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WASHINGTON, TUESDAY, MAY 7, 2019

No. 75

House of Representatives

The House met at noon and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. GOMEZ).

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,

May 7, 2019.

I hereby appoint the Honorable JIMMY GOMEZ 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 1:50 p.m. Each Member, other than the majority and minority leaders and the minority whip, shall be limited to 5 minutes.

RECOGNIZING STUDENT ATHLETES FOR GENEROSITY AND COMMUNITY SERVICE

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

Mr. SMITH of Nebraska. Mr. Speaker, I rise to bring attention to the outstanding community service demonstrated by the student athletes from North Central Sports Club in Nebraska.

Harsh weather and devastating flooding has hit much of Nebraska this spring, causing destruction to many homes and communities and agri-

culture-producing facilities throughout our State. The recovery has not been easy, but the hard work, dedication, and generosity of Nebraskans has been on full display since the disaster struck. I want to highlight one group, the North Central Sports Club, which is made up of student athletes from Rock County and Keya Paha County, Nebraska.

These student athletes were excited for their upcoming trip, an annual tradition, after completing the hard work of not only their competitive sports seasons and academic requirements, but also the fundraising which keeps the program running. However, instead of taking their annual trip, the students decided to donate the funds to help with the recovery of their neighboring community, which suffered much more of the storm's damage.

Mr. Speaker, Nebraskans don't scare from a challenge, nor do they stand by as their friends and neighbors suffer. I am honored to recognize these student athletes from Rock County and Keya Paha County, Nebraska, for their generosity and community service.

PROTECTING AMERICANS WITH PREEXISTING CONDITIONS

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

Mr. COURTNEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise this afternoon to spotlight that, a couple days from now, the House of Representatives will be voting on H.R. 986, which is an act protecting Americans with preexisting conditions.

Again, this is a measure to reverse a decision that was made last October by the Trump administration. It was an administrative guidance in the Department of Health and Human Services which basically opened the doors for States to submit waivers from the Affordable Care Act's protections for pa-

tients, which, almost universally, are supported by the American people.

For example, in the law, it banned the use of preexisting condition exclusions by insurance companies both for individuals applying for insurance and for those who actually got insurance but then had their bills denied because of preexisting conditions.

With the stroke of a pen, in March 2010, the Affordable Care Act abolished that practice by insurance companies, which basically was a discriminatory practice for people, again, who, through no fault of their own, had medical conditions which they could not control.

It also eliminated lifetime limits. In other words, insurance companies capped the amount of medical bills that they would pay, so somebody with a cancer or a serious chronic condition would run into those caps and basically be in bankruptcy land.

And lastly, it established essential health benefits, which were defined by the Institute of Medicine, not a political organization, based on what, in fact, health insurance should cover, for example, behavioral health, maternal and child benefits, et cetera.

This decision by the Trump administration last October basically knocked out the guardrails in the ACA waiver process, which, again, every observer and commentator said would open the door again to insurance companies using the practice of preexisting condition exclusions.

For those who maybe have forgotten what that looked like, I have beside me here a chart which includes a brochure, which Humana insurance was using back in 2009 when it was selling health insurance. Again, it is touting great news for people who buy their own health insurance, new, flexible health coverage.

However, if you read the fine print, it went on to say that there is important information about preexisting conditions for these conditions which would

□ 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.



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not be covered: AIDS/HIV, alcohol or drug dependence, cancer, COPD, connective tissue disorder, Crohn's disease, diabetes, emphysema, heart attack or stroke, hepatitis, inpatient emotional or mental illness, organ or tissue transplant, or ulcerative colitis. Just in case maybe you survived that litmus test, it does go on to say: "This list is not all inclusive; other conditions may apply."

That is what health insurance looked like before 2010: People who, in good faith, were paying premium dollars for coverage, whether they were individuals, small businesses, or large employers, suddenly found, with the fine print back in those days, medical underwriting was excluding people from getting the coverage for the health insurance they thought they were buying.

Also, the rude awakening of people who had insurance suddenly having their bills reversed—again, in good faith, depending on insurance companies—to pay for an operation or for a hospitalization or a doctor's visit.

This country turned the page in 2010. It is time to, once and for all, say that those practices are a thing of the past.

Our bill this week, H.R. 986, will restore those patient protections which the Trump administration's executive order, last October, reversed. Hopefully, the people in this Chamber will listen to the universal support for these patient protections all across the country, Republicans and Democrats—the polling shows it is off the charts—and support this bill and block this executive order which would turn the clock back for American patients and America's healthcare system.

HONORING BRIGADIER GENERAL JOHN "ODIE" SLOCUM

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

Mr. MITCHELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor an outstanding member of our community and our military on his retirement. For more than 35 years, Brigadier General John "Odie" Slocum served our country, most recently as the commander of the 127th Wing at Selfridge Air National Guard Base in Michigan's 10th District, a post he held from November 2014 until his retirement this past weekend.

General Slocum's career of more than 35 years and 4,100 flight hours began in 1984 when he received his Air Force commission through East Carolina University's ROTC program. After receiving his wings, Odie served his 8 years of Active Duty as an F-4 Phantom and F-16 pilot and then served as an instructor at bases in both Georgia and Arizona.

In 1992 he joined the Arizona Air National Guard where he served in a variety of Operations Group and headquarters-staff positions, many related to F-16 flight training, before taking over as Arizona Air National Guard's 162nd Fighter Wing's chief of safety

and squadron commander. During his tenure in Arizona, he created a new Air National Guard maintenance training curriculum, worked to increase mental health and suicide prevention resources in the Air National Guard, initiated a DOD-wide midair collision avoidance program, and more. Because of these actions, in 2013, Odie was inducted into the Air Force Safety Hall of Fame.

After 1 year as the Inspector General of the Air National Guard based at Joint Base Andrews, in 2014 Slocum was promoted to brigadier general and assumed command of the 127th Wing and Selfridge Air National Guard Base, in my home district. It is home to 1,700 airmen operating both the A-10 Warthog and KC-135 Stratotanker, as well as host to more than 45 tenant organizations from all branches of the military and numerous DHS organizations. Nearly 4,500 Active Duty, Guard, Reserve, and civilian personnel call Selfridge Air National Guard Base home.

Selfridge is unique, with diverse needs due to its many missions, and General Slocum has been an exceptional leader of Selfridge and our community. Under Slocum's leadership, the 127th Wing earned the Spaatz Trophy, presented to the top flying wing in the Air National Guard; earned an Air Force Meritorious Unit Award; and celebrated milestone anniversaries of the base, 100 years, and the 127th Wing's two flying units, the 107th Fighter Squadron, 100 years, and the 171st Air Refueling Squadron. Further, last year, the 127th Wing was named Macomb County Economic Development Partner of the Year, and Slocum was inducted into the Macomb County Hall of Fame.

I have had the honor to work with General Slocum since before I joined Congress, and I have greatly appreciated our professional relationship, as well as the personal friendship that has grown the last 5 years. In our nearly weekly phone calls, Odie has worked with me to ensure I know what is going on at the base, I am aware of the base's needs, and we work together to address the needs of the men and women who serve in Selfridge.

It is extremely clear Odie cares deeply about Selfridge, the men and women he commands, Michigan, and our Nation. We are all extremely grateful for his decades of dedication to our Nation.

While I will miss having him commanding Selfridge, I know General Slocum will continue to remain heavily involved in our community to make our place a great place to live. On behalf of our community and our Nation, I wish to extend him all the best in retirement, and I thank him for his many years of exemplary service.

EQUAL RIGHTS TO TRIBAL TRUST LANDS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Minnesota (Ms. MCCOLLUM) for 5 minutes.

Ms. MCCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, the Federal Government has an obligation to equally protect the rights of all 573 federally recognized Tribal nations.

Since the passage of the Indian Reorganization Act of 1934, those rights have included the ability to have lands placed into trust. The intent of the original Indian Reorganization Act was clear: to restore and to protect Tribal homelands for all sovereign Tribal nations.

Congress clearly did not intend to limit this right based on the date of a Tribe's recognition. After all, Tribal nations did not get to decide when the Federal Government would give them the recognition they were due. But in 2009, the Supreme Court ruling in a case of *Carcieri v. Salazar* called into question whether Tribes recognized after 1934 should have equal rights to trust land.

Tribal leaders united to ask Congress for legislation to fix this problem, to right this wrong, and I am honored to have worked hand in hand in a non-partisan fashion with my good friend, Congressman TOM COLE, to lead that effort.

Tomorrow the House will vote on H.R. 375, a clean legislative fix that is necessary to ensure that we are fulfilling one of our country's most sacred obligations. I urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to support a clean Carcieri fix.

THE GOLDEN SPIKE

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

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. Mr. Speaker, on May 10, 1869, a Salt Lake paper wrote that the people of Utah—the great pioneers of the Rocky Mountains—received with acclamation the glad news of the completion of the mighty work to which as a people they had contributed their part; and hand in hand with the great circle of States and territories, now rejoicing in union over the event, did thank God for its accomplishments.

They were referencing the Golden Spike which had been driven completing the first transcontinental railroad.

That date, May 10, will forever stand as a tribute to the men of vision who foresaw the potential of an empire stretching from coast to coast in the United States, bound together not only by iron rails but also by a common interest.

From the time of the Civil War when this project started until three or four decades later when the railroad system was completed, America changed. In 1860, the United States was third in the world in production of wheat. When the railroad was completed, we were first. In 1860, England produced three times as much coal as the United States. When the railroad was complete, not only did we lead the world, we were producing 110 million tons of coal more

than Great Britain. During the Civil War, England was producing six times as much steel as we were, but when the railroad was complete, 42 percent of all steel was being produced in the United States—much of that going to the railroad.

During the Civil War, there were only 30,000 miles of railroad track in America. But when the system was complete, there was 167,000 miles crisscrossing this country. Today we still have more railroad track than any other country, 39 percent more than the number two country of Russia, and more than the rest of the top 10, which include in order China, India, Canada, Germany, Australia, Argentina, and France and Belgium combined, even more than nation number 139 on that list, the country of Lichtenstein, which has all of 5½ miles of railroad track.

The railroad made our economic explosion possible. The railroad made us an industrial giant. Before the railroad came, it was difficult to move goods or even transport people. But once the spike was driven, that was the kickstart to what we were going to do. Now, 150 years later, we are celebrating the coming of the Central Pacific's Jupiter with the Union Pacific's Engine 119 meeting together in Utah's backyard. The railroads still move goods, and they also provide passenger service.

□ 1215

I still remember as a kid my parents taking me to the Ogden train depot for a trip somewhere into Idaho, probably Boise. I was in my Sunday best. As we went up to the observation car, I could look out and see the beauty of this America passing us by.

It is an American national historical park. It is a place where the American story is without equal.

In LaRue County, Kentucky, there is the Abraham Lincoln Birthplace National Historical Park.

In Seneca, New York, there is the Women's Rights National Historical Park.

In Ohio, you can visit the Dayton Aviation National Historical Park where you can walk into the bicycle shop where Orville and Wilbur Wright first started to conquer the skies.

The Golden Spike National Historical Park is going to recognize in Promontory Summit in Utah, the place where the world changed, where not only was history made that day, but also the Herculean efforts of those who organized this, as well as the immigrant manpower of Irish coming from the east and Chinese from the west, who provided the muscle to accomplish this project.

A national historical park is accomplished by an act of Congress, but the Spike 150 Commission, chaired by Doug Foxley and Spencer Stokes, has mobilized a literal army of history lovers who will host a series of events befitting this historic moment.

It has already started with a horse parade in Brigham City, a hoedown in

Tremonton, and a country church service on Sunday. It will also culminate this Friday when we invite all of you to come to Utah to see the celebration of the 150th anniversary of the Golden Spike, which encouraged the pioneering of both the spirit and economy of America. When that Golden Spike was driven, America welcomed a new frontier.

HONORING LINNIE "PAPA" DARDEN

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

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. Linnie "Papa" Darden, who is being honored at the Legends, Leaders, and Life Well Lived Award luncheon on May 9.

Well deserving of this honor, he should be an inspiration to us all about how to constantly strive to make the world a better place to live. Mr. Darden has dedicated much of his life to young people, teaching deaf children in Ethiopia and counseling teenagers on life skills and drug education here in the United States.

At the young age of 80, he earned a Ph.D. in religious counseling with a thesis on at-risk youth.

Along with serving youth at home and abroad, he served in our Nation's Armed Forces.

I couldn't be prouder to have him in the First Congressional District of Georgia. I thank Mr. Darden for his service, both in the military and in our communities. He continues to truly exemplify a life well lived.

HONORING RICHARD ECKBURG

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. Richard "Dick" Eckburg, who is being honored at the Legends, Leaders, and Life Well Lived Award luncheon on May 9.

Well deserving of this honor, he should be an inspiration to us all about how to constantly strive to make the world a better place to live.

A Korean war veteran, Dick worked at UPS for 32 years, eventually becoming the vice president of public affairs. Since then, he has dedicated countless time and resources to numerous charitable organizations around the Savannah area, including the Telfair Museum, the Lucas Theatre, the Bethesda Academy, and many more.

Dick's work with each of these organizations, along with that of his wonderful wife, Judy, has changed the face of Savannah and improved the lives of many in our community.

I couldn't be prouder to have him in the First Congressional District of Georgia. I thank Dick for his service in the military and especially for his service to our community. He continues to truly exemplify a life well lived.

HONORING DR. LES WILKES

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Dr. Les

Wilkes, who is being honored at the Legends, Leaders, and Life Well Lived Award luncheon on May 9.

Well deserving of this honor, he should be an inspiration to us all about how to constantly strive to make the world a better place to live.

Dr. Wilkes practiced orthopedic surgery in Savannah for over 40 years. Before that, he served in the United States Navy as an orthopedic surgeon.

After his retirement, he partnered with Hospice Savannah to provide photographs for the clients. He continues his work with our veterans by serving in Honor Flights, escorting veterans to Washington, D.C.

Dr. Wilkes is also the unofficial photographer for Wesley United Methodist Church in downtown Savannah where he and his wife, Ge-Juan, and their son, Lee, and his family have worshipped for many years.

I couldn't be prouder to have him in the First Congressional District of Georgia. I thank Dr. Wilkes for his service, both in the military and in our communities. He continues to truly exemplify a life well lived.

RECOGNIZING SAVANNAH COLLEGE OF ART AND DESIGN

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Savannah College of Art and Design on its 40th anniversary.

In 1978, an elementary school teacher, Ms. Paula Wallace, wanted to start a college in her hometown dedicated to the arts. Beginning with 71 students, SCAD now has over 55,000.

