. Just dignity and toughness.

Oscar Duncan was a man until his final breath. He will be deeply missed.

I ask my congressional colleagues to join me in offering our condolences to those he loved and to those who loved him.

PROMOTING HUMAN RIGHTS FOR
PALESTINIAN CHILDREN LIVING
UNDER ISRAELI MILITARY OCCU-
PATION

HON. BETTY MCCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 30, 2019

Ms. MCCOLLUM. Madam Speaker, it is my hope that Members of Congress and the American people can stand united in the belief that justice, human dignity, and human rights are values we share and promote. Certainly, when it comes to protecting the rights of children we should be able to find universal agreement that ensuring their safety and well-being is a priority.

Today, I am introducing legislation to protect children from abuse, violence, psychological trauma, and torture. This bill condemns the targeting of children with the intent to intimidate, mistreat, and abuse in a manner designed to leave lifelong scars. This abuse is completely preventable. Unimaginably, it is abuse that is perpetrated not only with intent, but systematically applied to intimidate, control, and create fear amongst families, communities, and an entire population. And, unbelievably, it is in part funded by U.S. taxpayers.

The children this legislation seeks to protect are Palestinian who have lived their entire lives under Israeli military occupation. The perpetrator of this system of child abuse is the Government of Israel and its military, police, and intelligence apparatus occupying the Palestinian West Bank. And, it is U.S. tax dollars provided by Congress, the unregulated \$3.8 billion military aid package to Israel, that helps to cover the cost of Israeli soldiers arresting, interrogating, and abusing children, some as young as 9-years old, in the name of Israeli security.

The legislation I am introducing—Promoting Human Rights for Palestinian Children Living Under Israeli Military Occupation Act—is expressly intended to end U.S. support and funding for Israel's systematic military detention, interrogation, abuse, torture, and prosecution of Palestinian children. This bill not only highlights actions by the Government of Israel that violate international humanitarian

law by their treatment of Palestinian children in detention, it affirmatively declares that equality, human rights, and dignity for Palestinians and Israelis are the values the American people expect the U.S. government to advance.

On March 16, 2019, the Israeli newspaper Haaretz ran an in-depth expose detailing the detention and mistreatment of Palestinian boys by Israel's military. It identifies Omar, a ten-year old boy who "looks small for his age." Omar was arrested by Israeli soldiers last December as he played in front of his house because "he threw pebbles at birds that were chirping in the trees." Soldiers saw Omar, caught him, knocked him down, and kicked him. Omar wet his pants. The Haaretz story states, "The 10-year old is one of hundreds of Palestinian children whom Israel arrests every year: the estimates range between 800 and 1,000."

Why would one of the world's most advanced and powerful military forces, a nation that possesses nuclear weapons, send soldiers to attack, terrorize, and detain a 10-year old boy? There can be no justifiable explanation.

On April 1, 2019, only weeks ago, CNN reported on armed Israeli soldiers entering a primary school in Hebron to arrest a 9-year old boy and his 7-year old brother. Such a story is simply too extreme a violation of human rights and decency to be rational. Yet, it happened and there is video footage (provided by the Israeli human rights organization B'Tselem) of the soldiers in the school and the principal and teachers trying to protect the children. Eventually, CNN reports 9-year old Zein was "frog-marched away and taken to an army vehicle." Neighbors said the boy "was taken off to a nearby military post."

In a terrifying description, the Israeli newspaper Haaretz tells what happens to the Palestinian children victimized by Israel's system of occupation and military detention: "They're seized in the dead of night, blindfolded and cuffed, abused and manipulated to confess to crimes they didn't commit."

Since 2000, it is conservatively estimated that more than 10,000 Palestinian children have been detained by Israeli security forces. The brutality and trauma inflicted on Palestinian children by Israel's occupation and system of military detention in the West Bank has been extensively documented by credible international human rights monitors, including Human Rights Watch, Amnesty International, Israel's B'Tselem, United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), Defense of Children/Palestine, and the U.S. Department of State.

Israel's system of military detention of Palestinian children must be condemned and it must stop. At a minimum, U.S. funding for this state-sponsored child abuse must be explicitly prohibited by law and fully monitored and enforced by the State Department. The detention and ill-treatment of Palestinian children is a cruel and intentional tactic of Israel's military occupation. It is intended to terrorize, inflict fear, and send an unmistakable message that Palestinian lives lack value.

Promoting Human Rights for Palestinian Children Living Under Israeli Military Occupation Act amends a provision of the Foreign Assistance Act known as the "Leahy Law" (22 U.S.C. 2378d) to prohibit funding for the military detention of children in any country, including Israel. The bill explicitly declares that

it is the policy of the United States to identify Israel's system of military detention of Palestinian children as a human rights violation inconsistent with international law and the laws of the U.S. The bill also establishes "The Human Rights Monitoring and Palestinian Child Victims of Israeli Military Detention Fund." The bill authorizes \$19 million annually for NGO monitoring of human rights abuses associated with Israel's military detention of children. The Fund also authorizes qualified NGOs to provide physical, psychological, and emotional treatment and support for Palestinian child victims of Israeli military detention, abuse, and torture. Any Palestinian age 21 or younger providing documentation of military detention as a child is eligible for services under this provision.

In 2017, I introduced H.R. 4391, the Promoting Human Rights by Ending Israeli Military Detention of Palestinian Children Act. My goal was to shine a light on the dehumanizing effects of military occupation and human rights abuses on Palestinian children. The more than thirty colleagues who joined as co-sponsors in the 115th Congress were courageous and fearless promoters of human dignity and the belief that the U.S. has the obligation to protect human rights, not use U.S. tax dollars to help fund the abuse of children.

I strongly believe there is a growing consensus among the American people that the Palestinian people deserve justice, equality, human rights, and the right to self-determination. After more than fifty years of Israeli military occupation and now the promise by Israel's prime minister to annex Palestinian lands, it is time to stand up for Palestinian rights and stand with Palestinians, Americans, Israelis, and people around the world to reject the destructive, dehumanizing, and anti-peace policies of Prime Minister Netanyahu and President Trump.

The Promoting Human Rights for Palestinian Children Living Under Israeli Military Occupation Act is a step in that direction. It gives my congressional colleagues a clear choice—support human rights for Palestinian children and their families or support perpetuating the occupation and repression in the name of Israel's security. For the cause of peace, justice, human dignity, and a better future for Palestinians, Israelis, and Americans I intend to work tirelessly this Congress to advance this bill.

ARTHUR GEORGE BENZLE'S 100TH BIRTHDAY

HON. JOE CUNNINGHAM

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 30, 2019

Mr. CUNNINGHAM. Madam Speaker, a few weeks ago, I hit a 100-milestone that I thought was pretty important—my 100th day in Office. However, I stand here today to celebrate a slightly more important centennial milestone. On Friday, April 26, Hilton Head resident Arthur George Benzle turned 100.

Born in Ohio, Arthur moved to New York City for his first job at UPS when he was only 19 years old. His rent was 15 dollars a month on his 40 cent hourly pay, and he would ride the subway for five cents. Arthur worked over 30 years in a produce brokerage business,

making junior partner and partial owner of AG Benzle & Son.

Arthur describes meeting his wife, Martha, "the luckiest day of his life", and is dedicated to a life of travel—visiting 66 countries and counting. His favorite country is still the United States for its "freedom, beauty, and diversity"; I wholeheartedly agree with Arthur here.

I want to wish a very happy 100th birthday to Arthur Benzle, and many more years of travel, golf, and family.

IN RECOGNITION OF CHABAD LUBAVITCH OF GREATER GAINESVILLE AND MANASSAS FIRST TORAH

HON. ROBERT J. WITTMAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 30, 2019

Mr. WITTMAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Chabad Lubavitch of Greater Gainesville and Manassas First Torah. On April 7, 2019, the Chabad Lubavitch of Greater Gainesville and Manassas completed and dedicated the First Torah ever in Western Prince William County.

The Torah is an unbroken chain of Jewish survival and tradition going back over 3,300 years to when the Jews received the Torah at Mount Sinai. In fact, crafting a single Torah scroll takes over a year to complete. The Gainesville Jewish Community came out to participate in the Torah's completion and to celebrate with music, singing, and dancing festivities.

Established in June 2017, Chabad Lubavitch of Greater Gainesville and Manassas is currently the only Jewish center/organization in Gainesville and Western Prince William County. Under the guidance and inspiration of Lubavitcher Rebbe and Rabbi Menachem M. Schneerson OBM, they have both strived to make it a home for every Jew in Prince William County, regardless of their level of observance or affiliation.

Madam Speaker, I ask you to join me in recognition of Chabad Lubavitch of Greater Gainesville and Manassas First Torah. The welcoming of the Torah is a remarkable achievement for the Gainesville Jewish Community, just as they continue to grow and establish a welcoming Jewish community in the area. May God bless the Prince William Chabad Center and I look forward to seeing their presence continue for many years to come.