The school has four campuses, in Savannah, Atlanta, Hong Kong, and Lacoste, France. It has countless alumni who have gone on to successful careers in photography, abstract art, film, interior design, and so much more.

In addition to providing college students with an exceptional art-centered education, they have given back to our community 10 times over, hosting art festivals, public concerts, and fashion shows.

Locations important to our city's history and culture have been restored by its students: the Flannery O'Connor Childhood Home, the Victory Drive corridor, and the Massie Heritage Center.

I thank everyone at SCAD—the faculty, administrators, and students alike—for their contributions to our area. As a native Savannahian, I have always said that SCAD was the catalyst for the renovation of downtown Savannah.

I thank Paula Wallace for bringing SCAD to Savannah and leading its success over the last four decades, and I congratulate it on its 40th anniversary.

UNDERSTANDING RISKS OF U.S. MILITARY INTERVENTION IN VENEZUELA

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

Mr. GAETZ. Mr. Speaker, after meeting with President Trump yesterday regarding the ongoing crisis in Venezuela, I rise to praise the Trump administration for its mindful and strategic response to conditions in that country.

All options must be on the table, including military force.

My constituents would likely be among the first in that fight. I am incredibly proud of them. If asked, they will successfully execute any mission that they are called to do.

Policymakers have an obligation not to send any of America's sons and daughters into any ill-advised conflict. The Trump administration clearly understands the risks associated with military intervention in Venezuela at this time. They include a few things.

First, if the United States military were to have troops on the ground in Venezuela today, it is very likely that the Maduro regime would scapegoat their own failures.

The people of Venezuela voted their way into socialism, and now it appears they have to fight their way out of it. While this should be a lesson to us all, military intervention should not be presented as an opportunity for the Maduro regime to explain away why people in Venezuela have no medicine, have no food, are starving, and at times see their own countrymen turning tanks and weapons against them.

Those failures belong to the Maduro regime. Those failures belong to the socialist dictatorship.

Were we to intervene in an unwise way, potentially, that would create confusion about the conditions that led to these terrible circumstances.

Second, if the United States military were to intervene at this time, it is my concern that it would allow the Maduro regime to externalize their conflict.

It is no surprise to any in this Chamber or many in the Trump administration that there remains some latent resentment within pockets of Latin America regarding U.S. intervention, regime change, and nation-building.

At a time when we are seeing democratic successes and governments stood up that are beginning to provide for their citizens, it would be deeply unwise to stoke any anti-American resentment with ill-advised conflict.

Right now, Maduro functionally lacks material support from the forward-thinking countries in the Western Hemisphere, and we would not want to create any opportunity for there to be a call to the new Bolivarian alliance.

Ultimately, that is what a lot of these transnational criminal organizations want in Venezuela. They want to erode nation-states and borders. They want to end nationalism in our hemisphere so that they have a more permissive environment for their illicit activities.

Third, the Trump administration clearly understands that, if the United States were deemed to be too involved

in the popular uprising in Venezuela, Maduro would potentially have the opportunity to deny the organic desires of Venezuelans to fight for their own freedom.

The reason people are rising up in Venezuela right now is not a consequence of the United States Government. It is a consequence of the failures of their own government and their passionate desire for freedom, one that we should stand with the people of Venezuela to execute.

Despite these conditions and despite the challenges, I remain hopeful that there is a brighter future for Venezuela. As we meet and gather now, Juan Guaido is able to go about the country freely. Despite not having a military, despite not having staff, he is able to rally thousands of his fellow countrymen in public squares and make the argument for freedom.

Meanwhile, the coward Maduro remains huddled up in a military base, unable to move around and unsure who will turn on him next.

If the last quarter century has taught our country anything about the nature of freedom, it is that freedom has to be fought for hardest by those who yearn to live it. Freedom cannot be the gift that America gives other countries, purchased solely with the currency of the blood of U.S. servicemembers.

People have to fight for freedom and earn it. They have to die for it. They have to bury their relatives over it. Then they have to love it and care for it so much that they will never let another strongman take it away from them and so that they will never fall victim to the passions that led Venezuela down this dark path to socialism, dictatorship, starvation, and desperation.

We stand with the people of Venezuela, and they must stand now to fight for a better future for their country.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until 2 p.m. today.

Accordingly (at 12 o'clock and 26 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1400

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. CLAY) at 2 p.m.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Patrick J. Conroy, offered the following prayer: Eternal God, we give You thanks for giving us another day.

You look upon our world: men and women being born and being laid to rest, some getting married and others

getting divorced, the old and the young, the rich and the poor, the happy and the sad, so many people aimless, despairing, hateful, and killing, so many undernourished, sick, and dying, so many struggling with life and blind to any meaning.

Send us Your spirit, that the issues of our day might be met with compassion by the Members of this House and all who serve to improve the conditions of our shared humanity.

May all that is done this day be for Your greater honor and glory.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

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

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

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to clause 1, rule I, I demand a vote on agreeing to the Speaker's approval of the Journal.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the Speaker's approval of the Journal.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I object to the vote on the ground that a quorum is not present and make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

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

The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. THOMPSON) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania 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.

RECOGNIZING FREDERICK WILLIAM RUSTEBERG

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

Mr. VELA. Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to recognize Frederick William Rusteberg of Brownsville, Texas.

Mr. Rusteberg served the majority of his professional career as the original founding CEO and president of International Bank of Commerce in Brownsville until his retirement on October 27, 2016.

In the early 1970s, Mr. Rusteberg served his country as an officer in the United States Army.

After receiving the Army commendation medal and an honorable discharge, he returned to his hometown of Brownsville. He helped develop the area's future as assistant port director for the Port of Brownsville.

Mr. Rusteberg began his 40-year banking career at Bank of the Southwest. Shortly thereafter, he opened the first International Bank of Commerce bank facility in Cameron County in 1984.

A champion of education, Mr. Rusteberg led successful efforts for the Brownsville Independent School District to secure funding for our schools. He and his family established the very first scholarship endowment at the University of Texas-Brownsville, now University of Texas Rio Grande Valley.

Mr. Rusteberg has been married to Frances Hill for 48 years and has two children, William Rusteberg and Liz Rusteberg Hainley, and two grandchildren, Jessie Hainley and Will Hainley. Fred and Frances have been highly active in the community throughout the years and are blessed to call Brownsville home.

Mr. Speaker, I thank you for the opportunity to honor Frederick William Rusteberg. His character and hard work make him a tremendous role model for the citizens of Brownsville, and I am confident his contributions will continue to guide south Texas in a positive direction.

I ask my colleagues to join me, his family, and friends in commending his life of service.

JOBS BOOM BEST IN 50 YEARS

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

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, last Friday's economic numbers continue to show that policies championed by the President and Republicans are helping the American people succeed:

The economy added an incredible 263,000 jobs in April;

More than 5.8 million jobs have been created since the election;

The unemployment rate fell to 3.6 percent in April, the lowest since December 1969;

The employment rate for women is the lowest rate since 1953;

The veterans' unemployment rate fell to 2.3 percent, the lowest rate on record;

The employment rate for Americans with a disability fell to the lowest rate on record;

Average hourly earnings rose by 3.2 percent over 12 months. Before 2018, wage gains had not reached 3 percent since April 2009.

In conclusion, God bless our troops, and we will never forget September the 11th in the global war on terrorism.

PRESCRIPTION DRUG PRICING

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

Ms. GARCIA of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to address the serious threat that soaring costs of prescription drugs pose to the health and well-being of families.

Americans spend more money on prescription drug prices per person than any other country in the world. The problem has grown so much that now Americans are paying more for out-of-pocket drugs every year than for hospital care. These inflated prices are sapping the strength of our economy and the health of our families.

However, this is a challenge, Mr. Speaker, we can begin to tackle in this Congress this year. We can begin to fight this battle now by targeting abusive barriers to entry for cheaper generic drugs and taking steps to simplify pricing in our overly complicated system.

That is why, last week, my colleagues and I on the Judiciary Committee voted to refer four bills for consideration that will give generic drug manufacturers greater access to our markets, increase competition, and save lives in the process.

I call on all my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to support this bipartisan measure.

NATIONAL SKILLED NURSING CARE WEEK

(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. Mr. Speaker, next week is National Skilled Nursing Care Week, and hundreds of nursing home administrators will gather at State College, Pennsylvania, for the 2019 Spring Health Care Conference.

Hosted by Central Pennsylvania Educational Resources, the conference will allow nursing home administrators the opportunity to exchange ideas and gain information from knowledgeable speakers.

This year's theme for National Skilled Nursing Care Week is "Live Soulfully," which will celebrate skilled nursing centers and their residents and staff by showcasing how they achieve happy minds and healthy souls.

Whether it is planting, cooking, reading, or listening to music, these centers pay it forward by helping individuals find happiness to improve quality of life.

Mr. Speaker, before coming to Congress, I worked nearly three decades as a recreational therapist, a rehab services manager, and a licensed nursing home administrator. I know firsthand how important quality of life is and how each and every person at a nursing home can impact the lives of residents.

National Skilled Nursing Care Week thanks and celebrates caregivers for

their tireless work to care for others. They truly make an impact.

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, May 6, 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 May 6, 2019, at 11:14 a.m.:

That the Senate passed S. 693.

With best wishes, I am

Sincerely,

CHERYL L. JOHNSON.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until approximately 4 p.m. today.

Accordingly (at 2 o'clock and 9 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1600

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. CLAY) at 4 o'clock p.m.

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.

TAIWAN ASSURANCE ACT OF 2019

Mr. SIRE. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 2002) to foster security in Taiwan, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 2002

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 "Taiwan Assurance Act of 2019".

SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

Congress makes the following findings:

(1) April 10, 2019, marks the 40th anniversary of the Taiwan Relations Act of 1979 (Public Law 96-8).

(2) Since 1949, the close relationship between the United States and Taiwan has benefited both parties and the broader Indo-Pacific region.

(3) The security of Taiwan and its democracy are key elements of continued peace and stability of the greater Indo-Pacific region, which is in the political, security, and economic interests of the United States.

(4) The People's Republic of China is currently engaged in a comprehensive military modernization campaign to enhance the power-projection capabilities of the People's Liberation Army and its ability to conduct joint operations, which is shifting the military balance of power across the Taiwan Strait.

(5) Taiwan and its diplomatic partners continue to face sustained pressure and coercion from the People's Republic of China, which seeks to isolate Taiwan from the international community.

(6) It is the policy of the United States to reinforce its commitments to Taiwan under the Taiwan Relations Act in a manner consistent with the "Six Assurances" and in accordance with the United States "One China" policy.

(7) In the Taiwan Travel Act, which became law on March 16, 2018, Congress observed that the "self-imposed restrictions that the United States maintains on high-level visits" between the United States and Taiwan have resulted in insufficient high-level communication.

SEC. 3. SENSE OF CONGRESS.

It is the sense of Congress that—

(1) Taiwan is a vital part of the United States Free and Open Indo-Pacific Strategy;

(2) the United States Government—

(A) supports Taiwan's continued pursuit of asymmetric capabilities and concepts; and

(B) urges Taiwan to increase its defense spending in order to fully resource its defense strategy; and

(3) the United States should conduct regular sales and transfers of defense articles to Taiwan in order to enhance its self-defense capabilities, particularly its efforts to develop and integrate asymmetric capabilities, including undersea warfare and air defense capabilities, into its military forces.

SEC. 4. TAIWAN'S INCLUSION IN INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS.

(a) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Congress that the People's Republic of China's attempts to dictate the terms of Taiwan's participation in international organizations, has, in many cases, resulted in Taiwan's exclusion from such organizations even when statehood is not a requirement, and that such exclusion—

(1) is detrimental to global health, civilian air safety, and efforts to counter transnational crime;

(2) negatively impacts the safety and security of citizens globally; and

(3) negatively impacts the security of Taiwan and its democracy.

(b) STATEMENT OF POLICY.—It is the policy of the United States to advocate for Taiwan's meaningful participation in the United Nations, the World Health Assembly, the International Civil Aviation Organization, the International Criminal Police Organization, and other international bodies, as appropriate, and to advocate for Taiwan's membership in the Food and Agriculture Organization, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, and other international organizations for which statehood is not a requirement for membership.

SEC. 5. REVIEW OF DEPARTMENT OF STATE TAIWAN GUIDELINES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of State shall conduct a review of the Department of State's guidance that governs relations with Taiwan, including the periodic memorandum entitled "Guidelines

on Relations with Taiwan" and related documents, and reissue such guidance to executive branch departments and agencies.

(b) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Congress that the Department of State's guidance regarding relations with Taiwan—

(1) should be crafted with the intent to deepen and expand United States-Taiwan relations, and be based on the value, merits, and importance of the United States-Taiwan relationship;

(2) should be crafted giving due consideration to the fact that Taiwan is governed by a representative democratic government that is peacefully constituted through free and fair elections that reflect the will of the people of Taiwan, and that Taiwan is a free and open society that respects universal human rights and democratic values; and

(3) should ensure that the conduct of relations with Taiwan reflects the longstanding, comprehensive, and values-based relationship the United States shares with Taiwan, and contribute to the peaceful resolution of cross-Strait issues.

(c) REPORTING REQUIREMENTS.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of State shall submit to the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate and the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives a report that includes a description of—

(1) the results of the review pursuant to subsection (a) of the Department of State's guidance on relations with Taiwan, including a copy of the reissued "Guidelines of Relations with Taiwan" memorandum; and

(2) the implementation of the Taiwan Travel Act (Public Law 115-135) and any changes to guidance on relations with Taiwan that are the result of such implementation.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SIREs) and the gentleman from Texas (Mr. MCCAUL) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New Jersey.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. SIREs. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H.R. 2002, the Taiwan Assurance Act of 2019.

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

There was no objection.

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

I rise in strong support of H.R. 2002, the Taiwan Assurance Act of 2019.

Last month, we celebrated the 40th anniversary of the Taiwan Relations Act, so it is fitting that we are standing here today to bring two important measures to the floor, including this one, to affirm the unwavering, bipartisan congressional support for Taiwan.

Taiwan serves as a steadfast and significant partner to the United States, not just in the Indo-Pacific, but also around the world. It makes substantial contributions to the international community by tackling global challenges, from combating terrorism to promoting public health; and it holds close the values we cherish the most, standing as a beacon of democracy in Asia.

However, over the years, China has attempted to weaken Taiwan's standing in the world. It has restricted Taiwan's access to international organizations and poached its diplomatic allies, and it has attempted to shape the way the United States conducts its relationship with Taiwan, a dynamic we have, regretfully, allowed.

We must not—we cannot—stand for this. We cannot sit idly by and allow one of our most valued democratic partners to be sidelined on the world stage. It is time to revisit the guidelines we use in the conduct of our relationship with Taiwan and ensure that the United States is doing all it can to fulfill our commitments to Taiwan.