IN RECOGNITION OF CAPTAIN LAURA HEGGINS RECEIVING THE ROBERT JACKSON EURY MEMORIAL AWARD

HON. RICHARD HUDSON

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 30, 2019

Mr. HUDSON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Captain Laura Heggins on receiving the Robert Jackson Eury Memorial Award.

Captain Heggins started her career in 1992 and was assigned to the Cabarrus County Detention Center as a Sworn Deputy. During her

law enforcement career, Captain Heggins has served on the Mental Health Task Force, as team leader for the Crisis and Hostage Negotiator Committee, and as a basic law enforcement training instructor. She also finds time to work with the homeless through Main Street Mission.

Over the course of her career, Captain Heggins has climbed the ranks and was the first African American woman to ever be promoted to the Lieutenant rank with the Cabarrus County Sheriff's Office. She is hard working, driven, and promotes a level of excellence that is hard to come by, she is a role model for all of us.

The Robert Jackson Eury Memorial Award is presented in memory of Robert Jackson Eury, a man who lost his life in the line of duty while serving as a Cabarrus County law enforcement officer. This award keeps Mr. Eury's legacy alive through officers who share his same admirable and commendable spirit in Cabarrus County. Based on her career of service, I would say Captain Heggins fits the mold of esteemed law enforcement officers in our community set by Robert Eury.

Madam Speaker, please join me today in congratulating Captain Laura Heggins for receiving the Robert Jackson Eury Memorial Award. We all wish her well as she continues to make a positive impact in our community.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 75TH ANNIVERSARY OF EXERCISE TIGER

HON. WILLIAM R. KEATING

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 30, 2019

Mr. KEATING. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 75th anniversary of Exercise Tiger and the 30th anniversary of its monument being erected in New Bedford, Massachusetts.

Dedicated in 1989, this monument honors the lives lost during the attack on Exercise Tiger, a military training operation that was ambushed by a German flotilla on April 28, 1944. This brutal surprise attack, mounted during a D-Day dry run off the coast of Devon, England, claimed the lives of 749 United States service members in the second deadliest episode of World War II behind Pearl Harbor. This proud memorial will serve as a reminder for generations to come of the service of the men and women who fought in World War II and the sacrifices that were made to protect the United States and banner of peace and democracy across the world.

As we observe the 75th anniversary of this tragic loss of life, we are reminded of the high price paid by those who have laid down their lives in defense of our country. I would like to extend a special thanks to the City of New Bedford and the dedicated members of its veteran community, who continue to inspire through their dedication to preserving history and honoring the legacy of our proud service members.

Madam Speaker, it brings me great pleasure to recognize the 30th anniversary of this important monument and to call attention yet again to the memory of all those who tragically lost their lives during Exercise Tiger.

TARGET PRACTICE AND MARKSMANSHIP TRAINING SUPPORT ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. RON KIND

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 29, 2019

Mr. KIND. Mr. Speaker, as a lifelong hunter and clay shooter at the Ettrick and Holmen shooting ranges in Wisconsin, I have enjoyed passing on the Wisconsin hunting tradition to my two boys, and I know firsthand how important these traditions are for many Wisconsin families. That is why I'm concerned about the decline in access to target ranges and gun clubs throughout the nation over the last few decades. Target ranges promote safe hunting and responsible gun ownership, and they are often used to sight in hunting rifles before a hunting season begins.

I also believe it is important to ensure our federal programs are working with hunters and state fish and wildlife agencies to ensure that we can preserve local wildlife and their habitats for generations to come. However, this goal is threatened by a decline in hunters throughout the country—a recent study found that the number of hunters had declined approximately 16 percent since 2011. Hunters have generated billions of dollars for wildlife restoration and hunter safety programs through Pittman-Robertson (PR) funds, which come directly from excise taxes on hunting and shooting equipment. With fewer hunters, there is less money available for protecting our habitats.

As a long time member of the Congressional Sportsmen's Caucus, I am a proud champion of legislation that supports sportsmen's issues, and as a former member of the House Natural Resources Committee, I have built a strong record of voting to protect our natural heritage. This bill supports both causes by giving states more flexibility to use their allocated PR funds to recruit and retain more hunters and recreational shooters through the development and maintenance of public shooting ranges. Under current law, there is a 75 percent federal and 25 percent non-federal cost share for all projects covered under Pittman-Robertson. This bill would adjust that cost share to allow states to use PR dollars to fund as much as 90 percent of the costs of acquiring land for, expanding, or constructing a public target range. It also allows PR funds to remain available to states for up to five fiscal years (compared to two fiscal years under current law) for the use of acquiring land for expanding or constructing a public target range.

I will be pleased to see it pass the House of Representatives unanimously. The bill will go to the President's desk, where I am confident he will sign it into law.

HONORING DR. EDMUND
SCHWEITZER

HON. CATHY McMORRIS RODGERS

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 30, 2019

Mrs. RODGERS of Washington. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Dr. Edmund

O. Schweitzer III. On May 2, 2019, he will be inducted into the National Inventors Hall of Fame for inventing the world's first practical microprocessor digital relay for the power grid.

Before his breakthrough invention, utilities relied on bulky relays made of springs, magnets, and coils. Dr. Schweitzer turned these cumbersome and old systems into precise and reliable ones with a digital relay that is one-eighth the size, one-tenth the weight, and best yet, one-third the price! His multifunctional digital relay not only protects power systems, it also records data and identifies faults. As a result, he's inspired even more inventions that have become the standard features for protective data relays around the globe.

In short, Dr. Schweitzer revolutionized our power grid with computer-based protection and control equipment. Of course, what I'm most proud of is that Pullman, Washington, is home to his great success story. It's where he earned his doctorate at Washington State University in 1977.

It's also in Pullman where Dr. Schweitzer built his company, Schweitzer Engineering Laboratories (SEL), which has created thousands and thousands of jobs in rural Eastern Washington since 1982 and is now a 100 percent employee-owned ESOP.

Madam Speaker, Dr. Schweitzer's professional work is electrical engineering, but his greatest invention is truly in human resources. He's led to create a culture of innovation, opportunity, and respect that has empowered people in my district to have an opportunity for a better life. Right now, SEL employs 5,200 people who develop and manufacture a suite of products that make electric power safer, more reliable, and more affordable for utility companies, mines, factories, hospitals, universities and data centers in 164 countries around the world.

I'm proud to call Dr. Schweitzer a friend and a mentor. It's not an exaggeration to say that his work is the fulfillment of the American Dream. He's a living example of the wonderful accomplishments that are made possible when the seeds of invention are able to grow freely without federal regulations holding them back.

This week, Dr. Schweitzer will have the amazing honor of joining Thomas Edison, George Westinghouse, Nikola Tesla, and Hedy Lamarr in the National Inventors Hall of Fame. On behalf of the 116th United States Congress and Washington's Fifth Congressional District, I'm proud to congratulate him and thank him for his ingenuity that will inspire many Americans for decades to come.

RECOGNIZING AND CONGRATULATING JOSEPH WAKELEY FOR HIS SERVICE AS CRAWFORD COUNTY TREASURER

HON. JACK BERGMAN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 30, 2019

Mr. BERGMAN. Madam Speaker, it is my honor to recognize Joseph V. Wakeley for his retirement as Crawford County Treasurer. Through his exceptional leadership and steadfast devotion to his community, Joe has become an indispensable part of Michigan's First District.

Joe has dedicated more than 45 years to the people of Crawford County and the state of Michigan. Since first taking office in 1973, Joseph has shown a constant vigilance in his stewardship and responsibility for the tax dollars of the citizens that put him in office. From starting as the youngest county treasurer in the state of Michigan to eventually becoming the longest serving, Joseph has never failed to put the needs of his fellow Michiganders first during his service. The trust that the citizens of Crawford County have in Joe is clear—not once during his 45 years in office has he faced a challenger during elections.

Outside of his service as Crawford County Treasurer, Joe has provided valuable support and expertise in other areas, including Rotary, the Jolly Redskin Canoe Livery, the AuSable River Canoe Marathon committee, Michelson Memorial United Methodist Church, Grayling's Project Rising Tide committee, the Beaver Creek-Grayling Townships Utility Authority, and the Michigan Association of County Treasurers. His impact on the people of Northern Michigan cannot be overstated.

Madam Speaker, it is my honor to congratulate Joseph Wakeley for his decades of service to the people of Crawford County. Michiganders can take great pride in knowing the First District is home to such a dedicated public servant. On behalf of my constituents, I wish Joe all the best in his future endeavors.

HONORING ANDREW WEIBRECHT FOR HIS INDUCTION INTO THE SKI AND SNOWBOARD HALL OF FAME

HON. ELISE M. STEFANIK

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 30, 2019

Ms. STEFANIK. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Andrew Weibrecht on his induction into the U.S. Ski and Snowboard Hall of Fame.