That is why I am proud to support and cosponsor the Taiwan Assurance Act. This measure asks the State Department to take a closer look at self-imposed guidelines we follow with Taiwan and assess them based on merit, not on what would appease China.

As proud co-chair of the Taiwan Caucus, I strongly support the passage of H.R. 2002, and I reserve the balance of my time.

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

I rise in support of the Taiwan Assurance Act, a bill introduced to deepen and expand U.S.-Taiwan relations. I want to thank Chairman ENGEL and all those on the other side of the aisle and the gentleman from New Jersey for agreeing to be the lead Democratic cosponsors of this important bill that deepens our ties with Taiwan.

Of note, the bill urges the State Department to eliminate self-imposed restrictions on U.S. diplomatic interactions with Taiwan and to provide Congress access to those policies for the first time.

Prior administrations have applied unnecessary and arbitrary restrictions on their own interactions with officials from Taiwan. At times, these restrictions expanded, apparently in response to complaints by Communist China.

As the body that produced the Taiwan Relations Act, it is necessary and appropriate for Congress to have awareness and a say in how these policies are made. They go well beyond what is required by the carefully crafted TRA, which does not even state that U.S.-Taiwan relations are unofficial.

Since the TRA was enacted in 1979, Taiwan's Government has evolved into a vibrant democracy, while the Chinese Government has become more and more authoritarian.

It is improper to restrict relations with Taiwan to avoid offending the Chinese Communist Party, and it is out of step with reality to keep pretending that Taiwan is anything other than a fully functioning democracy.

Taiwan deserves a more elevated relationship with the United States, and I urge my colleagues to join me in rewarding Taiwan's commitment to democracy by supporting the Taiwan Assurance Act.

Mr. Speaker, in closing, I would just like to, once again, thank Chairman

ENGEL and the entire Foreign Affairs Committee for their enthusiastic support of this measure and their support for the democracy of Taiwan.

I yield back the balance of my time.

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

I urge my colleagues to support this measure. This is an important bill that demonstrates our historical bipartisan support for Taiwan, and so, as co-chair of the Taiwan Caucus, I strongly promote the immediate passage of H.R. 2002.

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

Ms. JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the Taiwan Assurance Act and to recognize the 40th Anniversary of the Taiwan Relations Act. Taiwan has made great strides over the past forty years becoming a beacon of democracy and individual freedom.

The Taiwan Assurance Act reaffirms the United States' strong commitment to Taiwan, and takes necessary steps to ensure that the friendship between the people of the United States and Taiwan continues to grow. Furthermore, this bill recognizes Taiwan's contributions in various areas such as global health and makes it the policy of the United States to advocate for Taiwan's inclusion in the United Nations and other international organizations such as the World Health Assembly.

It was an honor to travel to Taiwan last month with a few of my colleagues to celebrate the 40th Anniversary of the Taiwan Relations Act and to witness the opening of the new facility for the American Institute in Taiwan.

While our relationship remains unofficial, enacted legislation such as the Taiwan Travel Act will allow high level officials from both governments to travel and meet with their counterparts, allowing both parties to foster and strengthen the important relationship we share.

Mr. Speaker, in these rapidly changing times across the world, it is important and even more necessary for us to recognize and appreciate our allies who carry a strong belief in democracy and human rights. Taiwan is a prime example of that and I commend them for the progress they have made over the past forty years. I look forward to seeing this relationship continue and strengthen over time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SIREs) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 2002.

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.

REAFFIRMING UNITED STATES COMMITMENT TO TAIWAN AND TO IMPLEMENTATION OF TAIWAN RELATIONS ACT

Mr. SIREs. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 273) reaffirming the United States commitment to Taiwan and to the implementation of the Taiwan Relations Act.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 273

Whereas the Taiwan Relations Act (TRA) was signed into law on April 10, 1979, codifying into law the basis for continued commercial, cultural, and other relations between the people of the United States and the people of Taiwan, and serving as the foundation to preserve and promote continued bilateral bonds;

Whereas the TRA enshrines the United States commitment to make available to Taiwan such defense articles and defense services in such quantity as may be necessary to enable Taiwan to maintain a sufficient self-defense capability;

Whereas pursuant to section 1206 of the Foreign Relations Authorization Act, Fiscal Year 2003 (Public Law 107-228; 22 U.S.C. 2321k note.), Taiwan is to be treated as though it were designated a major non-NATO ally for transfers of defense articles or defense services;

Whereas in 1982, President Ronald Reagan further clarified the importance and resilience of the United States-Taiwan relationship with the issuance of the Six Assurances;

Whereas the TRA and the Six Assurances are cornerstones of United States policy with respect to Taiwan, as was reaffirmed by the House of Representatives with the adoption of H. Con. Res. 88 in 2016;

Whereas the TRA and the Six Assurances have been essential components in helping to maintain peace, security, and stability in the Western Pacific, thereby furthering the political, security, and economic interests of the United States and Taiwan;

Whereas the United States and Taiwan have forged ever closer economic and security relations over the last four decades based on their shared commitment to democracy, human rights, the rule of law and free market principles, and their willingness to partner in efforts to combat global terrorism and to address other global challenges, such as those related to the environment, public health, energy security, education, women's empowerment, digital economy, poverty, and natural disasters;

Whereas the United States-Taiwan partnership has been further strengthened since the 2015 memorandum of understanding establishing the Global Cooperation and Training Framework (GCTF), which has allowed the two parties to cohost many workshops on critical topics, including one in December 2018 on humanitarian assistance and disaster relief to which ten regional governments sent participants;

Whereas Taiwan has the expertise, willingness, and capability to engage in international efforts to mitigate global challenges related to such issues as public health, aviation safety, crime, and terrorism, but its participation in such efforts has been constrained by conditions imposed by the People's Republic of China (PRC);

Whereas successive Congresses have called upon the executive branch to develop strategies to obtain meaningful participation for Taiwan in international organizations, such as the World Health Organization (WHO), International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO), and International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL);

Whereas the Congress most recently expressed support for Taiwan's participation at the World Health Organization's World Health Assembly as an observer on January 22, 2019, with the adoption of H.R. 353 by the House of Representatives;

Whereas communication on bilateral security, cultural, and commercial interests

would be greatly enhanced with the full implementation of the Taiwan Travel Act (Public Law 115-135), which became law on March 16, 2018, and which states that the United States Government "should encourage visits between officials from the United States and Taiwan at all levels";

Whereas the United States and Taiwan have built a strong economic partnership, with the United States now Taiwan's third largest trading partner and with Taiwan the 11th largest trading partner of the United States and a key destination for United States agricultural exports;

Whereas strong United States-Taiwan economic relations have been a positive factor in stimulating economic growth and job creation for the people of both the United States and Taiwan; and

Whereas successive Congresses have publicly reaffirmed United States commitments to Taiwan under the Taiwan Relations Act and Six Assurances, including most recently on December 31, 2018, with the enactment into law of the Asia Reassurance Initiative Act of 2018 (Public Law 115-409), which stated among other things that—

(1) it is United States policy "to support the close economic, political, and security relationship between Taiwan and the United States";

(2) "The President should conduct regular transfers of defense articles to Taiwan that are tailored to meet the existing and likely threats from the People's Republic of China, including supporting the efforts of Taiwan to develop and integrate asymmetric capabilities, as appropriate, including mobile, survivable, and cost-effective capabilities into its military forces"; and

(3) "The President should encourage the travel of high-level United States officials to Taiwan, in accordance with the Taiwan Travel Act." Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) reaffirms that the Taiwan Relations Act, together with the Six Assurances, are and will remain cornerstones of United States relations with Taiwan;

(2) encourages United States officials at all levels to travel to meet with their counterparts in Taiwan, and for high-level Taiwan officials to enter the United States and meet with United States officials, per the Taiwan Travel Act;

(3) reiterates that the President should conduct regular transfers of defense articles to Taiwan consistent with Taiwan's national security requirements in accordance to prior legislation, including the Asia Reassurance Initiative Act of 2018 (Public Law 115-409);

(4) calls on the Secretary of State to actively engage internationally in support of Taiwan's meaningful participation in international organizations engaged in addressing transnational threats and challenges such as those related to health, aviation security, and crime and terrorism;

(5) recognizes Taiwan's partnership in combating global terrorism, including as a full partner in the Global Coalition to Defeat ISIS, and in addressing other global challenges through the Global Cooperation and Training Framework (GCTF) and other such initiatives;

(6) underscores the importance of the close people-to-people ties cultivated through initiatives such as the Fulbright Program, which has supported thousands of scholar and grantee exchanges between the United States and Taiwan over the past 60 years; and

(7) acknowledges the important work done by the American Institute in Taiwan and the Taipei Economic and Cultural Representative Office in support of United States-Taiwan interests.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SIREs) and the gentleman from Texas (Mr. McCAUL) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New Jersey.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. SIREs. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H. Res. 273, reaffirming the United States commitment to Taiwan and to the implementation of the Taiwan Relations Act.

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

There was no objection.

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

I rise in strong support of H. Res. 273, reaffirming the United States commitment to Taiwan and to the implementation of the Taiwan Relations Act.

Signed into law four decades ago, the Taiwan Relations Act marked the first and most significant act of support for Taiwan by Congress. It unequivocally demonstrates our support to Taiwan. Along with the Six Assurances, this act remains the bedrock of our deep partnership with Taiwan.

With the support of this landmark piece of legislation and in the 40 years since, the United States has deepened security, economic, and people-to-people ties with Taiwan. Our two nations have worked together to maintain peace, security, and stability in the Pacific through our shared commitment to democracy, human rights, and the rule of law.

Unfortunately, China seeks to diminish Taiwan's presence on the world stage. We must fully use the tools at our disposal to fight back against these efforts.

It is important that Congress must do what we can to honor our commitment to Taiwan. That is why I have long been a proud co-chair of the Taiwan Caucus and why I support this measure.

H. Res. 273 reaffirms our commitment to the people of Taiwan, encourages high-level engagement as called for in the Taiwan Travel Act, promotes Taiwan's meaningful engagement in international organizations, and calls to deepen cultural ties.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of this resolution reaffirming the United States commitment to Taiwan and the implementation of the Taiwan Relations Act.

I also want to thank my good friend Chairman ENGEL and Congressman SIREs for offering this resolution, which gives us an opportunity to reflect on the importance of U.S.-Taiwan relations at a very critical time.

As the House considers this measure today, the United States and Taiwan share in a celebration, the 40th anniversary of the Taiwan Relations Act, which occurred on April 10 of this year. The Taiwan Relations Act remains one of Congress' most distinguished and lasting contributions to U.S. foreign policy.

The TRA built an unshakable foundation for U.S.-Taiwan relations, and the people of Taiwan have repaid this gesture by transforming Taiwan into a beacon of democracy and individual liberties. As is often said, Taiwan is a force for good in the world.

Reaffirming the U.S. commitment to Taiwan at this moment is also essential because we are standing together to face a growing threat. Communist Party General Secretary Xi Jinping is using all the tools at his disposal—military, economic, informational, and diplomatic—to try to destroy Taiwan's democracy.

I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this resolution to remind him once again that he will not succeed on our watch.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. SIREs. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. McCAUL. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. CHABOT), the senior member of the Foreign Affairs Committee and a former chairman of the Subcommittee on Asia, the Pacific, and Nonproliferation.

Mr. CHABOT. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H. Res. 273, which reaffirms the United States commitment to Taiwan and to the implementation of the Taiwan Relations Act, or TRA.

As a longtime friend of the people of Taiwan, a founding co-chair of the Congressional Taiwan Caucus, and a cosponsor of this resolution, I want to thank Chairman ENGEL and Ranking Member McCAUL for their work to support our critical bilateral relationship with Taiwan.

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This year marks the 40th anniversary of the Taiwan Relations Act, which together with President Reagan's Six Assurances, serve as the foundation for the relationship between our two countries, and I mean countries.

Since the TRA was signed in 1979, Taiwan has become a vibrant, consolidated democracy, one of our most important trading partners and a model in so many areas for the rest of Asia and the whole world, really.

Going forward, we must continue to implement the TRA and do better at fully appreciating the policy commitments it contains. With that in mind, I urge the President to immediately finalize an arms sales package with Taiwan as well as begin negotiations for a free trade agreement.

As China's influence grows, our commitment to Taiwan will be the bellwether of our commitment to democ-

racy in Asia. We do not owe China a vote in how we treat Taiwan. If we are equivocal in our support for Taiwan in the face of Chinese pressure, how can we credibly support democracy and democratic values when they are threatened elsewhere?

I also want to voice my support for H.R. 2002, Ranking Member McCAUL's Taiwan Assurance Act. This legislation takes important steps to advance our bilateral relationship, including support for arms sales and for Taiwan's participation in international organizations. It would also require a review of the State Department's, I believe, unreasonable guidelines for Taiwan's diplomatic staff here in the U.S.

And I would be remiss if I didn't mention that I wish the legislation did not refer to the misguided U.S. One-China policy, but I understand that it was included as part of negotiations with the Senate.

Finally, the Taiwan Assurance Act requires a report on implementation of the Taiwan Travel Act, legislation that I introduced last Congress to increase high-level visits between U.S. and Taiwanese officials. Since the bill became law a little over a year ago, we have seen not enough action, and I believe that it is past time for full implementation of this important legislation.

Mr. Speaker, as we mark the TRA's 40th anniversary, H. Res. 273 and H.R. 2002 are critical to strengthening our enduring relationship with Taiwan as we look forward to the next 40 years, so I would urge my colleagues to support both of them.

Mr. SIREs. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time and would inquire through the Speaker if my colleague has any remaining speakers on his side.

Mr. McCAUL. Mr. Speaker, I have no further speakers, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. SIREs. Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this important resolution, H. Res. 273, reaffirming our commitments made to Taiwan 40 years ago and strengthens our ability to fulfill them.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SIREs) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 273.

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. SIREs. Mr. 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.

CHAMPIONING AMERICAN BUSINESS THROUGH DIPLOMACY ACT OF 2019

Mr. SIREs. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1704) to foster commercial relations with foreign countries and support United States economic and business interests abroad in the conduct of foreign policy, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 1704

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 “Championing American Business Through Diplomacy Act of 2019”.

SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

Congress finds the following:

(1) According to the 2017 National Security Strategy of the United States of America, “Retaining our position as the world’s preeminent economic actor strengthens our ability to use the tools of economic diplomacy for the good of Americans and others.”.

(2) A November 7, 2018, cable from Secretary of State Michael R. Pompeo to all diplomatic and consular posts—“Boosting Commercial Diplomacy Around the World”—stated that “helping American companies is a foreign policy priority . . . Promoting broad-based, responsible, and sustainable economic growth helps to stabilize regions and creates new and growing markets for U.S. companies. A transparent and level playing field for U.S. investment in these countries counters real and growing challenges such as China’s Belt and Road initiative.”.

(3) In the January–February 2019 issue of The Foreign Service Journal, Ambassador Barbara Stephenson, the President of the American Foreign Service Association, wrote “Foreign Service support for American business . . . is a major reason why the U.S. Foreign Service was created.”.

SEC. 3. ECONOMIC DIPLOMACY WITHIN THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE.

Subsection (c) of section 1 of the State Department Basic Authorities Act of 1956 (22 U.S.C. 2651a) is amended—

(1) by redesignating paragraph (3) as paragraph (4); and

(2) by inserting after paragraph (2) the following new paragraph:

“(3) ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR ECONOMIC AND BUSINESS MATTERS.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—Subject to the numerical limitation specified in paragraph (1), there is authorized to be established in the Department of State an Assistant Secretary of State who shall be responsible to the Secretary of State for matters pertaining to international economics and business matters in the conduct of foreign policy.

“(B) MATTERS CONTEMPLATED.—The matters referred to in subparagraph (A) include the following:

“(i) International trade and investment policy.

“(ii) International finance, economic development, and debt policy.

“(iii) Economic sanctions and combating terrorist financing.

“(iv) International transportation policy.

“(v) Support for United States businesses.

“(vi) Economic policy analysis and private sector outreach.

“(vii) International data privacy and innovation policies.

“(viii) Such other related duties as the Secretary may from time to time designate.”.

SEC. 4. CHIEF OF MISSION RESPONSIBILITIES.

Section 207 of the Foreign Service Act of 1980 (22 U.S.C. 3927) is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

“(d) PROMOTION OF UNITED STATES ECONOMIC INTERESTS.—Each chief of mission to a foreign country shall have as a principal duty the promotion of United States economic and commercial interests in such country.”.

SEC. 5. INCREASED TRAINING IN ECONOMIC AND COMMERCIAL DIPLOMACY.

Section 708 of the Foreign Service Act of 1980 (22 U.S.C. 4028) is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

“(d) ECONOMIC AND COMMERCIAL DIPLOMACY.—The Secretary of State, with the assistance of other relevant officials and the private sector, shall establish as part of the standard training provided for economic and commercial officers of the Foreign Service, chiefs of mission, and deputy chiefs of mission, training on matters related to economic and commercial diplomacy, with particular attention to market access and other elements of an enabling framework for United States businesses, commercial advocacy, and United States foreign economic policy, in addition to awareness about the support of the United States Government available to United States businesses, including support provided by the Department of Agriculture, the Department of Commerce, the Export-Import Bank of the United States, the Millennium Challenge Corporation, the Trade and Development Agency, the Department of the Treasury, the United States Agency for International Development, and the United States International Development Finance Corporation.”.

SEC. 6. REPORT FROM EACH MISSION ON MATTERS OF COMMERCIAL RELATIONS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this Act and annually thereafter, the chief of mission at each bilateral diplomatic mission of the United States and the Director of the American Institute in Taiwan shall submit to the Secretary of State the following:

(1) Data and other information regarding actions taken by each such mission or Institute during the previous year to foster commercial relations and safeguard United States economic and business interests in the country or region in which each such chief of mission and the Director serves.

(2) Each such mission’s and Institute’s anticipated economic and commercial priorities for the coming year.

(b) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—The Secretary of State, after receiving the information required under subsection (a), shall submit to the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate a report, disaggregated by country or region, on activities and initiatives, including with appropriate examples, to create an enabling environment and otherwise promote United States economic and business interests in each such country or region, as well as information about significant foreign competition to United States businesses in the relevant country or region, including state-directed investments by foreign governments and United States strategic competitors in such country or region.

SEC. 7. REPORT ON UNIFIED INVESTMENT CLIMATE STATEMENT AND COUNTRY COMMERCIAL GUIDE.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of State and the Secretary of Commerce shall jointly produce and make publicly available on a United States Government internet website an annual country- and region-specific report regarding commercial relations with

foreign countries and regions and safeguarding United States economic and business interests abroad, including with regard to United States exports and investments, including by small- and medium-size enterprises.

(b) MATTERS TO BE INCLUDED.—Each report required under subsection (a) shall include the following with respect to each country or region covered by each such report:

(1) Information about doing business in each country or region.

(2) Background information about each country’s or region’s political environment.

(3) Information about selling United States products and services in each country or region.

(4) Leading sectors for United States exports and investment in each country or region.

(5) Information about trade regulations, customs, and standards in each country or region, such as—

(A) information on import tariffs; and

(B) documentation about which United States businesses should be aware when exporting, including any prohibited items or temporary entry procedures.

(6) Investment climate statements describing each country’s or region’s openness to foreign investments, such as information relating to each country’s or region’s—

(A) investment policies;

(B) market barriers;

(C) business risks;

(D) legal and regulatory system, including dispute resolution;

(E) level of public and private sector corruption;

(F) level of political violence and instability;

(G) adherence to internationally recognized core labor standards; and

(H) protection of property rights.

(7) Information about trade and project financing in each country or region, such as each country’s or region’s—

(A) banking and financial system, and how United States businesses typically get paid;

(B) foreign exchange controls; and

(C) important sources of funding for project financing.

(8) Relevant business travel information and business customs in each country or region.

(9) Information about services and personnel of the diplomatic mission of the United States available to United States businesses to support their activities in each country or region.

(10) Any significant trade or commercial agreement that exists between the United States and each country or region.

(11) A point of contact at the diplomatic or consular mission of the United States in each country or region for United States businesses.

SEC. 8. IMPROVING AWARENESS OF UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT TOOLS AND SERVICES TO SUPPORT UNITED STATES BUSINESSES OVERSEAS.

The Secretary of State and the Secretary of Commerce shall take actions to improve United States businesses’ awareness of United States Government tools and services to assist such businesses overseas, especially small and medium-sized enterprises, including by coordinating with State trade agencies, Export Assistance Centers, and Small Businesses Development Centers.

SEC. 9. NEGOTIATIONS TO ESTABLISH INTERNATIONAL QUALITY INFRASTRUCTURE INVESTMENT STANDARDS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The President, acting through the Secretary of State, and in coordination with other relevant Federal agency heads, shall initiate and pursue negotiations with countries to establish international standards for government-supported

quality infrastructure investment overseas, including with respect to the following:

- (1) Respect for the sovereignty of countries in which infrastructure investments are made.
- (2) Anti-corruption.
- (3) Fiscal and debt sustainability.
- (4) Environmental, social and governance safeguards.
- (5) Local labor.
- (6) Transparency.

(b) **REPORT ON PROGRESS OF NEGOTIATIONS.**—Not later than one year after the date of enactment of this Act, the President shall provide a briefing to the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate on the progress of any negotiations described in subsection (a).

SEC. 10. REPORT BY COMPTROLLER GENERAL OF THE UNITED STATES.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Not later than two years after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General of the United States shall submit to the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate a report on United States economic and commercial diplomacy.

(b) **MATTERS TO BE INCLUDED.**—The report required under subsection (a) shall include an assessment of the following:

(1) What is known about the effectiveness of United States economic and commercial diplomacy in influencing foreign governments and supporting United States businesses abroad.

(2) Coordination between the Department of State and the Department of Commerce with respect to United States economic and commercial diplomacy.

(3) The effectiveness of training provided pursuant to subsection (d) of section 708 of the Foreign Service Act of 1980 (as added by section 4 of this Act) on matters relating to economic and commercial diplomacy.

(4) The status and effectiveness of actions taken by the Secretary of State under section 7 of this Act regarding commercial relations with foreign countries and regions and safeguarding United States economic and business interests abroad.

(5) Recommendations to improve United States economic and commercial diplomacy.

The **SPEAKER** pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SIREs) and the gentleman from Texas (Mr. McCAUL) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New Jersey.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. SIREs. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H.R. 1704, the Championing American Business Through Diplomacy Act of 2019.

The **SPEAKER** pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from New Jersey?

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank first Mr. McCAUL for his hard work on this legislation.

I am proud to be supporting this legislation, this bipartisan measure, which makes better use of State Department resources to increase exports of American-made goods and American-provided services and, in turn, creates more jobs for American workers.

This important bill supports the 277,000 small and medium-sized businesses that are trying to sell U.S.-origin goods and services across the globe.

They need help understanding the overseas market, locating customers for U.S.-origin products, dealing with local imports and customs rules, and arranging financing for their export sales. All these efforts support U.S. jobs. Economic officers in our embassies and at the State Department in Washington can help exporters deal with these challenges.

This piece of legislation improves the State Department's training program for economic officers, affirms a longstanding directive to U.S. Ambassadors to include commercial and economic issues in their portfolios, and strengthens coordination between the State Department and the Commerce Department by consolidating data on overseas markets.

These efforts fortify the key role of our State Department, provides critical confirmation to U.S. exporters, and makes more efficient use of public funds.

H.R. 1704 is a critical bill that will not only spur exports and job growth but will ultimately improve the lives of the American people.

Our sponsors and I would also like to clarify the requirements under section 9 of H.R. 1704 to "initiate and pursue negotiations with countries to establish international standards for government-supported quality infrastructure investment overseas" are intended to be fulfilled within the Organization of Economic Cooperation and Development.

This bill does not direct or authorize the Secretary of State to initiate or pursue negotiations in the World Trade Organization or amend any multilateral or plurilateral WTO agreements.

Mr. Speaker, I strongly support this measure, and I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of my Championing American Business Through Diplomacy Act, which I was pleased to introduce with the support of my good friend, Chairman ENGEL.

Promoting American business abroad means promoting American leadership, prosperity, and our values. It has always been, and should remain, a key component of global diplomacy.

The very first edition of the Foreign Service Journal, then called American Consular Bulletin, published in March of 1919, included a letter from the editor that stated: "The Consular Service was organized by our Government for the purpose of furthering the interests of American businesses abroad."

This legislation makes the promotion of U.S. economic interests a principal duty of our missions abroad and requires economic and commercial training for our diplomats.

It also directs our foreign missions to promote trade agreements and establish points of contact who can assist

American businesses interested in entering those foreign markets.

Promotion of American businesses abroad has never been more important. As transitioning economies work to expand their wealth and capacity, they look to America to bring expertise, financing, and ingenuity.

If America does not step up its economic engagement in the world, this vacuum will be filled by others, with a potentially devastating impact on American national security.

While I speak, China is aggressively filling that void. However, its approach does not respect the rights of workers, the environment, or even the sovereignty of other nations.

China's Belt and Road Initiative is ensnaring developing nations into Chinese debt traps from which they may never escape. This effort is also leading to a new Chinese adventurism, complete with military outposts and expanded leverage in various countries.

Ground zero for this competition in the developing world is Africa. I have spent much time with African Governments and business leaders. All have told me that America is just not there to compete. I applaud the administration for its new Prosper Africa efforts and know that this legislation is key to its success.

I can think of no better antidote to combat this predatory influence than unleashing the vitality of American values through our private sector. I naturally think of the world-class tech and energy companies in my own district and home State of Texas.

Creating more international opportunities for American businesses will help push back on growing Chinese influence across the globe.

It is time for America to fully wake up and get on the field, or we may ask ourselves later why we did not do more to contain the Chinese threat.

For these reasons, the Championing American Business Through Diplomacy Act is a critical initiative that deserves our unanimous support.

Mr. Speaker, in closing, I want to just, again, thank Chairman ENGEL for his support of this bipartisan bill, which was adopted unanimously at our committee markup last month.

American businesses represent ingenuity, industry, and opportunity. Unlike our strategic competitors, they do not go overseas pushing large, government-subsidized construction projects that involve massive debt or giving up control of strategic infrastructure.

They seek only access to markets and a fair playing field, which allows the kind of win-win partnerships that are the genius of the free enterprise system.

In this era of strategic competition, supporting their access to these economies abroad should be a priority of American diplomacy. The stability that we help provide with our enterprise will help bring us and the world security as well. That is the aim of this bill.

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

Mr. SIREs. Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this important measure, H.R. 1704, to fully and efficiently use the resources we already have to increase exports and create jobs and, in turn, improve the lives of the American people.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SIREs) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1704.

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. McCaul. Mr. 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.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until approximately 6:30 p.m. today.

Accordingly (at 4 o'clock and 29 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1830

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. SCHNEIDER) at 6 o'clock and 30 minutes p.m.

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:

Agree to H. Res. 273 and

Pass H.R. 1704; and

Agreeing to the Speaker's approval of the Journal, if ordered.

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.