Andrew was a valuable and successful member of the U.S. Ski Team for 16 years. His foray onto the world stage began in 2006 at the Junior World Ski Championships where he earned a bronze medal. He then went on to the World Cup where he was on the podium twice and placed in the top-ten eleven times. Andrew captured his first Olympic medal, a bronze at the 2010 Winter Olympic Games, and followed-up with a silver in the 2014 games. He won second place in the 2016 World Cup and soon thereafter announced his retirement. While participating in global competitions, Andrew would proudly wear the Lake Placid brand on his helmet as an official ambassador, demonstrating his pride in the North Country for the world to see.

Andrew Weibrecht's long and successful career is certainly deserving of recognition. He has always been a hometown hero to the residents of the Tri-Lakes region and certainly makes the North Country proud. On behalf of New York's 21st Congressional District, I want to congratulate Andrew on his induction and wish him the best moving forward.

IN RECOGNITION OF NATIONAL
SARCOIDOSIS AWARENESS MONTH

HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 30, 2019

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I rise today on behalf of Americans affected by Sarcoidosis and other related inflammatory diseases to observe April as National Sarcoidosis Awareness Month.

Sarcoidosis can affect any part of the body and cause serious disabilities by forcing one's vital organs and central nervous system to become hyperactive. While this rare and devastating disease annually affects over 200,000 people throughout all demographics, there are significant racial, gender, and age-related differences, as it disproportionately impacts African-Americans, women, and individuals between the ages of 20 and 40.

Although research suggests the cause of Sarcoidosis is a combination of genetic and environmental factors, the exact cause and progression of the disease are still unknown. The unique nature of Sarcoidosis makes it an enigma in the realm of medical science, and despite increasing advances in research, it remains difficult to diagnose with limited treatment options and no known cure. Over the years, several of my colleagues and I have spoken on the House and Senate floors about this fatal disease. During the 103rd session of Congress, I introduced H.J. Res. 399, a House Joint Resolution designating Monday, August 29, 1994, as "National Sarcoidosis Awareness Day" while also urging my colleagues in Congress to support extensive research to find a suitable cure and treatment method for individuals with Sarcoidosis.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives to join me in recognizing April as National Sarcoidosis Awareness Month by acknowledging the need for more efficient research into the causes, diagnostics, and potential treatment options for Sarcoidosis. I am pleased to have the chance to bring a relatively unknown disease to light and to increase public awareness of the need to support individuals with this life-threatening ailment.

HIGHLIGHTING THE VALUE AND
IMPORTANCE OF INTER-
NATIONAL STUDENTS

HON. RODNEY DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 30, 2019

Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I rise today to highlight the value and importance of international students in the United States. I am fortunate enough to represent numerous colleges and universities in my district. I have a deep appreciation for the important role these institutions play in providing opportunities for students around the globe.

The University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, the largest university in my district, enrolls over 10,577 international students from 116 different countries. Illinois State University boasts 502 students from 73 countries and

Southern Illinois University Edwardsville has 368 international students from 24 countries—all of these numbers represent an increase in last year's numbers for each university.

I am proud to represent institutions like these that welcome the world's brightest learners. I believe that today's students become tomorrow's leaders. The former presidents of both Ecuador and the Philippines earned doctorate degrees from universities in my district, and I know that presidents and prime ministers all over the world have earned their college degrees right here in the United States.

Welcoming international students and scholars strengthens our diplomatic ties with countries across the globe and contributes significantly to national security and to our economy. International students are vital to our nation's fabric. Through the exchange of ideals, languages, and cultures, diplomacy is strengthened and our world is made a better place.

INTRODUCTION OF THE NUCLEAR
WEAPONS ABOLITION AND ECO-
NOMIC AND ENERGY CONVER-
SION ACT OF 2019

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 30, 2019

Ms. NORTON. Madam Speaker, today, I am introducing the Nuclear Weapons Abolition and Economic and Energy Conversion Act of 2019, a version of which I have introduced since 1994, after working with the District of Columbia residents who were responsible for the Nuclear Disarmament and Economic Conversion ballot initiative, passed by D.C. voters in 1993. My bill still requires the United States to sign and ratify an international agreement to disable and dismantle America's nuclear weapons, to provide for strict control of fissile material and radioactive waste and to use nuclear-free energy. In lieu of joining such an agreement, this new version of the bill also gives the United States the option to ratify the United Nations Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (Treaty). Many nations have already signed onto the Treaty. The Treaty was drafted by the United Nations in conferences in March and July of 2017, which is why I did not include it in my previous bills. According to the United Nations, the Treaty is "a legally binding instrument to prohibit nuclear weapons, leading towards their total elimination." I am pleased by the international progress on this important issue.

Our bill continues to provide that the funds used for nuclear weapons programs be redirected to human and infrastructure needs, such as housing, health care, Social Security, restoring the environment and creating carbon-free, nuclear-free energy. The conversion to a peace economy would occur when the President certifies to Congress that all countries possessing nuclear weapons have begun elimination under an international treaty or other legal agreement.

The bill is particularly timely considering the ongoing nuclear threat from the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

Our country still has a long list of urgent domestic needs that have been put on the backburner. As the only nation that has used nuclear weapons in war, and that still possesses

one of the largest nuclear weapons arsenals, I urge support for my bill to help the United States reestablish its moral leadership in the world by redirecting funds that would otherwise go to nuclear weapons to urgent domestic needs.

I strongly urge my colleagues to support this legislation.

IN RECOGNITION OF WILLIAM F.
ROGERS, JR., RECEIVING THE
CABARRUS COUNTY LIBERTY
BELL AWARD

HON. RICHARD HUDSON

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 30, 2019

Mr. HUDSON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor William F. "Bill" Rogers, Jr., on receiving the Cabarrus County Bar Association Liberty Bell Award.

A Tennessee native, Bill began his practice in Concord, North Carolina in 1980 focusing on Family Law. Bill has a reputation of being professional, tactful and emotionally supportive to his clients while providing counsel during difficult times.

Bill lives in Cabarrus County with his wife Nanda, and three children, Hannah, Seth and Rachel. When he is not busy with his practice, Bill volunteers for multiple non-profits in the community, including Habitat for Humanity, Coltrane Life Center, Hospice of Cabarrus County, and Cabarrus Workshop. In addition to volunteering and spending time with his family, he enjoys both playing and listening to bluegrass, traveling to the beach, and riding his motorcycle.

The Liberty Bell Award is presented to an individual that educates others on and upholds laws that support American freedom. Throughout his involvement in Cabarrus County, Bill has helped many people regain their confidence in our judicial system by being a constant resource of knowledge. There is no doubt in my mind that Bill will continue to help the people of Cabarrus County with his unwavering commitment to serving others.

Madam Speaker, please join me today in congratulating Bill Rogers as the Cabarrus County Bar Association Liberty Bell Award recipient and wish him well as he continues to uphold our American freedom.

RECOGNIZING THE CONTRIBU-
TIONS OF INTERNATIONAL STU-
DENTS

HON. STEVE STIVERS

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 30, 2019

Mr. STIVERS. Madam Speaker, I rise today on behalf of the people of Ohio's 15th Congressional District to recognize the contributions of international students and scholars.

At a time when nations around the globe are increasing their efforts and deploying new strategies to attract international talent, enrollment in American institutions is on a decline. Ohio's 15th Congressional District, and the nation, benefit from these students, and we are at risk of losing this valuable talent.

In addition to bringing diverse perspectives and new ideas to our classrooms, international students have an economic impact. They create jobs and stimulate our economies. In fact, it is estimated that in the 2017–2018 school year, in the 15th District alone, international students contributed over \$48 million to our economies and created over 500 jobs.

But the economic value that they contribute to this country is not in dollars and jobs alone. In fact, individual current and former international students contribute their talents in our communities each and every day across this great nation.

I'm proud to have international students contributing in a significant way in my own congressional district. To cite just one example, Rebin Muhammed is currently a Ph.D. candidate in Mathematics at Ohio University in Athens. His area of focus is Ring Theory, which is key in the design of codes that facilitate space travel, digital communications, and high-fidelity music recording. Originally from Iraq, he is helping inspire the next generation of mathematicians by volunteering with the Southeast Ohio Math Teachers' Circle and The Math League of Southeast Ohio, which coordinates math-related activities for diverse groups of middle and high school age kids.

It is students like Rebin who deserve an immigration system that works. Perhaps most importantly, we should continue to attract students by creating a path to green cards for the most talented. We should not educate future leaders and innovators, only to force them out of our country when they are on the verge of the next breakthrough.

With tomorrow, May 1, as "Decision Day" for students to commit to colleges across the country, I want prospective international students to know their contributions are valued, and they are welcome here. I urge my colleagues to join me in celebrating the contributions of international students and in working to make sure the United States is the destination of choice for the best and brightest across the globe.

IN RECOGNITION OF MARINE 1ST
LT. BRIAN McPHILLIPS

HON. WILLIAM R. KEATING

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 30, 2019

Mr. KEATING. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the life of Marine 1st Lt. Brian McPhillips of Pembroke, Massachusetts, a dedicated soldier who gave his life protecting his country.