REAFFIRMING UNITED STATES COMMITMENT TO TAIWAN AND TO IMPLEMENTATION OF TAIWAN RELATIONS ACT

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. 273) reaffirming the United States commitment to Taiwan and to the implementation of the Taiwan Relations Act, 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 New Jersey (Mr. SIREs) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 414, nays 0, not voting 17, as follows:

[Roll No. 185]

YEAS—414

Adams	Crow	Higgins (NY)
Aderholt	Cuellar	Hill (AR)
Aguilar	Cummings	Hill (CA)
Allen	Cunningham	Himes
Allred	Curtis	Holding
Amash	Davids (KS)	Hollingsworth
Amodei	Davidson (OH)	Horn, Kendra S.
Armstrong	Davis (CA)	Horsford
Arrington	Davis, Danny K.	Houlahan
Arne	Davis, Rodney	Hoyer
Bacon	Dean	Hudson
Baird	DeFazio	Huffman
Balderson	DeGette	Huizenga
Banks	DeLauro	Hunter
Barr	DelBene	Hurd (TX)
Barragan	Delgado	Jayapal
Bass	Demings	Jeffries
Beatty	DeSaulnier	Johnson (GA)
Bera	DesJarlais	Johnson (LA)
Bergman	Deutch	Johnson (OH)
Beyer	Diaz-Balart	Johnson (SD)
Biggs	Dingell	Johnson (TX)
Billirakis	Doggett	Jordan
Bishop (GA)	Doyle, Michael	Joyce (OH)
Bishop (UT)	F.	Joyce (PA)
Blumenauer	Duffy	Kaptur
Blunt Rochester	Duncan	Katko
Bonamici	Dunn	Keating
Bost	Emmer	Kelly (IL)
Boyle, Brendan	Engel	Kelly (MS)
F.	Escobar	Kelly (PA)
Brady	Eshoo	Kennedy
Brindisi	Espallat	Khanna
Brooks (AL)	Estes	Kildee
Brooks (IN)	Evans	Kilmer
Brown (MD)	Ferguson	Kim
Brownley (CA)	Finkenauer	Kind
Buchanan	Fitzpatrick	King (IA)
Buck	Fleischmann	King (NY)
Bucshon	Flores	Kinzinger
Budd	Fortenberry	Kirkpatrick
Burchett	Foster	Krishnamoorthi
Burgess	Fox (NC)	Kuster (NH)
Bustos	Frankel	Kustoff (TN)
Byrne	Fudge	LaHood
Calvert	Fulcher	LaMalfa
Carbajal	Gaetz	Lamb
Cardenas	Gallagher	Lamborn
Carson (IN)	Gallo	Langevin
Carter (GA)	Garamendi	Larsen (WA)
Carter (TX)	Garcia (IL)	Larson (CT)
Case	Garcia (TX)	Latta
Casten (IL)	Gianforte	Lawrence
Castor (FL)	Gibbs	Lawson (FL)
Castro (TX)	Gohmert	Lee (NV)
Chabot	Golden	Lesko
Cheney	Gomez	Levin (CA)
Chu, Judy	Gonzalez (OH)	Levin (MI)
Ciulline	Gooden	Lewis
Cisneros	Gosar	Lieu, Ted
Clark (MA)	Gottheimer	Lipinski
Clarke (NY)	Granger	Loeb
Clay	Graves (GA)	Lofgren
Cleaver	Graves (LA)	Long
Cline	Graves (MO)	Loudermilk
Cloud	Green (TN)	Lowenthal
Clyburn	Green (TX)	Lowe
Cohen	Griffith	Lucas
Cole	Grothman	Luetkemeyer
Collins (GA)	Guest	Lujan
Collins (NY)	Guthrie	Luria
Comer	Haaland	Lynch
Conaway	Hagedorn	Malinowski
Connolly	Harder (CA)	Maloney,
Cook	Harris	Carolyn B.
Cooper	Hartzler	Maloney, Sean
Correa	Hastings	Marchant
Courtney	Hayes	Marshall
Cox (CA)	Heck	Massie
Craig	Hern, Kevin	Mast
Crawford	Herrera Beutler	Matsui
Crenshaw	Hice (GA)	McAdams
Crist	Higgins (LA)	McBath

McCarthy	Rice (NY)	Stevens
McCaul	Rice (SC)	Stewart
McClintock	Richmond	Stivers
McCollum	Riggleman	Suozzi
McEachin	Roby	Takano
McGovern	Rodgers (WA)	Taylor
McHenry	Roe, David P.	Thompson (CA)
McKinley	Rogers (AL)	Thompson (MS)
McNerney	Rogers (KY)	Thompson (PA)
Meadows	Rose (NY)	Thornberry
Meeks	Rose, John W.	Timmons
Meuser	Rouda	Tipton
Miller	Rouzer	Titus
Mitchell	Roy	Tlaib
Moolenaar	Roybal-Allard	Tonko
Mooney (WV)	Ruiz	Torres (CA)
Moore	Ruppersberger	Torres Small
Morelle	Rush	(NM)
Moulton	Rutherford	Trahan
Mucarsel-Powell	Ryan	Trone
Mullin	Sanchez	Turner
Murphy	Sarbanes	Underwood
Nadler	Scalise	Upton
Napolitano	Scanlon	Van Drew
Neal	Schakowsky	Vargas
Neguse	Schiff	Veasey
Newhouse	Schneider	Vela
Norcross	Schrader	Velázquez
Norman	Schrier	Visclosky
Nunes	Schweikert	Wagner
O'Halleran	Scott (VA)	Walberg
Ocasio-Cortez	Scott, Austin	Walden
Olson	Scott, David	Walker
Palazzo	Sensenbrenner	Walorski
Pallone	Serrano	Waltz
Palmer	Sewell (AL)	Wasserman
Panetta	Shalala	Schultz
Pappas	Sherman	Waters
Pascarella	Sherrill	Watkins
Payne	Shimkus	Watson Coleman
Pence	Simpson	Weber (TX)
Perlmutter	Sires	Webster (FL)
Perry	Slotkin	Welch
Peters	Smith (MO)	Westerman
Peterson	Smith (NE)	Wexton
Phillips	Smith (NJ)	Wild
Pingree	Smith (WA)	Williams
Pocan	Smucker	Wilson (FL)
Porter	Soto	Wilson (SC)
Posey	Spanberger	Wittman
Pressley	Spano	Womack
Price (NC)	Speier	Woodall
Quigley	Stanton	Wright
Raskin	Staubert	Yoho
Ratcliffe	Stefanik	Young
Reed	Steil	Zeldin
Reschenthaler	Steube	

NOT VOTING—17

Abraham	Gabbard	Omar
Babin	Gonzalez (TX)	Rooney (FL)
Butterfield	Grijalva	Swalwell (CA)
Cartwright	Jackson Lee	Wenstrup
Costa	Lee (CA)	Yarmuth
Fletcher	Meng	

□ 1906

Mr. SMUCKER changed his vote from "nay" to "yea."

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.

CHAMPIONING AMERICAN BUSINESS THROUGH DIPLOMACY 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. 1704) to foster commercial relations with foreign countries and support United States economic and business interests abroad in the conduct of foreign policy, and for other purposes, 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 New Jersey (Mr. SIREs) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill.

This is a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 400, nays 16, not voting 15, as follows:

[Roll No. 186]

YEAS—400

Adams	Davidson (OH)	Hudson
Aderholt	Davis (CA)	Huffman
Aguilar	Davis, Danny K.	Huizenga
Allen	Davis, Rodney	Hunter
Allred	Dean	Hurd (TX)
Amodei	DeFazio	Jayapal
Armstrong	DeGette	Jeffries
Arrington	DeLauro	Johnson (GA)
Axne	DelBene	Johnson (LA)
Bacon	Delgado	Johnson (OH)
Baird	Demings	Johnson (SD)
Balderson	DeSaulnier	Johnson (TX)
Banks	DesJarlais	Joyce (OH)
Barr	Deuth	Joyce (PA)
Barragán	Diaz-Balart	Kaptur
Bass	Dingell	Katko
Beatty	Doggett	Keating
Bera	Doyle, Michael	Kelly (IL)
Bergman	F.	Kelly (MS)
Beyer	Duffy	Kelly (PA)
Bilirakis	Duncan	Kennedy
Bishop (GA)	Dunn	Khanna
Bishop (UT)	Emmer	Kildee
Blumenauer	Engel	Kilmer
Blunt Rochester	Escobar	Kim
Bonamici	Eshoo	Kind
Bost	Espallat	King (NY)
Boyle, Brendan	Estes	Kinzinger
F.	Evans	Kirkpatrick
Brady	Ferguson	Krishnamoorthi
Brindisi	Finkenauer	Kuster (NH)
Brooks (IN)	Fitzpatrick	Kustoff (TN)
Brown (MD)	Fleischmann	LaHood
Brownley (CA)	Flores	LaMalfa
Buchanan	Fortenberry	Lamb
Bucshon	Foster	Lamborn
Budd	Foxx (NC)	Langevin
Burgess	Frankel	Larsen (WA)
Bustos	Fudge	Larson (CT)
Byrne	Fulcher	Latta
Calvert	Gabbard	Lawrence
Carbajal	Gallagher	Lawson (FL)
Cárdenas	Galleo	Lee (NV)
Carson (IN)	Garamendi	Lesko
Carter (GA)	Garcia (IL)	Levin (CA)
Carter (TX)	Garcia (TX)	Levin (MI)
Case	Gianforte	Lewis
Casten (IL)	Gibbs	Lieu, Ted
Castor (FL)	Golden	Lipinski
Castro (TX)	Gomez	Loeb
Chabot	Gonzalez (OH)	Lofgren
Cheney	Gooden	Long
Chu, Judy	Gottheimer	Loudermilk
Cicilline	Granger	Lowenthal
Cisneros	Graves (GA)	Lowe
Clark (MA)	Graves (LA)	Lucas
Clarke (NY)	Graves (MO)	Luetkemeyer
Clay	Green (TN)	Lujan
Cleaver	Green (TX)	Luria
Cline	Griffith	Lynch
Cloud	Grothman	Malinowski
Clyburn	Guest	Maloney,
Cohen	Guthrie	Carolyn B.
Cole	Haaaland	Maloney, Sean
Collins (GA)	Hagedorn	Marchant
Collins (NY)	Harder (CA)	Marshall
Conaway	Hartzer	Mast
Connolly	Hastings	Matsui
Cook	Hayes	McAdams
Cooper	Heck	McBath
Correa	Herrera Beutler	McCarthy
Courtney	Hice (GA)	McCauley
Cox (CA)	Higgins (LA)	McClintock
Craig	Higgins (NY)	McCollum
Crawford	Hill (AR)	McEachin
Crenshaw	Hill (CA)	McGovern
Crist	Himes	McHenry
Crow	Holding	McKinley
Cuellar	Hollingsworth	McNerney
Cummings	Horn, Kendra S.	Meadows
Cunningham	Horsford	Meeks
Curtis	Houlihan	Meng
Davids (KS)	Hoyer	Meuser

Miller	Rogers (KY)	Takano
Mitchell	Rose (NY)	Taylor
Moolenaar	Rose, John W.	Thompson (CA)
Mooney (WV)	Rouda	Thompson (MS)
Moore	Rouzer	Thompson (PA)
Morelle	Roybal-Allard	Thornberry
Moulton	Ruiz	Timmons
Mucarsel-Powell	Ruppersberger	Tipton
Mullin	Rush	Titus
Murphy	Rutherford	Tlaib
Nadler	Ryan	Tonko
Napolitano	Sánchez	Torres (CA)
Neal	Sarbanes	Torres Small
Neguse	Scalise	(NM)
Newhouse	Scanlon	Trahan
Norcross	Schakowsky	Trone
Norman	Schiff	Turner
Nunes	Schneider	Underwood
O'Halleran	Schrader	Upton
Ocasio-Cortez	Schrier	Van Drew
Olson	Schweikert	Vargas
Palazzo	Scott (VA)	Veasey
Pallone	Scott, Austin	Vela
Palmer	Scott, David	Velázquez
Panetta	Sensenbrenner	Visclosky
Pappas	Serrano	Wagner
Pascarell	Sewell (AL)	Walberg
Payne	Shalala	Walden
Pence	Sherman	Walker
Perlmutter	Sherrill	Walorski
Perry	Shinkus	Waltz
Peters	Simpson	Wasserman
Peterson	Sires	Schultz
Phillips	Slotkin	Waters
Pingree	Smith (MO)	Watkins
Pocan	Smith (NE)	Watson Coleman
Porter	Smith (NJ)	Weber (TX)
Posey	Smith (WA)	Webster (FL)
Pressley	Smucker	Welch
Price (NC)	Soto	Westerman
Quigley	Spanberger	Wexton
Raskin	Spano	Wild
Ratcliffe	Speier	Williams
Reed	Stanton	Wilson (FL)
Reschenthaler	Stauber	Wilson (SC)
Rice (NY)	Stefanik	Wittman
Richmond	Steil	Womack
Riggleman	Steube	Woodall
Roby	Stevens	Wright
Rodgers (WA)	Stewart	Yoho
Roe, David P.	Stivers	Young
Rogers (AL)	Suozi	Zeldin

NAYS—16

Amash	Gaetz	King (IA)
Biggs	Gohmert	Massie
Brooks (AL)	Gosar	Rice (SC)
Buck	Harris	Roy
Burchett	Hern, Kevin	
Comer	Jordan	

NOT VOTING—15

Abraham	Fletcher	Omar
Babin	Gonzalez (TX)	Rooney (FL)
Butterfield	Grijalva	Swalwell (CA)
Cartwright	Jackson Lee	Wenstrup
Costa	Lee (CA)	Yarmuth

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (during the vote). There are 2 minutes remaining.

□ 1912

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.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the unfinished business is the question on agreeing to the Speaker's approval of the Journal, which the Chair will put de novo.

The question is on the Speaker's approval of the Journal.

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

REMOVAL OF NAME OF MEMBER AS COSPONSOR OF H. RES. 346

Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHY. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to remove myself as a cosponsor of H. Res. 346.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. WEBER of Texas. Mr. 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, 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. WEBER of Texas. Mr. Speaker, if this unanimous consent cannot be entertained, I urge the Speaker and the majority leader to immediately schedule the born-alive bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman has not been recognized for debate.

REPORT ON RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 986, PROTECTING AMERICANS WITH PREEXISTING CONDITIONS ACT OF 2019, AND PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 2157, SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2019

Ms. SHALALA, from the Committee on Rules, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 116–51) on the resolution (H. Res. 357) providing for consideration of the bill (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, and providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 2157) making supplemental appropriations for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2019, and for other purposes, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

STEM OPPORTUNITIES ACT OF 2019

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

Ms. JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing the STEM Opportunities Act of 2019 with the ranking member of the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology, Mr. FRANK LUCAS.

The goal of our legislation is to develop and implement evidence-based policies to promote the progress of

women and minorities and other groups underrepresented in STEM studies and research careers.

The result is a bipartisan bill that attempts to systematically address the full suite of issues facing both female and minority STEM researchers, from work/life balance policies, to campus climate, to better data collection, to recruitment and retention practices.

Our economic future relies on what we do now to nurture the STEM talent that will be necessary to meet the demands of an increasingly technological and knowledge-based economy.

I want to thank Ranking Member LUCAS for joining me in introducing this bill, and I urge the rest of my colleagues to please join us. I include my full remarks on this legislation for the RECORD.

Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing the STEM Opportunities Act of 2019. A very similar bill passed the House as part of the America Competes Act of 2010, but unfortunately did not make it into the enacted law. As a result, every Congress since then, I have worked hard to keep the legislation updated and to convince my colleagues of the urgency of the challenges this bill addresses. Today I am reintroducing this bill with Ranking Member of the Science Committee, FRANK LUCAS. The goal of our legislation is to develop and implement evidence-based policies to promote the progress of women, minorities, and other groups underrepresented in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) studies and research careers.

The need for full engagement in STEM by women and underrepresented groups goes beyond enabling individuals to fulfill their dreams of becoming a scientist. Our economic future relies on what we do now to nurture the STEM talent that will be necessary to meet the demands of an increasingly technological and knowledge-based economy. The Bureau of Labor Statistics reports that STEM employment is the fastest growing sector, with computer science and engineering jobs among the fastest growing STEM occupations.

If things continue as they are now, however, I fear we will be ill equipped to fill these jobs. We are nineteen years into the 21st century and the demographics of the STEM workforce do not reflect the diversity of the nation. In 2017, women earned only 20 percent of bachelor's degrees in engineering and 19 percent in computer science. Black and Hispanic students are similarly underrepresented in these fields at the undergraduate level, and the problem is even more pronounced in STEM faculty. Women hold only 26 percent of all tenured and tenure-track positions, while Black and Hispanic faculty combined hold a dismal 6.8 percent of these positions. We need to leverage all of our human capital if we are to achieve the necessary capacity to innovate and to discover.

The STEM Opportunities Act is focused on identifying and lowering barriers for those who have already chosen a STEM path. First, so that we better understand the nature and scope of the challenges, the STEM Opportunities Act requires more comprehensive demographic data collection on the recipients of federal research awards and on STEM faculty at U.S. universities. These data would be available to researchers to study the participa-

tion and trajectories of women and underrepresented minorities in STEM so that policy makers can design more effective policies and practices to reduce barriers.

Next, this bill requires the development of consistent federal policies, such as no-cost award extensions, for recipients of federal research awards who have caregiving responsibilities, including care for a newborn or newly adopted child and care for a sick family member. The bill also requires consistent federal guidance to grant reviewers and program officers on best practices to minimize the effects of implicit bias in the review of federal research grants. It requires OSTP to develop guidance for universities and Federal laboratories to aid them in identifying any cultural and institutional barriers limiting the recruitment, retention, and achievement of women, minorities, rural students, and other underrepresented groups in academic and government STEM research careers and in developing and implementing current best practices for reducing such barriers. Finally, the legislation authorizes NSF to award grants to universities to implement or expand research-based practices targeted specifically at increasing the recruitment and retention of minority students and faculty.

Mr. Speaker, in developing this legislation, we solicited extensive input from governmental and non-governmental stakeholders to ensure that the guidance and requirements reflect today's needs and opportunities without unduly burdening our research universities. The result is a bipartisan bill that attempts to systematically address the full suite of issues facing both female and minority STEM researchers, from work-life balance policies, to campus climate, to better data collection, to recruitment and retention practices. This bill proposes concrete and evidence-based solutions to the indisputable reality that our nation continues to fall well short of engaging our entire talent pool in STEM careers. That disparity in our STEM workforce will continue to have real and increasing consequences for our economic and national security if we do not begin to implement scalable solutions soon.

I want to thank Ranking Member LUCAS for joining me in introducing this bill and for contributing his good ideas to make the bill even better. I urge the rest of our colleagues to join us and to help us move this legislation forward into law.

RECOGNIZING THE COLLIN COLLEGE STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

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

Mr. TAYLOR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Collin College Student Government Association for winning the 2019 Event of the Year award at the Texas Junior College Student Government Association convention.

The event which earned the organization this prestigious recognition, "Love Does Not Hurt: An Oath Against Domestic Violence," provided resources for victims of domestic violence and featured speakers who inspired all in attendance.

I was honored to attend the event and witness firsthand the incredible difference these student leaders are making, both on and off campus.

I ask my colleagues in the House of Representatives to join me today in thanking the Student Government Association of Collin College for their dedication and commitment to our community.

NATIONAL FOSTER CARE MONTH

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

Mr. LANGEVIN. Mr. Speaker, as co-chair of the bipartisan Congressional Caucus on Foster Youth, I rise to recognize May as National Foster Care Month.

Mr. Speaker, it is time to bring front and center the more than 400,000 youth in our foster care system across the country. These young people are courageous, and they face and overcome many challenges.

Let's raise up their voices because they deserve to be heard, and they deserve a seat at the policymaking table.

May is also a time to recognize the foster care professionals, advocates, and families who devote themselves to supporting foster youth every day. These individuals deserve our utmost respect and our gratitude.

I am proud to cosponsor Representative KAREN BASS' resolution recognizing Foster Care Month.

To the foster youth and those who support them in Rhode Island and across the country, you matter, and I am here to be your advocate in Congress. I urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to join me.

SPIRIT OF SAVANNAH AIRCRAFT

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

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the partnership between the city of Savannah and the 165th Airlift Wing, symbolized by one of their aircrafts recently being named the "Spirit of Savannah."

Commemorating the C-130 airplane with its new name on Tuesday, April 9, the ceremony was a special occasion. It is now the only aircraft at the 165th that bears a unique designation and seal. I can't thank the members of the 165th Airlift Wing enough for their service.

They have flown to Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands to assist with hurricane recovery efforts. Just a few weeks later, they flew to Iraq and Syria to support missions against ISIS.

The work they do, based out of the First Congressional District of Georgia, helps keep our Nation and the entire world safe.

RECOGNIZING FIRST RESPONDERS

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

Mr. SCHNEIDER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to offer appreciation to the incredible first responders in my congressional district.

Twice in as many weeks, our firefighters, police, and paramedics have been called to respond to serious emergencies in Lake County.

On Thursday, April 25, a massive spill of anhydrous ammonia outside of Beach Park sent 37 individuals to the hospital, including 11 firefighters who sustained injuries from the toxic fumes while containing the site.

In particular, the quick action of two Lake County sheriff deputies—Sergeant Kyle Brown and Deputy Marcus Bernardy—and four Beach Park firefighters—Lieutenant Thomas Stahl and firefighter paramedics Pablo Ramirez, Matthew Baran, and Ben Newman—helped save the lives of five individuals trapped at the site and struggled to breathe.

Just days later, on Friday, May 3, a catastrophic explosion erupted at a silicone plant in Waukegan, tragically claiming three lives. A search continues for one missing individual. I offer my condolences to the loved ones of Jeff Cummings, Byron Biehn, and Allen Stevens.

While we are still gathering details, it is clear the prompt response of emergency professionals helped save others and extinguish the fires. In both situations, local responders rushed selflessly into danger to save others.

These events exemplify the incredible professionalism and bravery of our first responders who put their lives on the line day in and day out to protect our communities. We are all incredibly grateful for their service.

RECOGNIZING WEIGEL'S FARM STORES

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

Mr. BURCHETT. Mr. Speaker, I salute you for your salute to the Tennessee Big Orange with your tie selection.

I also rise today to recognize Weigel's Farm Stores, an east Tennessee-based convenience store chain, for its dedication to selling Tennessee products. Recently, Weigel's announced that it would sell milk only produced, processed, and bottled within the State.

In 1931, the Weigel family began operating a dairy. Over decades, the family business expanded from farming to owning and operating 67 stores in the region. I remember the square jugs of Weigel's milk that became iconic in the Knoxville area.

Although they no longer produce their own milk, their commitment to

Tennessee dairy products has remained constant. Independently owned dairies have long been an important part of east Tennessee's economy, but recently, these operations have struggled to compete with the larger farms.

I am glad that Bill Weigel, a good friend of my family's and the current owner of the business, and his family are investing in our local products and family farms, and I hope their decision will inspire other milk processors in the area to do the same.

□ 1930

HONORING DR. JOSEPH M.
JULIANO FOR 30 YEARS OF
SERVICE

(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 to honor Dr. Joseph M. Juliano upon his retirement from the City of Orange Fire Department after 30 years of service.

Dr. Juliano's commitment to the people of Orange, New Jersey, was inspired by his mother, Patricia, who was the first woman elected to the Orange City Council.

Dr. Juliano joined the Fire Department in 1988 and rose through the ranks during his 30-year career. He retired with the rank of fire captain.

In addition to being a firefighter, Dr. Juliano has served on the Orange Housing Authority for the past two decades, with the motto of "getting Orange back on track."

Dr. Juliano is a community leader and a role model from Orange, New Jersey, and I ask that my colleagues join me in honoring his service to the people of my district.

LET'S VOTE ON USMCA

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

Mr. STEIL. Mr. Speaker, we must set a vote on USMCA.

Wisconsin farmers are struggling. Low milk prices and limited access to international markets are hurting our farmers.

NAFTA was implemented over 25 years ago. Farming, technology, and markets have changed. It is time for a modern trade deal. It is time to protect workers and farmers.

I recently met with Wisconsin's agricultural industry in Burlington, Wisconsin, and there was one takeaway from our meeting: The USMCA will help Wisconsin's farmers. Our farmers will see increased access to markets. Our products will be able to compete on the global stage. Our workers will have the opportunity to succeed.

Mr. Speaker, let's vote on USMCA. Wisconsin farmers need our help.

REFORM OUR BROKEN IMMIGRATION SYSTEM

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

Ms. MUCARSEL-POWELL. Mr. Speaker, today we mark 1 year since former White House Chief of Staff John Kelly led the Trump administration in implementing the cruel policy of separating families at the border and criminalizing refugees and asylum seekers.

After John Kelly left the administration, he joined the board of Caliburn days before HHS awarded Caliburn a \$341 million no-bid contract to keep detaining migrant children in Homestead, Florida. In doing so, this administration is compounding cruelty with corruption.

While the zero-tolerance family separation policy may have ended, it has caused chaos and irreparable harm to our community. We can and we must do better.

We have to reform our broken immigration system and recognize that seeking asylum is legal. We must reunify families, and treat migrants searching for a better life in our country with the dignity that they deserve.

THE AMERICAN PEOPLE ARE NOT STUPID

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

Mr. WRIGHT. Mr. Speaker, so now that the Trump economy is soaring and setting job growth records following the one-two punch of regulatory reform and tax cuts, some of my Democrat colleagues want to give Barack Obama the credit.

Well, this is laughable. This was the President who refused to accept responsibility for anything that went wrong for 8 years, instead blaming it on President George W. Bush. Remember?

Not anemic job growth, government overreach, doubling the national debt, Benghazi, and incompetent foreign policy. Now they want to take credit for the great things happening in this country 28 months into the Trump Presidency.

Sorry, you don't get to do that.

This is an outrage. It is wrong; it is demonstrably false; and it won't work. The American people are not stupid.

LOWER PRESCRIPTION DRUG PRICES

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

Mr. ALLRED. Mr. Speaker, I received a letter recently from Paul Rozinsky of Richardson, Texas. Paul is 81 and uses Medicare Advantage. He has type 2 diabetes.

In his letter, he says that there are two identical versions of insulin; one is

\$140 and the other is \$24.88, made on a special contract for Walmart. Paul can't get access to the cheaper drug because it isn't on the insurer's drug list.

He wrote to his insurer about an exception to his tiered pricing so that he could qualify for the cheaper version. They rejected it with a note, saying: "We apologize for the inconvenience."

That is unacceptable and far too common. In fact, one in four patients with diabetes are rationing their insulin because of higher costs.

We must do better for Paul and millions like him who need access to cheaper medicines. This Congress must act and sign into legislation law that lowers costs and simplifies the process so it is easy to use.

Access to healthcare shouldn't be a partisan issue. I call on my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to come together and get something done this year to address the cost of prescription drugs.

HONORING THE SERVICE OF BEN REIFEL

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

Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota. Mr. Speaker, in the 1960s, South Dakota's Ben Reifel became the first Lakota Indian to represent our country in Congress. He grew up dirt poor in a log cabin. He dropped out after the eighth grade, later going on to graduate from South Dakota State and from Harvard.

Throughout his career, Ben Reifel, at the Bureau of Indian Affairs and for a decade here in Congress, fought to advance economic opportunity for American Indians. He celebrated hard work, education, and self-determination. He was respected in Indian Country, and he was respected in this Chamber.

Last week, I filed a bill to put Ben Reifel's name on the Rosebud Post Office. I am hopeful that young Indian boys and girls will look upon that name and realize that great Americans have come and will come again from that sacred place.

RECOGNIZING THE LIFE AND SERVICE OF THE HONORABLE ELLEN TAUSCHER

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

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, on April 30, the United States lost an incredible leader, a Member of Congress, one of the first women to serve on the New York Stock Exchange, and a good friend to many of us from California, Ellen Tauscher.

She served here for more than a decade, became one of the ranking members and chairwoman of the Armed Services subcommittees, and led this Nation in an effort towards non-proliferation of nuclear weapons.

She left Congress to take on the task of Under Secretary at the Department of State for that purpose and carried out that extraordinarily important task as a member of the Obama administration as Under Secretary of State.

We will miss her, and I will particularly miss her. When she left Congress to join the State Department, she left an open seat. I had the pleasure and privilege of following in her footsteps and becoming a Member of Congress.

We mourn her, we miss her, and we call to an American people Ellen Tauscher as an example of what an American can and should be.

TIGER WOODS AWARDED PRESIDENTIAL MEDAL OF FREEDOM

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

Mr. ALLEN. Mr. Speaker, yesterday, I had the great privilege of joining President Trump and many others at the White House Rose Garden as Tiger Woods was awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom.

I want to take this opportunity to congratulate Tiger, not only for winning our Nation's highest civilian honor, but also for his standout victory at the 2019 Masters Tournament in my hometown of Augusta, Georgia.

In 1997, Woods became the youngest man and first African Asian American to win the Masters at the young age of 21. After being tested by possible career-ending injuries and adversity, Tiger's comeback to win his 81st PGA tour event, 15th major championship, and fifth green jacket 22 years later is nothing short of remarkable.

Now Tiger adds the Presidential Medal of Freedom to his already stellar resume, becoming only the fourth golfer to do so, joining the likes of Arnold Palmer, Jack Nicklaus, and Charlie Sifford.

Congratulations to Tiger and his family for receiving such a well-deserved distinction. As the President said, Tiger, you are a "true legend."

NATIONAL SMALL BUSINESS WEEK

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

Mr. SPANO. Mr. Speaker, I rise to bring attention to National Small Business Week. Celebrated for over 50 years, we take this week to recognize the hard work, dedication, and sacrifices of America's entrepreneurs and small business owners and the important role that they play in our Nation.

Today, there are over 30 million small businesses in America, accounting for nearly 60 million employees, or just about half our workforce. They are the keystone of our national economy.

As a former small business owner myself, I know what it takes to make

payroll, attract customers, train and manage employees, and, at times, struggle just to keep the lights on. I can attest, it is not easy.

Today, thank God, small businesses in America are experiencing economic prosperity like never before, yet challenges remain. As policymakers, we must foster an environment in which small businesses can thrive, with limited regulations and tax policy that rewards hard work and incentivizes growth.

We are a nation of small businesses, and small businesses deserve our national support.

HONORING THE SERVICE OF COMMAND MASTER CHIEF RUSSELL MASON

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

Mr. HUIZENGA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a man who has honorably served our Nation with integrity, distinction, and humility. After more than 30 years of service to our great Nation, Command Master Chief Russell Mason, whom I am honored to call both a constituent and a friend, is retiring from the United States Navy.

Having enlisted in the Navy in 1984, Master Chief Mason has been stationed everywhere from Pearl Harbor to Washington, D.C., and his tours have brought him all around the world. He has served on multiple ships, including as chief of the boat, and has completed several tours as command master chief. In 2017, Master Chief Mason assumed duties as the command master chief for the U.S. Naval Forces Central Command 5th Fleet.

As a man of strong faith, he has earned the respect and admiration of many and has forever left a legacy of servant leadership and devotion.