Brian McPhillips was a native of the South Shore of Massachusetts, and attended Boston College High School. McPhillips joined the United States Marines in 1998, and continued to serve following his graduation from Providence College in 2000. He was based out of Camp Lejeune, North Carolina and served with the 2nd Tank Battalion, 2nd Marine Division until deploying to Iraq.

Both in school and during his time with the Marines, McPhillips earned a reputation for being bright, enthusiastic, conscientious, and always willing to go the extra mile. He could have chosen to pursue any number of paths in life, but he was propelled by a deep and enduring love of his country and a desire to be

on the front lines of defending it. Testimonials from former classmates, teachers, and fellow service members speak to McPhillips' unwavering spirit of service and loyalty.

Tragically, Lt. McPhillips passed away on the battlefield on April 4, 2003. As the South Shore's first casualty of the Iraq War, his loss was felt deeply by everyone in the community where he grew up. His memory and spirit will live on through his loving parents, David and Julie McPhillips, his sister Carolyn McPhillips Quigley, and through the legacy of his courage and devotion to his platoon, the military, and to God and country.

IN RECOGNITION OF REAR
ADMIRAL JOHN P. NEAGLEY

HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 30, 2019

Mr. PALLONE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Rear Admiral John P. Neagley of Edison, New Jersey, who is retiring from the United States Navy this year. Rear Admiral Neagley has dedicated 35 years to the Navy and his service is truly deserving of this body's recognition.

Throughout his distinguished career, Rear Admiral Neagley has upheld the principles of duty and valor. He has served at sea extensively and was deployed several times. From his service in Operation Desert Fox, to his command of USS *Fitzgerald* (DDG 62) during deployment in support of Operations Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom, Rear Admiral Neagley has bravely helped maintain the security of our country.

In addition to his service at sea, Rear Admiral Neagley has held various leadership positions in the Office of the Chief of Naval Operations and the Littoral Combat Ship Program Office. In his most recent assignment as Program Executive Officer, Unmanned and Small Combatants, Rear Admiral Neagley was responsible for the Navy's small combatant force, mine warfare capabilities and unmanned maritime systems. His experience, knowledge and initiative have distinguished Rear Admiral Neagley as an outstanding leader who has exemplified honor, integrity and professionalism throughout his Navy career.

Rear Admiral Neagley is a graduate of the University of New Hampshire and received his commission from Officer Candidate School in 1984. He holds a master's degree in Environmental Management from Duke University, a Master of Science degree in Financial Management from the Naval Post Graduate School and a Master of Arts degree in National Security and Strategic Studies from the Naval Command and Staff College.

Madam Speaker, once again, it is my great honor to pay tribute to Rear Admiral John Neagley for his 35 years of service to the United States Navy. I sincerely hope that my colleagues will join me in thanking Rear Admiral Neagley for his honorable service to our great nation.

HONORING YAVAPAI COUNTY
TEACHER OF THE YEAR, LORI
MARKHAM

HON. PAUL A. GOSAR

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 30, 2019

Mr. GOSAR. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor Lori Markham for being chosen as Teacher of the Year by the Yavapai County Education Foundation. Lori is a first-grade teacher at Abia Judd Elementary School in Prescott, Arizona and she is a shining example of an educator who enriches and inspires the students she teaches. Lori is a proud graduate of Northern Arizona University and she is currently in her 24th year of teaching at Judd Elementary school. She has not only dedicated her life to educating her students, but also to bettering the education system in Yavapai County, serving on many district-level committees and as a mentor for new teachers.

Recounting the reasons she became a teacher, Lori mentions she was lucky to have teachers dedicated to her success by not only being role models but parental figures and mentors. She has dedicated two decades inspiring hundreds of children to try hard and dream big.

I thank Lori for working tirelessly to educate and uplift students, and I celebrate the impact she has had on her local community in Yavapai County and the entire state of Arizona.

HONORING JAMES PREMO'S 60
YEARS OF SERVICE TO THE
WESTVILLE VOLUNTEER FIRE
DEPARTMENT

HON. ELISE M. STEFANK

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 30, 2019

Ms. STEFANK. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize a lifetime of dedicated service as James Premo celebrates his 60th year with the Westville Volunteer Fire Department.

James Premo first joined the department in April of 1958, and quickly proved an invaluable asset, serving in a variety of leadership roles including Fire Chief on three separate occasions and as the department's treasurer. He has also proudly served in a number of roles outside of the department such as Franklin County Deputy Coordinator and Fire Investigator, as a member of the board of the New York Association of Fire Chiefs, and on the New York State Firemen's Loan Board.

James Premo has not only bravely served the department and his community as a volunteer firefighter, but also the entirety of New York State in his elected and appointed positions. He has undoubtedly helped foster future generations of firefighters that protect our lives and livelihood, and has left an indelible impact on his community. On behalf of New York's 21st Congressional District, I want to thank James Premo for his many contributions to the North Country and congratulate him on his 60th year with the Westville Volunteer Fire Department.

RECOGNIZING THE ACHIEVEMENTS
OF ISAAC PYLE AND EMMA
MUSTOE, RECIPIENTS OF THE
WEST VIRGINIA GOLDEN HORSE-
SHOE AWARD

HON. CAROL D. MILLER

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 30, 2019

Mrs. MILLER. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize two of my constituents, Isaac Pyle and Emma Mustoe, who each earned the West Virginia Golden Horseshoe award.

The West Virginia Department of Education describes the Golden Horseshoe award as being “unique in its statewide recognition of scholastic achievement.” The award is given annually to two hundred and twenty-one 8th grade students who have outscored their classmates on a West Virginia history exam

and essay about West Virginia current events. A minimum of two students from each county and one student from the West Virginia schools for the Deaf and Blind are selected for the award. In a ceremony during Golden Horseshoe Day, the state superintendent of schools uses an antique sword to dub each kneeling student either a lady or knight of the Golden Horseshoe Society. This is arguably one of the greatest awards of that school year for 8th-grade students.

Soon to be knighted is Isaac Pyle of Webster Springs. Isaac is the son of Jeremy Pyle and Dr. Allison Pyle. An exceptional student, Isaac is a captain of the West Virginia History Bowl Team for Webster County High School. As the winner of his school competition, he has qualified four times for the state Math Field Day and has qualified for the state spelling bee. Isaac proudly maintains a 4.0 GPA and is enrolled in advanced courses.

Emma Mustoe of Webster Springs will also join the rolls as a Lady of the Golden Horseshoe Society. The daughter of Tobby and Janna Mustoe, Emma is a talented writer and performer. She is a winner of the Webster County Young Writers Competition. She is a captain of the West Virginia History Bowl Team for Webster County High School and a winner in the Webster County Regional Literature Fair. Emma is also a member of the award-winning Webster County High School Showband.

As Congresswoman for the Third Congressional District of the State of West Virginia, it is my distinct honor to rise today to recognize the dedication and achievement that Isaac Pyle and Emma Mustoe have put forward in winning the Golden Horseshoe award. I congratulate them on being model students and exemplary West Virginians.

Daily Digest

Senate

Chamber Action

Routine Proceedings, pages S2497–S2531

Measures Introduced: Twenty-eight bills and five resolutions were introduced, as follows: S. 1231–1258, and S. Res. 174–178. **Pages S2515–16**

Measures Passed:

Target Practice and Marksmanship Training Support Act: Senate passed H.R. 1222, to amend the Pittman-Robertson Wildlife Restoration Act to facilitate the establishment of additional or expanded public target ranges in certain States.

Subsequently, Senate vitiated the April 10, 2019 passage of S. 94 and the measure was indefinitely postponed. **Page S2502**

United States commitment to Taiwan: Committee on Foreign Relations was discharged from further consideration of S. Con. Res. 13, reaffirming the United States commitment to Taiwan and to the implementation of the Taiwan Relations Act, and the resolution was then agreed to. **Page S2525**

Federal Rotational Cyber Workforce Program Act: Senate passed S. 406, to establish a Federal rotational cyber workforce program for the Federal cyber workforce, after agreeing to the committee amendment. **Pages S2525–28**

Measures Indefinitely Postponed:

Target Practice and Marksmanship Training Support Act: Senate indefinitely postponed S. 94, to amend the Pittman-Robertson Wildlife Restoration Act to facilitate the establishment of additional or expanded public target ranges in certain States. **Page S2502**

Barker Nomination—Agreement: Senate resumed consideration of the nomination of J. Campbell Barker, of Texas, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Texas. **Pages S2506–08**

During consideration of this nomination today, Senate also took the following action:

By 52 yeas to 46 nays (Vote No. EX. 84), Senate agreed to the motion to close further debate on the nomination. **Pages S2505–06**

A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing that all post-cloture time on the nomination expire at 11:45 a.m., on Wednesday, May 1, 2019. **Page S2505**

A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing for further consideration of the nomination, post-cloture, at approximately 10 a.m., on Wednesday, May 1, 2019, with the time until 11:45 a.m. equally divided between the two Leaders, or their designees. **Page S2528**

Nominations Confirmed: Senate confirmed the following nominations:

By 68 yeas to 31 nays (Vote No. EX. 79), William Cooper, of Maryland, to be General Counsel of the Department of Energy. **Pages S2497–S2501, S2531**

By 90 yeas to 8 nays (Vote No. EX. 81), R. Clarke Cooper, of Florida, to be an Assistant Secretary of State (Political-Military Affairs). **Pages S2502, S2531**

During consideration of this nomination today, Senate also took the following action:

By 91 yeas to 8 nays (Vote No. EX. 80), Senate agreed to the motion to close further debate on the nomination. **Pages S2501–02**

By 72 yeas to 27 nays (Vote No. EX. 83), Gordon Hartogensis, of Connecticut, to be Director of the Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation for a term of five years. **Pages S2503–05, S2531**

During consideration of this nomination today, Senate also took the following action:

By 72 yeas to 27 nays (Vote No. EX. 82), Senate agreed to the motion to close further debate on the nomination. **Pages S2502–03**

Nominations Received: Senate received the following nominations:

B. Chad Bungard, of Maryland, to be a Member of the Merit Systems Protection Board for the term of seven years expiring March 1, 2025.

25 Army nominations in the rank of general.

Routine lists in the Army. **Pages S2530–31**

Messages from the House: **Page S2511**

Measures Referred: **Pages S2511–12**

Executive Communications: **Pages S2512–15**

Additional Cosponsors: **Pages S2516–19**

Statements on Introduced Bills/Resolutions:

Pages S2519–25

Additional Statements:

Pages S2510–11

Authorities for Committees to Meet: Page S2525

Record Votes: Six record votes were taken today. (Total—84)

Pages S2501–03, 2505–06

Adjournment: Senate convened at 10 a.m. and adjourned at 6:58 p.m., until 10 a.m. on Wednesday, May 1, 2019. (For Senate's program, see the remarks of the Acting Majority Leader in today's Record on page S2528.)

Committee Meetings

(Committees not listed did not meet)

APPROPRIATIONS: DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Military Construction and Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies concluded a hearing to examine proposed budget estimates and justification for fiscal year 2020 and advance appropriations requests for 2021 for the Department of Veterans Affairs, after receiving testimony from Robert L. Wilkie, Secretary, Paul R. Lawrence, Under Secretary for Benefits, Veterans Benefits Administration, Randy C. Reeves, Under Secretary for Memorial Affairs, Jon J. Rychalski, Assistant Secretary for Management and Chief Financial Officer, and Richard A. Stone, Executive in Charge, Veterans Health Administration, all of the Department of Veterans Affairs.

APPROPRIATIONS: USAID

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs concluded a hearing to examine proposed budget estimates and justification for fiscal year 2020 for the United States Agency for International Development, after receiving testimony from Mark Green, Administrator, United States Agency for International Development.

NOMINATIONS

Committee on Armed Services: Committee concluded a hearing to examine the nominations of Admiral William F. Moran, USN, for reappointment to the grade of admiral and to be Chief of Naval Operations, and Lieutenant General David H. Berger, USMC, to be general and to be Commandant of the Marine Corps, who was introduced by Senator Kaine, both of the Department of Defense, after the nominees testified and answered questions in their own behalf.

GUIDANCE, SUPERVISORY EXPECTATIONS, AND THE RULE OF LAW

Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs: Committee concluded a hearing to examine how banking agencies regulate and supervise institutions, focusing on guidance, supervisory expectations, and the rule of law, after receiving testimony from Greg Baer, Bank Policy Institute, Washington, D.C.; Margaret E. Tahyar, Davis Polk and Wardwell LLP, New York, New York; and Patricia A. McCoy, Boston College Law School, Boston, Massachusetts.

CYBERSECURITY OF THE INTERNET OF THINGS

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation: Subcommittee on Security concluded a hearing to examine strengthening the cybersecurity of the Internet of Things, after receiving testimony from Charles H. Romine, Director, Information Technology Laboratory, National Institute of Standards and Technology, Department of Commerce; Matthew J. Eggers, U.S. Chamber of Commerce, and Robert Mayer, USTelecom, both of Washington, D.C.; Mike Bergman, Consumer Technology Association, Arlington, Virginia; and Harley Geiger, Rapid7, Boston, Massachusetts.

U.S. GLOBAL LEADERSHIP IN NUCLEAR ENERGY

Committee on Energy and Natural Resources: Committee concluded a hearing to examine pathways to reestablish United States global leadership in nuclear energy, including S. 903, to direct the Secretary of Energy to establish advanced nuclear goals, provide for a versatile, reactor-based fast neutron source, make available high-assay, low-enriched uranium for research, development, and demonstration of advanced nuclear reactor concepts, after receiving testimony from Mark Peters, Laboratory Director, Idaho National Laboratory, Department of Energy; Jeffrey S. Merrifield, former Commissioner, Nuclear Regulatory Commission, and Pillsbury Winthrop Shaw Pittman LLP, and Maria Korsnick, Nuclear Energy Institute, both of Washington, D.C.; Ashley E. Finan, Nuclear Innovation Alliance, Jamestown, Rhode Island; and Mark McManus, United Association of Journeymen and Apprentices of the Plumbing and Pipe Fitting Industry of the United States and Canada, AFL–CIO, Annapolis, Maryland.

NOMINATIONS

Committee on the Judiciary: Committee concluded a hearing to examine the nominations of Ada E. Brown, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of Texas, Steven D. Grimberg, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of Georgia, who was introduced by Senator

Isakson, David John Novak, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Virginia, who was introduced by Senator Kaine, and Matthew H. Solomson, of Maryland, to be a Judge of the United States Court of Federal Claims, after the nominees testified and answered questions in their own behalf.

INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY

Committee on the Judiciary: Subcommittee on Intellectual Property concluded a hearing to examine World Intellectual Property Day 2019, focusing on the role of intellectual property in sports and public safety,

after receiving testimony from Matt Priest, Footwear Distributors and Retailers of America, Washington, D.C.; Andrew Love, Specialized Bicycles, Salt Lake City, Utah; and Riche T. McKnight, Endeavor, and Michael Potenza, NBA Properties, Inc., both of New York, New York.

INTELLIGENCE

Select Committee on Intelligence: Committee held closed hearings on intelligence matters, receiving testimony from officials of the intelligence community.

Committee recessed subject to the call.

House of Representatives

Chamber Action

Public Bills and Resolutions Introduced: 30 public bills, H.R. 2396–2425; and 5 resolutions, H. Res. 331–335, were introduced. **Pages H3338–40**

Additional Cosponsors: **Pages H3341–42**

Report Filed: A report was filed today as follows:

H.R. 986, to provide that certain guidance related to waivers for State innovation under the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act shall have no force or effect (H. Rept. 116–44, Part 1). **Page H3338**

Speaker: Read a letter from the Speaker wherein she appointed Representative Phillips to act as Speaker pro tempore for today. **Page H3307**

Recess: The House recessed at 10:21 a.m. and reconvened at 12 noon. **Page H3309**

Guest Chaplain: The prayer was offered by the Guest Chaplain, Rev. Hardy Kim, Sunnyvale Presbyterian Church, Sunnyvale, CA. **Page H3309**

Suspensions: The House agreed to suspend the rules and pass the following measures:

Encouraging greater public-private sector collaboration to promote financial literacy for students and young adults: H. Res. 327, amended, encouraging greater public-private sector collaboration to promote financial literacy for students and young adults; **Pages H3312–14**

National Senior Investor Initiative Act of 2019: H.R. 1876, to create an interdivisional taskforce at the Securities and Exchange Commission for senior investors, by a $\frac{2}{3}$ yeas-and-nays vote of 392 yeas to 20 nays, Roll No. 170; **Pages H3314–16, H3321–22**

Supporting the protection of elders through financial literacy: H. Res. 328, supporting the pro-

tection of elders through financial literacy, by a $\frac{2}{3}$ yeas-and-nays vote of 411 yeas to 6 nays, Roll No. 171; **Pages H3316–18, H3322**

Designating the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 3033 203rd Street in Olympia Fields, Illinois, as the “Captain Robert L. Martin Post Office”: H.R. 1449, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 3033 203rd Street in Olympia Fields, Illinois, as the “Captain Robert L. Martin Post Office”; **Pages H3319–20**

Designating the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 404 South Boulder Highway in Henderson, Nevada, as the “Henderson Veterans Memorial Post Office Building”: H.R. 1198, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 404 South Boulder Highway in Henderson, Nevada, as the “Henderson Veterans Memorial Post Office Building”; and **Page H3320**

Designating the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 25 Route 111 in Smithtown, New York, as the “Congressman Bill Carney Post Office”: H.R. 828, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 25 Route 111 in Smithtown, New York, as the “Congressman Bill Carney Post Office”. **Pages H3320–21**

Privileged Resolution—Intent to Offer: Representative Green (TN) announced his intent to offer a privileged resolution. **Pages H3318–19**

Senate Message: Message received from the Senate by the Clerk and subsequently presented to the House today appears on page H3322.