Master Chief, God bless you. Our Nation is forever indebted to you and your wife, Charlotte. And Russ, thank you for your years of dedication and service to our country, the United States. You have completed your mission admirably, and I have no doubt that you will soon be enjoying retirement with us back in west Michigan.

HONORING THE SERVICE OF CATHY GOODMAN

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

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, the young lady behind me is Cathy Goodman. Cathy is the first school nurse at Settlers Way Elementary, and she is still that nurse 25 years later.

Why stay for 25 years? To quote Cathy: "My ministry began when SWE opened its doors and I stepped through them. I knew that I'd come home."

Cathy's ministry involved my daughter, Kate. That 10-year-old little girl

left the only life she ever knew when we moved back home in August of 2007. Every day during Kate's first month of school, we got a call. She had an upset stomach and was sent to see the school nurse, Cathy.

Cathy turned on her ministry and became Kate's best friend—problem solved.

Thank you, Cathy Goodman, for your unending love and faith. May God always bless you like you always blessed us.

□ 1945

KEEPING SOCIETAL PROMISES

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. VAN DREW). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2019, the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. SCHWEIKERT) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

Mr. SCHWEIKERT. Mr. Speaker, one of the things we are going to do tonight is touch on some of the numbers that have substantially come out since last Thursday and Friday, and then even more numbers that came out yesterday and today. This is sort of the continuation of the theme that we have been doing since the very beginning of the year, a theme of what do we as a society have to do to keep our promises.

The number of times—and I don't want to be too snarky—that we will have Members come behind these microphones or in our committees and want to do policy by anecdote—because telling stories is great. They make people happy. It is easy to understand. But it is not math. It is not public policy.

We have to stop trying to make public policy by feelings, by impressions, by stories, and start doing it by the numbers because the numbers ultimately make our lives better when we get it right.

The greatest fragility in our society right now, if you look, is the unfunded liabilities of Social Security and Medicare. We have a moral obligation to keep our promises, but the only way mathematically we keep our promises is to do a handful of things. It turns out, by doing this handful of things, my 3½-year-old little girl has a great future, and the person who is a baby boomer who has moved into retirement also has a stable future.

We have been doing this every week, our five elements of economic growth of things that would provide population stability, dealing with the benefits and incentives to stay in the workforce, technology disruptions, how there is a revolution coming in healthcare through technology and these drugs that are curative, how we are going to finance those and bring those into society, so that we stop having the debate on who pays in healthcare but what we pay. We have this ability to have this disruption.

Then the other thing is what we do to continue the employment cycle, keep-

ing people in the labor force, encouraging others to enter it. We are going to walk through some of those different numbers.

The crazy thing is this stuff shouldn't be Republican or Democrat. This should be society's goal, that growth is moral because it provides opportunity.

I want to walk through a couple of things that have happened in the last few days. Think about the data we received last Friday. If you love and care about people, if you go back and look at some of the economists' writings from just a couple of years ago about our brothers and sisters who didn't graduate high school, who didn't have any particular technical skill sets, we had written them off as being part of the permanent underclass in our communities and our society. Yet that is the very quartile that right now is having the fastest movement in their wages.

How do we keep that going? How do we keep that going as long as possible?

The jobs report, the unemployment reports we received, was amazing. We are hitting a trend where we are basically breaking all the rules. Those of us who grew up reading this stuff, the textbooks have to now be rewritten.

This is moral. This is something both someone on the liberal side and conservative side should have joy about the fact of the matter is that populations we had thought were going to be functionally part of the permanent underclass in our society are now seeing opportunity.

If this body was doing its actual work, we would be fixated on how we keep it going and keep it going for as long as possible.

Let's walk through some of the things this economic growth is providing. I will openly admit that this slide is out of scale because of the margin on it, but what is important is the first 6 months of 2017—and that is the fiscal year, so October on is the beginning of the fiscal year—the first 6 months of 2017 and then the first 6 months of this fiscal year, prior to tax reform, after tax reform.

One of these days, I keep being told by my staff it would be far too snarky to bring up here and just read the quotes that were said about what would happen to the economy with tax reform, to read the quotes of what would happen with employment and tax reform, what would happen to Federal receipts with tax reform.

Guess what has happened? The first 6 months of this fiscal year, the first 6 months of 2017—the reason we do 2017 is the first 6 months of the 2018 fiscal year straddled part with tax reform, part without—revenues were up.

They are not up a lot. It is about \$10 billion. But the technical term is receipts are actually up.

Do we get an apology from all those folks who basically got it wrong or just a recognition that something amazing is happening right now and we should be joyful?

So what is happening? Why revenue shortfalls compared to our spending?

If you want to dig in, a year ago, spending on defense—but also, we have to deal with the reality that, from 2008 to 2028, 91 percent of the spending increase is going to be interest, Social Security, healthcare entitlements. In 8.5 years, two workers, one retiree. In 8.5 years, 50 percent of the spending coming through this body less interest will be to those 65 and older.

Demographics are not a partisan issue. They are just math. The fastest growing population in our society is those of us getting older, and somehow this body is trying to turn it into something partisan.

The fact of the matter is, if you go back to the end of 2017, the modeling said a 0.4 percent growth in GDP over those 10 years. It would pay for itself. Yet the base, the size of the overall economy, would be dramatically larger, meaning more of our brothers and sisters having jobs, opportunities, and economic vitality.

Guess what has happened so far? The chart is a little hard to read, but if you look at the green, which is 2019, and you start to see where our mean GDP growth is, you start to understand how far we have come on that 0.4 percent economic expansion in GDP growth with the tax reform.

We are only 1.5 years into it. A year and a half isn't a complete sample size of a 10-year tax policy, but at some point, where is the joy? If you claim you care about the working men and women of the country, and you care about people's economic vitality, and you care about their economic futures, where is the joy?

Let's start to do a couple of things that should be joyful. Being from the State of Arizona, where I have a fairly substantial Latino population: lowest unemployment in modern history ever in our numbers. There is the chart. Where is the joy?

The fact of the matter is that something is working in our society right now. If you claim you love and care about people, we should be trying to figure out what we are doing right and doing more of it. It is working.

A lot of the really smart people who used to come lecture us and testify to us even a couple of years ago, they got it wrong. They are the same people we are going to invite to come testify in front of us next week, and we will never get around to asking them why they got their math so wrong.

What is the fragility? If you read the joint tax documents when tax reform was being put together, or you think about what the headwinds are, we have known our demographics, one of the biggest headwinds for our society. Within that, if you remember our five points, one of those points is population stability. That means we are going to have to deal with ways to encourage family formation and deal with immigration in a way that brings that population vitality to our society.

The two things that if you go back to the joint tax reports saying the headwinds for economic vitality to work were capital stock, money that was saved that could be loaned out to buy the capital equipment, and those things that were being incentivized, it turns out if you look at the savings rates the last 2 years after tax reform, savings rates are substantially better than anyone modeled.

It is a combination of a lot of things. It is a combination of the population getting older and getting ready for retirement, a population that we just misestimated, the number of businesses that were going to set aside cash. But remember, when those savings are set aside, they become a multiplier effect in the economy because they become lending capital.

As a simple example, take a look at interest rates. Take a look at our interest rates today compared to what was being predicted. This is one of the most unique times in modern history, where we have, functionally, a full employment economy. You all fixated on the numbers that happened today. Let me pull it up. U.S. job openings rebounded sharply in March with 364,000, seasonally adjusted, additional job openings posted up in March.

Functionally, we have a society right now with more jobs available than labor. If I had come and told you that was going to happen a couple of years ago, what would you have thought?

What this chart is basically talking about is labor force participation. As a society, how do we deal with some of that fragility? Because capital stock is working, and the numbers are working, but we are bouncing up against a fragility. That is that we have more jobs than we have available labor.

How do we encourage people to enter the labor force? Should we create certain incentives and things for those who are older to stay in the labor force?

This is one of my last slides here. We started seeing some really interesting numbers if you really break down the data. It started in December. Millennial females have started to substantially move into the workforce. Wonderful.

Why do we have such a lagging effect with millennial males? It is not Republican or Democrat. It is just that there is something we need to try to understand in how we get these populations into the labor force.

Because if we are going to keep our promises—and if you are like I am, where you believe growth is ultimately moral because it provides opportunities, stability, and the ability to plan for our future, we need this growth to continue.

What can we do to help our brothers and sisters out there that, for some barrier, are not entering the labor force?

The other thing we also saw beginning in December, which should make you joyful, is some interesting data of

those who would be considered to have a type of handicap moving into the labor force, which was letting us know that businesses were finally making accommodations to draw in that population. That is wonderful.

You could see some of that about 10 days ago, 2 weeks ago. The Medicare-Social Security actuaries did one of their reports. We have a problem, but you also saw Social Security gained an entire year. That means someone out there is paying FICA revenues. But did you see the number for those of our brothers and sisters on Social Security disability?

Some of that is that we changed some rules. We tightened up some of the mechanisms. But a big chunk of that was those who have life challenges were finding opportunities to work. These are good things.

We should, once again, be joyful and figure out, in the partisan divide of this place, not to try to find excuses of, well, this belongs to so-and-so or someone gets credit, but to figure out how to do more of it. Let's do more of it. Then, during the election cycle, we will figure out who gets to take credit for it. We will all take credit for it. But let's do more of the good things.

As we start to look at some of the labor force participation, one of the other things we are also fixated on in our office is that we are trying to really drill down to try to understand some of the demographics.

I am personally fixated with the fact that demographics often have much more impact on what happens in a society's vitality than the policy we make around here.

The fact of the matter is that we have 74 million of our brothers and sisters who are baby boomers. They were born in an 18-year period. Remember, in 8.5 years, they are all 65 and older.

□ 2000

That bubble is the single biggest challenge to this body. How often do you have anyone get behind these microphones and talk about: What are we going to do to create as much economic vitality so we actually have the revenues, the resources, the opportunity, and the adoption of technology to keep our commitments there for those who are still vital and want to stay in the workforce—there are opportunities—and, at the same time, reaching the other direction, as we have seen this unusual number with millennial males, helping them find a path into the labor force?

I know this is a little geeky, but come back to the principle. If we as a society are going to keep our promises on Medicare and we as a society are going to keep our promises on Social Security, it turns out that economic growth—and it is one of only five things, but we are going to have to dramatically change the cost of healthcare. I believe there is technology coming that is going to be the disruption.

As I was saying before, think about the ACA. Most folks know it as ObamaCare, those of us who worked on the Republican alternative. They were debates about who got subsidized and who paid; they were about the financing.

We haven't had a debate about what we as a body are going to do to encourage the technologies and the revolution that is coming to crash the price, and here is the thought experiment.

I have already done multiple presentations here on the floor of the technology that is coming, the thing that looks like a kazoo that you can blow into and instantly tell you if you have the flu. If we will make it legal, it can bounce off the data on your phone, which is your medical records, to make sure you are not allergic to a particular antiviral and could order your antiviral that could be delivered to your house a couple of hours later. How much healthier did we make society?

The other side is that 5 percent of our population is well over 50 percent of all of our healthcare spending. How do we help that 5 percent with chronic conditions live the type of life they deserve?

When you understand that—and I am hopeful it still stays on time—something like the concept of a single-shot cure for hemophilia, which may be available this November. Now, the shot is going to be really expensive, but a hemophiliac may be about a quarter million dollars a year in their clotting factor and other ancillary costs.

But what sort of revolution is in our society when you start to think about these biological drugs that are cures, what happens to that 5 percent of our society that have chronic conditions and we as a body start to say: Let's stop arguing about the financing side of healthcare and start having this discussion of how we are going to finance the cures that are really expensive but are revolutions to our society and our community?

We have a whole proposal we have been working on on the idea of selling a healthcare bond and then using the future savings to pay for it, but we are going to have to come up with some sort of pricing mechanism because, in many of these pharmaceuticals, it is a one and done.

Even The Wall Street Journal, today, has a discussion about a potential biological drug; \$2 million is the discussion price, but it is for this tiny population of very, very young children who have this disease that wastes their body away, and they die within 2 years. It is a moral imperative we find a way to make that drug available.

But what is the economic value of curing such a thing, even though it may be a population of only a few hundred of these children in our society?

These are optimistic, joyful, and powerful opportunities, and this body needs to wake up and stop having the same debate we have been having for 20 or 30 years here because it is now the

wrong debate. It turns out technology has passed us, and so have our demographics.

So what do we do to incentive participation in the economy, particularly when you have an economy with dramatically more jobs than we have available workers?

Here is this last slide. My hat is off to millennial females. They have begun entering the workforce in terrific numbers. If any of them happen to know a millennial male, could you please grab him by the hand and drag him into the workforce.

My wife blames video games. I still haven't seen actual data on this yet.

So my reason for taking some of this time tonight, I actually think there should be some joy out there. For those of us who get behind these microphones and we claim we care about people, there are really good things happening. How do we make more of it happen? How do we make this last as long as possible? Because we as a body, Democrats and Republicans, are in uncharted territory, and we have got to be brutally honest about this. We are in uncharted territory.

If you actually read some of the financial, economic articles over this weekend, lots of really smart economists and businesspeople are talking about having this type of economy with functionally full employment, with populations moving into the labor force at the same time our available workforce is starting to bend pretty dramatically because of baby boomers turning 65, and yet, functionally, no core inflation—if there was ever a time for us to functionally go after a number of societal ills with this type of opportunity to work.

And the last anecdote I am going to give after making fun of anecdotes—well, it is more than an anecdote; it is an observation.

A few months ago, I visited the homeless shelter in Phoenix. It is actually a fairly impressive facility. Over here is St. Joseph the Worker; over here is the dental clinic; over here is where we help you get ID; here is the 24-hours-a-day, 7-days-a-week 12-step meeting.

You walked in and saw St. Joseph the Worker. It is a Catholic charity. I believe it has been around 100-plus years. Their job is to help the most disadvantaged of our population, of our world find work.

There was a stack of job posts, notes, on top of the desk. Their greatest difficulty was how do they get someone from the homeless campus to that dishwashing job or to the stocking job or these things to get them back into the labor force in our society to begin that nobility of work but also as becoming part of their rehab programs.

We came up with this idea of, well, if transportation is a fragility—we all walk around with these in our pockets, and there are these buttons that you hit and a ride sharing comes up, and many of those very companies will ac-

tually provide the service at a fraction of the cost as a societal good.

We need to start thinking through the types of technology that we all use in our lives. How do we make it so that the mother who might be on a Medicaid system can get to her prenatal appointment? the person who has just gone through Goodwill's job training actually can get to their job interview? the person at the homeless campus actually can get to that job?

If you are from Phoenix, Arizona, asking someone to stand out and wait for the bus when it is 110 degrees, you start to understand that maybe we need to come up with a better solution.