Quorum Calls Votes: Two yea-and-nay votes developed during the proceedings of today and appear on pages H3321–22 and H3322. There were no quorum calls.

Adjournment: The House met at 10 a.m. and adjourned at 4:16 p.m.

Committee Meetings

REVIEWING THE STATE OF THE DAIRY ECONOMY

Committee on Agriculture: Subcommittee on Livestock and Foreign Agriculture held a hearing entitled “Reviewing the State of the Dairy Economy”. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

APPROPRIATIONS—DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on the Department of Homeland Security held a budget hearing on the Department of Homeland Security. Testimony was heard from Chip Fulghum, Acting Under Secretary for Management, Department of Homeland Security; and Kevin McAleenan, Acting Secretary, Department of Homeland Security.

APPROPRIATIONS—BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS AND BUREAU OF INDIAN EDUCATION

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies held a budget hearing on the Bureau of Indian Affairs and Bureau of Indian Education. Testimony was heard from the following Department of the Interior officials: Johnna Blackhair, Acting Deputy Bureau Director—Trust Services, Bureau of Indian Affairs; Tony Dearman, Director, Bureau of Indian Education; and Tara Katuk Mac Lean Sweeney, Assistant Secretary for Indian Affairs.

2020 CENSUS PREPARATION

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies held an oversight hearing on the 2020 Census Preparation. Testimony was heard from Steven Dillingham, Director, U.S. Census Bureau; Robert Goldenkoff, Director of Strategic Issues, Government Accountability Office; and Nicholas Marinos, Director, Information Technology and Cybersecurity, Government Accountability Office.

APPROPRIATIONS—U.S. NAVY AND U.S. MARINE CORPS

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Defense held a budget hearing on the U.S. Navy and U.S. Marine Corps. Testimony was heard from General Robert B. Neller, Commandant of the Marine Corps;

Admiral John M. Richardson, Chief of Naval Operations, U.S. Navy; and Richard V. Spencer, Secretary of the Navy.

APPROPRIATIONS—FEDERAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on the Department of Homeland Security held a budget hearing on the Federal Emergency Management Agency. Testimony was heard from Peter Gaynor, Acting Administrator, Federal Emergency Management Agency.

MISCELLANEOUS MEASURE

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies held a markup on the Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill, FY 2020. The Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill, FY 2020, was forwarded to the full Committee, without amendment.

FERES DOCTRINE—A POLICY IN NEED OF REFORM?

Committee on Armed Services: Subcommittee on Military Personnel held a hearing entitled “Feres Doctrine—A Policy in Need of Reform?”. Testimony was heard from Sergeant First Class Richard Stayskal, U.S. Army, Special Forces Green Beret; and public witnesses.

BROWN V. BOARD OF EDUCATION AT 65: A PROMISE UNFULFILLED

Committee on Education and Labor: Full Committee held a hearing entitled “Brown v. Board of Education at 65: A Promise Unfulfilled”. Testimony was heard from Richard A. Carranza, New York City Schools Chancellor, New York City Department of Education, New York, New York; and public witnesses.

LEGISLATING TO STOP THE ONSLAUGHT OF ANNOYING ROBOCALLS

Committee on Energy and Commerce: Subcommittee on Communications and Technology held a hearing entitled “Legislating to Stop the Onslaught of Annoying Robocalls”. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

PRESCRIPTION DRUG COVERAGE IN THE MEDICARE PROGRAM

Committee on Energy and Commerce: Subcommittee on Health held a hearing entitled “Prescription Drug Coverage in the Medicare Program”. Testimony was heard from James E. Mathews, Executive Director, Medicare Payment Advisory Commission.

HOUSING IN AMERICA ASSESSING THE INFRASTRUCTURE NEEDS OF AMERICA'S HOUSING STOCK

Committee on Financial Services: Full Committee held a hearing entitled "Housing in America Assessing the Infrastructure Needs of America's Housing Stock". Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

ENDING DEBT TRAPS IN THE PAYDAY AND SMALL DOLLAR CREDIT INDUSTRY

Committee on Financial Services: Subcommittee on Consumer Protection and Financial Institutions held a hearing entitled "Ending Debt Traps in the Payday and Small Dollar Credit Industry". Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

KOSOVO'S WARTIME VICTIMS: THE QUEST FOR JUSTICE

Committee on Foreign Affairs: Full Committee held a hearing entitled "Kosovo's Wartime Victims: The Quest for Justice". Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

EXAMINING THE GLOBAL TERRORISM LANDSCAPE

Committee on Foreign Affairs: Subcommittee on the Middle East, North Africa, and International Terrorism held a hearing entitled "Examining the Global Terrorism Landscape". Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

UN PEACEKEEPING OPERATIONS IN AFRICA

Committee on Foreign Affairs: Subcommittee on Africa, Global Health, Global Human Rights, and International Organizations held a hearing entitled "UN Peacekeeping Operations in Africa". Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

THE IMPACTS OF THE TRUMP POLICIES ON BORDER COMMUNITIES

Committee on Homeland Security: Subcommittee on Border Security, Facilitation, and Operations held a hearing entitled "The Impacts of the Trump Policies on Border Communities". Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

RESOURCING DHS' CYBERSECURITY AND INNOVATION MISSIONS: A REVIEW OF THE FISCAL YEAR 2020 BUDGET REQUEST FOR THE CYBERSECURITY AND INFRASTRUCTURE SECURITY AGENCY AND THE SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY DIRECTORATE

Committee on Homeland Security: Subcommittee on Cybersecurity, Infrastructure Protection and Innovation held a hearing entitled "Resourcing DHS' Cyberse-

curity and Innovation Missions: A Review of the Fiscal Year 2020 Budget Request for the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency and the Science and Technology Directorate". Testimony was heard from Christopher C. Krebs, Director, Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency, Department of Homeland Security; and William Bryan, Senior Official Performing the Duties of the Under Secretary, Science and Technology Directorate, Department of Homeland Security.

EQUAL RIGHTS AMENDMENT

Committee on the Judiciary: Subcommittee on the Constitution, Civil Rights, and Civil Liberties held a hearing entitled "Equal Rights Amendment". Testimony was heard from Representatives Carolyn B. Maloney of New York and Speier; Pat Spearman, Senator, Nevada State Senate; and public witnesses.

MISCELLANEOUS MEASURES

Committee on the Judiciary: Full Committee held a markup on H.R. 965, the "CREATES Act"; H.R. 2375, the "Preserve Access to Affordable Generics and Biosimilars Act"; H.R. 2374, the "Stop Significant and Time-wasting Abuse Limiting Legitimate Innovation of New Generics Act"; and H.R. 2376, the "Prescription Pricing for People Act of 2019". H.R. 2375, H.R. 965, H.R. 2374, and H.R. 2376 were ordered reported, without amendment.

PUBLIC LANDS AND OUR CLEAN ENERGY FUTURE

Committee on Natural Resources: Subcommittee on Energy and Mineral Resources held a hearing entitled "Public Lands and our Clean Energy Future". Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

NO ROAD MAP, NO DESTINATION, NO JUSTIFICATION: THE IMPLEMENTATION AND IMPACTS OF THE REORGANIZATION OF THE DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Committee on Natural Resources: Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations held a hearing entitled "No Road Map, No Destination, No Justification: The Implementation and Impacts of the Reorganization of the Department of the Interior". Testimony was heard from Scott Cameron, Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary for Policy, Management and Budget, Department of the Interior; and public witnesses.

LEGISLATIVE MEASURES

Committee on Natural Resources: Subcommittee on National Parks, Forests, and Public Lands held a hearing on H.R. 642, the "Oil Region National Heritage Area Reauthorization Act"; H.R. 1049, the "National Heritage Area Act of 2019"; H.R. 1990, the "National Aviation Heritage Area Reauthorization

Act”; and H.R. 2288, the “Erie Canalway National Heritage Corridor Reauthorization Act”. Testimony was heard from Representatives Tonko and Thompson of Pennsylvania; P. Daniel Smith, Deputy Director, National Park Service, Department of the Interior; and public witnesses.

THE FINANCIAL CONDITION OF THE POSTAL SERVICE

Committee on Oversight and Reform: Full Committee held a hearing entitled “The Financial Condition of the Postal Service”. Testimony was heard from Megan J. Brennan, Postmaster General, U.S. Postal Service; Margaret M. Cigno, Director, Office of Accountability and Compliance, Postal Regulatory Commission; and public witnesses.

CLIMATE CHANGE, PART II: THE PUBLIC HEALTH EFFECTS

Committee on Oversight and Reform: Subcommittee on Environment held a hearing entitled “Climate Change, Part II: The Public Health Effects”. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

MEDICARE FOR ALL ACT OF 2019

Committee on Rules: Full Committee held a hearing on H.R. 1384, the “Medicare for All Act of 2019 [Original Jurisdiction Hearing]”. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

A REVIEW OF THE NOAA FISCAL YEAR 2020 BUDGET REQUEST

Committee on Science, Space, and Technology: Subcommittee on Environment held a hearing entitled “A Review of the NOAA Fiscal Year 2020 Budget Request”. Testimony was heard from Neil Jacobs, Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Environmental Observation and Prediction, Performing the Duties of Under Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

CLOSING THE LOOP: EMERGING TECHNOLOGIES IN PLASTICS RECYCLING

Committee on Science, Space, and Technology: Subcommittee on Research and Technology held a hearing entitled “Closing the Loop: Emerging Technologies in Plastics Recycling”. Testimony was heard from Paul Sincock, City Manager, Plymouth, Michigan; Gregg Beckham, Senior Research Fellow, National Renewable Energy Laboratory; and public witnesses.

LOST OPPORTUNITIES? SBA’S ENGAGEMENT WITH HISTORICALLY BLACK COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES

Committee on Small Business: Subcommittee on Investigations, Oversight, and Regulations held a hearing

entitled “Lost Opportunities? SBA’s Engagement with Historically Black Colleges and Universities”. Testimony was heard from Anna Maria Ortiz, Acting Director, Financial Markets and Community Investment, Government Accountability Office; Allen Gutierrez, Associate Administrator, Office of Entrepreneurial Development, Small Business Administration; and public witnesses.

LEGISLATIVE MEASURES

Committee on Veterans’ Affairs: Subcommittee on Health held a hearing on H.R. 100, the “Veteran Overmedication and Suicide Prevention Act of 2019”; H.R. 712, the “VA Medicinal Cannabis Research Act of 2019”; H.R. 1647, the “Veterans Equal Access Act”; H.R. 2191, the “Veterans Cannabis Use for Safe Healing Act”; legislation on GAO Suicide Prevention; legislation on VA—Whole Health; legislation on GAO MOU and MOA; and legislation on Suicide Notification. Testimony was heard from Representatives Blumenauer, Brindisi, Correa, Rose of New York, Lamb, and Steube; Keita Franklin, National Director of Suicide Prevention, Office of Mental Health and Suicide Prevention, Department of Veterans Affairs; and public witnesses.

FISCAL YEAR 2020 PRESIDENT’S BUDGET: REQUESTS RELATED TO VETERANS’ READJUSTMENT BENEFITS

Committee on Veterans’ Affairs: Subcommittee on Economic Opportunity held a hearing entitled “Fiscal Year 2020 President’s Budget: Requests Related to Veterans’ Readjustment Benefits”. Testimony was heard from Dominic Cussatt, Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary, Office of Information and Technology, Department of Veterans Affairs; Margarita Devlin, Principal Deputy Undersecretary for Benefits, Veterans Benefits Administration; Brian Davis, Director, Defense Personnel and Family Support Center, Department of Defense; Sam Shellenberger, Deputy Assistant Secretary, Veterans Employment and Training Service, Department of Labor; and public witnesses.

SOLVING THE CLIMATE CRISIS: DRAWING DOWN CARBON AND BUILDING UP THE AMERICAN ECONOMY

Select Committee on the Climate Crisis: Full Committee held a hearing entitled “Solving the Climate Crisis: Drawing Down Carbon and Building Up the American Economy”. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

Joint Meetings

EXPANDING OPPORTUNITY

Joint Economic Committee: Committee concluded a hearing to examine expanding opportunity by strengthening families, communities, and civil society, after receiving testimony from Nathaniel Hendren, Harvard University, Cambridge, Massachusetts; Ryan Streeter, American Enterprise Institute, Washington, D.C.; Jose A. Quinonez, Mission Asset Fund, San Francisco, California; and Patrick Sharkey, New York University, New York, New York.

BUSINESS MEETING

Joint Committee on the Library: Committee adopted its rules of procedure for the 116th Congress.

BUSINESS MEETING

Joint Committee on Printing: Committee adopted its rules of procedure for the 116th Congress.

COMMITTEE MEETINGS FOR WEDNESDAY, MAY 1, 2019

(Committee meetings are open unless otherwise indicated)

Senate

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Department of the Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies, to hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates and justification for fiscal year 2020 for the Department of Health and Human Services, Indian Health Service, 9:30 a.m., SD-124.

Subcommittee on Department of Defense, to hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates and justification for fiscal year 2020 for the Navy and Marine Corps, 10 a.m., SD-192.

Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies, to hold hearings to examine the proposed budget estimates and justification for the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, 2:30 p.m., SD-192.

Subcommittee on Energy and Water Development, to hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates and justification for fiscal year 2020 for the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, 2:30 p.m., SD-138.

Committee on Armed Services: Subcommittee on Strategic Forces, to hold hearings to examine United States nuclear weapons policy, programs, and strategy in review of the Defense Authorization Request for fiscal year 2020 and Future Years Defense Program, 2:30 p.m., SR-222.

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation: to hold hearings to examine consumer perspectives, focusing on policy principles for a Federal data privacy framework, 10 a.m., SD-G50.

Committee on Environment and Public Works: to hold hearings to examine an original bill entitled, "Nuclear Waste Policy Amendments Act of 2019", 10 a.m., SD-406.

Committee on Foreign Relations: to hold hearings to examine the humanitarian impact of eight years of war in Syria, 10:15 a.m., SD-419.

Committee on Indian Affairs: to hold hearings to examine S. 279, to allow tribal grant schools to participate in the Federal Employee Health Benefits Program, S. 790, to clarify certain provisions of Public Law 103-116, the Catawba Indian Tribe of South Carolina Land Claims Settlement Act of 1993, S. 832, to nullify the Supplemental Treaty Between the United States of America and the Confederated Tribes and Bands of Indians of Middle Oregon, concluded on November 15, 1865, 2:30 p.m., SD-628.

Committee on the Judiciary: to hold hearings to examine the Department of Justice's investigation of Russian interference with the 2016 presidential election, 10 a.m., SD-226.

Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship: to hold hearings to examine reauthorization of the Small Business Administration's Entrepreneurial Development Programs, 2:30 p.m., SR-428A.

Select Committee on Intelligence: to hold hearings to examine the nomination of Christopher Scolese, of New York, to be Director of the National Reconnaissance Office, 9 a.m., SH-216.

House

Committee on Agriculture, Subcommittee on Commodity Exchanges, Energy, and Credit, hearing entitled "The State of the CFTC", 10 a.m., 1300 Longworth.

Committee on Appropriations, Subcommittee on the Department of Homeland Security, budget hearing on the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency, 9:30 a.m., 2008 Rayburn.

Subcommittee on Defense, budget hearing on the Department of Defense, 10 a.m., 2359 Rayburn.

Subcommittee on Legislative Branch, markup on the Legislative Branch Appropriations Bill, FY 2020, 1 p.m., 2362-A Rayburn.

Subcommittee on Military Construction, Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies, markup on the Military Construction, Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill, FY 2020, 3 p.m., HT-2 Capitol.

Committee on Armed Services, Full Committee, hearing entitled "National Security Challenges and U.S. Military Activity in North and South America", 10 a.m., 2118 Rayburn.

Subcommittee on Tactical Air and Land Forces, hearing entitled "Department of the Army Modernization Programs", 2 p.m., 2118 Rayburn.

Subcommittee on Readiness, hearing entitled "Fiscal Year 2020 Budget Request for Military Construction, Energy, and Environmental Programs", 2:30 p.m., 2212 Rayburn.

Committee on Education and Labor, Full Committee, hearing entitled "Examining the Policies and Priorities of the U.S. Department of Labor", 10:15 a.m., 2175 Rayburn.

Committee on Energy and Commerce, Subcommittee on Energy, hearing entitled "The State of Pipeline Safety and Security in America", 10 a.m., 2123 Rayburn.

Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations, hearing entitled “DOE’s Mounting Cleanup Costs: Billions in Environmental Liability and Growing”, 10:30 a.m., 2322 Rayburn.

Committee on Financial Services, Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations, hearing entitled “Examining Discrimination in the Automobile Loan and Insurance Industries”, 10 a.m., 2128 Rayburn.

Subcommittee on Diversity and Inclusion, hearing entitled “Good for the Bottom Line: A Review of the Business Case for Diversity and Inclusion”, 2 p.m., 2128 Rayburn.

Committee on Foreign Affairs, Full Committee, hearing entitled “Countering a Resurgent Russia”, 10 a.m., 2172 Rayburn.

Committee on Homeland Security, Full Committee, hearing entitled “Trouble at the Top: Are Vacancies at the Department of Homeland Security Undermining the Mission?”, 10 a.m., 310 Cannon.

Committee on the Judiciary, Full Committee, markup on a motion to permit an additional hour of questioning, equally divided between the Majority and Minority, by either Members or Committee staff, as designated by the Chair and Ranking Member at the Full Committee Hearing on May 2, 2019 entitled “Oversight of the U.S. Department of Justice: Report by Special Counsel Robert S. Mueller, III on the Investigation Into Russian Interference in the 2016 Presidential Election; and Related Matters”; and H.R. 5, the “Equality Act”, 10 a.m., 2141 Rayburn.

Committee on Natural Resources, Full Committee, markup on H.R. 255, the “Big Bear Land Exchange Act”; H.R. 278, to direct the Secretary of the Interior to convey certain facilities, easements, and rights-of-way to the Kennewick Irrigation District, and for other purposes; H.R. 312, the “Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe Reservation Reaffirmation Act”; H.R. 315, the “Community Reclamation Partnerships Act”; H.R. 375, to amend the Act of June 18, 1934, to reaffirm the authority of the Secretary of the Interior to take land into trust for Indian Tribes, and for other purposes; H.R. 434, the “Emancipation National Historic Trail Act”; H.R. 537, the “Bureau of Reclamation Pumped Storage Hydropower Development Act”; H.R. 1014, to amend the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act to apply to territories of the United States, to establish offshore wind lease sale requirements, to provide dedicated funding for coral reef conservation, and for other purposes; H.R. 1146, the “Arctic Cultural and Coastal Plain Protection Act”; H.R. 1261, the “National Landslide Preparedness Act”; H.R. 1568, the “SAVE Right Whales Act”; H.R. 1809, to amend the Pittman-Robertson Wildlife Restoration Act and the Dingell-Johnson Sport Fish Restoration Act, to provide parity for United States territories and the District of Columbia, to make technical corrections to such Acts and related laws, and for other purposes; H.R. 2156, the “RECLAIM Act of 2019”, 10 a.m., 1324 Longworth.

Subcommittee on Water, Oceans, and Wildlife, hearing entitled “The State of Fisheries”, 2 p.m., 1324 Longworth.

Committee on Oversight and Reform, Subcommittee on Civil Rights and Civil Liberties, hearing entitled “Protecting the Right to Vote: Best and Worst Practices”, 2 p.m., 2154 Rayburn.

Committee on Science, Space, and Technology, Full Committee, markup on H.R. 34, the “Energy and Water Research Integration Act of 2019”; legislation on the American Manufacturing Leadership Act; H.R. 1237, the “COAST Research Act of 2019”; H.R. 1716, the “Coastal Communities Ocean Acidification Act of 2019”; H.R. 1921, the “Ocean Acidification Innovation Act of 2019”; and H.R. 988, the “NEAR Act of 2019”, 10 a.m., 2318 Rayburn.

Committee on Small Business, Full Committee, markup on H.R. 277, the “Access to Sufficient Capital for Everyone in Natural Disaster areas Act of 2019”; H.R. 2142, to amend the Small Business Act to require the Small Business and Agriculture Regulatory Enforcement Ombudsman to create a centralized website for compliance guides, and for other purposes; H.R. 1649, the “Small Business Development Center Cyber Training Act of 2019”; H.R. 1648, the “Small Business Advanced Cybersecurity Enhancements Act of 2019”; H.R. 2331, the “SBA Cyber Awareness Act of 2019”; and H.R. 2345, the “Clarifying the Small Business Runway Extension Act of 2019”, 11:30 a.m., 2360 Rayburn.

Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, Full Committee, hearing entitled “Member’s Day Hearing”, 10 a.m., 2167 Rayburn.

Committee on Veterans’ Affairs, Subcommittee on Economic Opportunity, markup on H.R. 95, the “Homeless Veteran Families Act”; H.R. 444, the “Reduce Unemployment for Veterans of All Ages Act”; H.R. 1988, the “Protect Affordable Mortgages for Veterans Act”; H.R. 2109, the “BRAVE Act”; H.R. 2196, to amend title 38, United States Code, to reduce the credit hour requirement for the Edith Nourse Rogers STEM Scholarship program of the Department of Veterans Affairs; H.R. 2326, the “Navy SEAL Chief Petty Officer William ‘Bill’ Mulder (Ret.) Transition Improvement Act”; legislation to amend title 38, United States Code, to adjust certain limits on the guaranteed amount of a home loan under the home loan program of the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes; legislation to amend title 38, United States Code, to make certain improvements to the educational assistance programs of the Department of Veterans Affairs with respect to flight training programs and certain other programs of education, and for other purposes; legislation to amend the United States Housing Act of 1937 and title 38, United States Code, to expand eligibility for the HUD–VASH program, to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to submit annual reports to the Committees on Veterans’ Affairs of the Senate and House of Representatives regarding homeless veterans, and for other purposes; legislation on the Homes for Our Heroes Act of 2019; H.R. 2221, the “Fry Scholarship Improvement Act of 2019”; H.R. 2045, the “VET OPP Act”, 10 a.m., 1334 Longworth.

Subcommittee on Disability Assistance and Memorial Affairs, hearing on H.R. 1199, the “VA Website Accessibility Act of 2019”; H.R. 1200, the “Veterans’ Compensation Cost-of-Living Adjustment Act of 2019”; H.R. 1126, the “Honoring Veterans’ Families Act”; H.R. 1628, the “Enewetak Atoll Cleanup Radiation Study Act”; H.R. 1826, the “Veterans Valuing Our Widows and Widowers Act”; legislation to permit the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to establish a grant program to conduct cemetery research and produce educational materials

for the Veterans Legacy Program; legislation to update H.R. 299, 2 p.m., 1334 Longworth.

Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence, Subcommittee on Strategic Technologies and Advanced Research, hearing entitled “Fiscal Year 2020 National Reconnaissance and National Geospatial Program Budget Requests Hearing”, 9 a.m., HVC-304. This hearing will be closed.

Select Committee on the Modernization of Congress, Full Committee, hearing entitled “Former Members Hearing: Speaking from Experience”, 2 p.m., 1100 Longworth.

Next Meeting of the SENATE

10 a.m., Wednesday, May 1

Senate Chamber

Program for Wednesday: Senate will continue consideration of the nomination of J. Campbell Barker, of Texas, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Texas, post-cloture, and vote on confirmation of the nomination at 11:45 a.m.

Following disposition of the nomination of J. Campbell Barker, Senate will vote on the motion to invoke cloture on the nomination of Andrew Lynn Brasher, of Alabama, to be United States District Judge for the Middle District of Alabama.

Next Meeting of the HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

10 a.m., Wednesday, May 1

House Chamber

Program for Wednesday: Consideration of H.R. 9—Climate Action Now Act (Subject to a Rule).

Extensions of Remarks, as inserted in this issue

HOUSE

Bergman, Jack, Mich., E510
Bishop, Sanford D., Jr., Ga., E507, E511
Correa, J. Luis, Calif., E507
Cunningham, Joe, S.C., E509
Davis, Rodney, Ill., E511
Gosar, Paul, Ariz., E512
Hudson, Richard, N.C., E509, E511

Johnson, Dusty, S. Dak., E506
Keating, William R., Mass., E509, E512
Kilmer, Derek, Wash., E506
Kind, Ron, Wisc., E510
Lieu, Ted, Calif., E507
McCollum, Betty, Minn., E508
McMorris Rodgers, Cathy, Wash., E510
Miller, Carol D., W. Va. E505, E513
Murphy, Stephanie M., Fla., E508

Norton, Eleanor Holmes, The District of Columbia, E511
Pallone, Frank, Jr., N.J., E512
Panetta, Jimmy, Calif., E505
Slotkin, Elissa, Mich., E506
Stefanik, Elise M., N.Y., E507, E510, E512
Stivers, Steve, Ohio, E511
Taylor, Van, Tex., E506
Wittman, Robert J., Va., E509



Congressional Record

printed pursuant to directions of the Joint Committee on Printing as authorized by appropriate provisions of Title 44, United States Code, and published for each day that one or both Houses are in session, excepting very infrequent instances when two or more unusually small consecutive issues are printed one time. ¶Public access to the *Congressional Record* is available online through the U.S. Government Publishing Office, at www.govinfo.gov, free of charge to the user. The information is updated online each day the *Congressional Record* is published. For more information, contact the GPO Customer Contact Center, U.S. Government Publishing Office. Phone 202-512-1800, or 866-512-1800 (toll-free). E-Mail, contactcenter@gpo.gov. ¶To place an order for any of these products, visit the U.S. Government Online Bookstore at: bookstore.gpo.gov. Mail orders to: Superintendent of Documents, P.O. Box 979050, St. Louis, MO 63197-9000, or phone orders to 866-512-1800 (toll-free), 202-512-1800 (D.C. area), or fax to 202-512-2104. Remit check or money order, made payable to the Superintendent of Documents, or use VISA, MasterCard, Discover, American Express, or GPO Deposit Account. ¶Following each session of Congress, the daily *Congressional Record* is revised, printed, permanently bound and sold by the Superintendent of Documents in individual parts or by sets. ¶With the exception of copyrighted articles, there are no restrictions on the republication of material from the *Congressional Record*.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to the Superintendent of Documents, *Congressional Record*, U.S. Government Publishing Office, Washington, D.C. 20402, along with the entire mailing label from the last issue received.

The *Congressional Record* (USPS 087-390). The Periodicals postage is paid at Washington, D.C. The public proceedings of each House of Congress, as reported by the Official Reporters thereof, are