I make the argument that we already know the solution. We already use it for ourselves and our children. We now need to start thinking about, if labor force participation is one of our great fragilities for future economic growth and that economic growth helps us take care of our promises, how do we get the most marginalized of our society and make sure they have the same opportunities? So this is one of those moments.

I know I have covered a lot of things, but I get to come behind the microphone. Even with all the sourness that happens around this place, I think there should be some joy because we are seeing our brothers and sisters who had a really tough decade back with some optimism and some options and some hope. Our ethical obligation, I think, is: How do we do more of it?

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

INFRASTRUCTURE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2019, the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. KELLY) is recognized for the remainder of the hour as the designee of the minority leader.

Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, for over 100 years, America's railways, roadways, runways, and rivers were the envy of the entire world. Now they are emblems of a past time that requires significant upgrades to support our current needs. They not only allow us to participate in a global economy, but allow us to dominate that economy.

First, let me note that American infrastructure is made up of the following: 4.1 million miles of public highways, over 600,000 bridges, 140,500 miles of railways, 11,300 miles of public transit systems, 25,000 miles of navigable waterways, 250 water ports, and 19,500 airports.

Much of that infrastructure is decades old and in dire need of repair. For too long, America has stood by and allowed our once world-leading infrastructure to crumble.

Our competitors have not only caught up with us, but, in many cases, have surpassed us. Countries like China and India spend billions on new roads, new rails, and ports, while we have allowed ours to decay.

America still has the most dynamic, innovative, and diversified economy in the entire world, but we must rebuild our Nation's infrastructure to remain competitive.

Our taxpayers already pay enough in taxes, so we have to find ways to pay for these infrastructure improvements. It is imperative that we do so without putting a heavier burden on our hardworking American taxpayers.

That is why I have worked on legislation over the years, with colleagues on both sides of the aisle, that uses a combination of public and private funds to fix our public works. By working together, we can rebuild our Nation's infrastructure by harnessing the private sector's capacity for innovation and investment, rather than raising taxes.

I would like to outline some of the legislation that I am talking about, which I believe is just the type of outside-the-box thinking we need to achieve those goals.

Today, EARL BLUMENAUER and I introduced the BUILD Act. This legislation raises the Federal statutory cap on private activity bonds that can be issued by or on behalf of State and local governments for qualified highway and freight improvement projects from \$15 billion to \$20.8 billion. In short, it allows State and local governments to enhance their capacity to finance surface transportation projects through private-public partnerships.

As more of our Nation's infrastructure requires critical investment and improvements, we must find ways to reinvest in our roads and rails without burdening our hardworking American taxpayers. This bill will help finance improvement projects at a minimal cost to taxpayers with a maximum impact on America's roads, bridges, and rails. This is a jobs bill.

I joined with Chairman DEFAZIO, Ranking Member GRAVES, Representative NAPOLITANO, and Representative WESTERMAN to introduce H.R. 2440, the Full Utilization of the Harbor Maintenance Trust Fund Act. This bipartisan bill ensures the harbor maintenance trust fund is used for its intended purpose, and that is maintaining our federally authorized harbors.

Erie, Pennsylvania, knows that our airports badly need this support. The Port of Erie is part of our economic lifeblood. For decades, cargo ships have had to light load because of a lack of dredging, significantly increasing the cost per unit for shipped goods.

People ask: What do you mean by light load? What I mean by that is they cannot load to their full capacity. They are light loading so the ships can navigate through areas that have not been dredged in years.

Our Nation's 59 busiest ports are available less than 35 percent of the time. Conditions of our midsize and emerging harbors are far worse.

Currently, there is over \$9 billion sitting in the harbor maintenance trust fund. This money has come from the users of those assets. They have put that money in for the express purpose of thinking that it was going to be used to improve the ports that they used.

Over the next decade, there is going to be an additional \$24.5 billion in revenue that will be collected by the harbor maintenance tax. This bill provides for the investment of approximately \$34 billion for our Nation's coastal and inland harbors over the next decade without raising one dime in taxes for our hardworking American taxpayers. This money will provide for dredging of all Federal harbors to their constructed widths and depths.

Because of developments like the opening of the expanded Panama Canal in 2016, larger container ships will increasingly call upon our Nation's ports, and dredging is necessary if they are allowed to have access to these ports. Our goal is to guarantee that our Nation is competitive in the global economy of the 21st century.

Also with EARL BLUMENAUER, I introduced the Public Buildings Renewal Act. This bipartisan legislation will spur private investment in public building infrastructure throughout the United States by creating \$5 billion in private activity bonds for the improvement of government-owned public buildings.

In every small town or city in America, the conditions of our public schools, our public hospitals, our universities, and our police and fire stations are deteriorating because of delayed maintenance. We just haven't been able to afford to do it.

With State and local budgets becoming increasingly tight, capital investments in public buildings have fallen by the wayside. For example, the average public school building is at least 40 years old, and the current backlog of maintenance and repair projects adds up to more than \$45 billion, annually, in unmet funding needs.

□ 2015

The Public Building Renewal Act aims to unlock private sector capital for the public sector's benefit. The public buildings that house vital services for Americans must be maintained and improved.

We have also dropped the Building Rail Access for Customers and the Economy Act. Representative BLUMENAUER and I introduced this bill just recently.

The short line rail industry operates on nearly 50,000 miles of railroad track in 49 states. And is part of the origination or the termination of one out of every five cars, railroad cars, on the national railroad system.

Short line railroads serve the most vulnerable part of the rail network. Small towns and small businesses who would have otherwise been cut off from the national network, are now served by the short lines.

Unfortunately, though, as the freight rail industry has evolved, many short line railroads and smaller communities have been abandoned.

This removes a critical first- and last-mile link between producers, consumers, and export opportunities in large and small communities across America.

Since it was first enacted in 2005, the 1- or 2-year increment extensions of the Short Line Railroad Maintenance Credit provided limited certainty for short line railroads to make investments in their infrastructure.

Our legislation delivers confidence by making the short line railroad maintenance credit permanent while also applying it retroactively to tax year 2018.

The short line railroad maintenance tax credit is responsible for more than \$4 billion of investment in privately held short line railroads across America.

The tax credit requires the short line railroad to invest \$1 dollar for every 50 cents in credit up to a credit cap of \$3,500 per track mile.

In 2015 alone, 2,140 rail miles were improved.

5.27 million railroad ties were replaced; and the short line industry invested nearly 25 percent of their revenue on infrastructure improvements.

These investments ensure that more than 10,000 rail companies can rely on safe, efficiently and economically competitive transportation for their products.

Also, I would like to talk just a little bit about the GAIIN Act.

During the last Congress, I introduced a bipartisan bill with a broad coalition from the Republican Study Committee, the Congressional Black Caucus, the Congressional Hispanic Caucus, and the House Freedom Caucus.

This legislation has the potential to help fund critical infrastructure projects in the Nation's poorest communities while simultaneously paying down on our national debt.

The poorest areas in our country have been routinely overlooked or are in dire need of infrastructure improvements that will facilitate economic growth and self-sustainability.

Reviving these forgotten cities and breathing life back into these towns throughout America is both a moral and economic imperative that uniquely unites all lawmakers on both sides of the aisle.

Selling some of the \$2 trillion of non-performing debt and lease assets held by Federal agencies on the open market would be a good strategy for a down payment on infrastructure improvements.

The GAIIN Act will do that and reduce our debt without asking taxpayers for one more penny of their money.

Half the proceeds from these sales will be put into projects and communities below the poverty line and directly lead to jobs and economic growth where it is most needed.

Also, the contractors doing this work in these communities would be required to hire people who actually live there, to help build these products and projects.

Imagine the generational pride that will be created when fathers and mothers and grandfathers and grandmothers tell their children and grandchildren, "We rebuilt this community for you." It lasts for generations, and it is a pride that you can't just stop thinking about how good it is for our country.

Now, the other half of the revenue we collect would go to debt reduction. And this is a private-sector solution to a public-sector problem, and another huge win for America.

It is time for us to come together as a Nation to keep America on its path of greatness.

This is not a red State or blue State issue. This is not a Republican or Democrat issue. This is a red, white, and blue American issue.

We must make sure American infrastructure allows our people to compete in the global economy now and in the future. In an economy that we not only participate in, but that we dominate, that America takes its rightful place in the world when it comes to what we are able to do.

The Tax Cuts and Jobs Act and the President's rescission of the onerous regulations unleashed our economy, and we are seeing the best job numbers that we have seen in over half a century.

Now, in order for that success to be sustained and long-term, it is incumbent that we upgrade our infrastructure.

So I call on all my colleagues to work together and come up with creative solutions to pay for these very necessary improvements and to support the bills I have outlined today.

America's best times lie in front of her, not behind her. And once again, it is Yankee ingenuity that will lead us to the top again and we will become that country that others long to belong to and become a part of.

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 gentleman from California (Mr. GARAMENDI) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, one of the things that occasionally happens here on the floor of the House late at night, when most everybody is doing something else, is an opportunity to hear what our Republican colleagues want to talk about, and I must commend them.

I actually sat through a very fascinating discussion on the American economy by Mr. SCHWEIKERT about jobs, about the development of the workforce and the way it relates to Social Security.

Very, very interesting. And I just wish there were 433 or 434 others that could have listened to what he had to say. And he very well described a fascinating part of the American economy and how it might relate to our future.

I am going to go into it in a few moments.

I had no idea that our colleague was going to pick up the short line railroad issue, which is a big deal in my district. I have a very large agriculture district in California, and the short line railroads are critically important. And as we talk about infrastructure—yeah—we really ought to be considering the first and the last mile. In other words, the short line railroads and how they fit into this transportation system that is so critically important to the American economy.

Fascinating. I want to commend my Republican colleagues for bringing all of that to the floor, and I am going to make a few comments about it.

Let's start with Mr. SCHWEIKERT on the issue of Social Security and growing the jobs.

He is absolutely correct. If we have a robust economy, if the men and women of America are working, they will be paying into Social Security insurance systems and the life, the viability, and the financial integrity of the Social Security system will be improved.

One of the facts that Mr. SCHWEIKERT, my friend from Arizona, pointed out is that, already with the economy as it is, we have extended, by 1 year, the financial viability of Social Security.

Now, think for a few moments. And my colleague didn't bring this up, but if the minimum wage, either legally in law or in competition for quality workers, were to increase, say, across the Nation to \$15 an hour, then that much more revenue would flow into the Social Security system.

So as we think about these things and as he correctly pointed out, high employment, very low unemployment, is a benefit to the viability of Social Security, to say nothing of the viability of the individual that is able to earn a living, to participate in whichever way they may desire to engage in the economic activities of this Nation.

All very, very good points, and I really want to commend them for that.

One issue that was discussed, but I don't think was fully explained, is how do you prepare people.

Years and years ago in California, in the 1980s, I led a committee on the future of the California economy. And we studied the California economy, we studied the world economy, the history of the growth of the California economy, which today remains the largest economy—I guess, it is fifth largest economy in the world—and one of the most rapid-growing and one of the most advanced.

We said then that if a government—really, the people—of a society, were to invest in education, and if you had the best educated workforce in the world, you would have the best economy.

Now, California does not have the best education system at K through 12. Community college and the university systems, public and private, are extraordinary, literally, the best in the world.

Now, if we were to add that same principle to the American economy, then those men and women that are ill-prepared to enter a modern workforce, could—in the K through 12 system, high school—begin their preparation to enter into the workforce at a skilled level.

Maybe that skill is computer science, and all of that, or maybe it is welding, or in the construction trades. Whatever it is, they would be prepared.

And so as we look at the options that were discussed first by Mr. SCHWEIKERT as he talked about the workforce, I would suggest that he look at this issue of education. I know he mentioned it, but how do we then fund it. And here is where we ought to have an interesting debate.

In December of 2017, my Republican colleagues and the President decided that the way to grow the economy was to massively cut taxes, and they did. Probably a trillion and a half dollars over the next 10 years—a massive, massive tax cut—that significantly reduced the revenue to the Federal Government.

Choices were made in that process.

The choice that was made was to reduce taxes a little bit across the board. Working men and women and families did receive a tax reduction.

In my view, it was very small, and certainly statistically—and by the numbers—very, very small compared to the top 10 percent, the top 1 percent that received a massive tax cut. And American corporations saw their tax rate fall from 35 percent down to 20 percent.

Now, that was supposed to create massive economic growth, and it could be argued that we have had a good economy for the last year or so. And my colleagues did put up some charts to support that argument; however, we need to consider some of the underlying implications of that.

First of all, who got the great bulk? 90 percent—I guess, about 80 percent—of that great tax reduction went to the superwealthy and the corporations.

□ 2030

What did they do with it? Did they invest in the elements of economic growth, education, research, capital outlay in businesses, and transportation and infrastructure? Was that where the tax reductions were invested? Well, no.

The corporations used the clear majority, in the 60 to 70 percent range, of their reduced tax for stock buyback, which had the wonderful effect of driving up the price of stock.

Who benefited from that? Was it the working men and women in the shipyards or on the short-line railroads, or the teachers in education? No. It was

the top 10 percent who owned the stock.

Let's think this through. Now, nonetheless, the economy has grown, and I would posit that one of the reasons the economy has grown is the Keynesian economic theory. The Keynesian economic theory, developed in the 1930s with the Great Depression, was that when the economy is slow or depressed, government steps in with deficit spending. Government supports the economy with deficit spending.

Guess what is happening today: massive deficit spending by the government, tax reductions, \$1.5 trillion gone this year, a \$1 trillion deficit for the Federal Government. By the facts, massive deficit spending by the government, not in education, not in infrastructure, but, rather, in the military and, interestingly enough, through the tax policy so that the great benefit went to the top 10 percent. Nonetheless, we have seen a stimulated economy, as Keynes suggested would happen with deficit spending.

Mr. SCHWEIKERT correctly points out that we have not seen the inflation, thankfully, and interest rates have remained low. I would posit the reason for that is that we are still importing cheap products from around the world, and despite the chaos here in Washington, D.C., the safest bet in the world is America. People are continuing to buy American bonds and invest in America, bonds and debt, all of which has kept the interest rates low.

Here is what I would suggest we look at, and there is a lot of opportunity that exists. I was really enthusiastically listening to Mr. SCHWEIKERT as he laid out his proposals and his description of the economy and the labor force. I would suggest that we continue this debate.

I spoke to the gentleman a few moments ago. I said: Let's get in a colloquy back here. You can open with your discussion, and I will come back with my side of it. I think we have some opportunity here to really develop some decent policy.

Let's take investing. There is a lot of talk about infrastructure investing. We are going to have to find the money for that. Can we do it all on debt with deficit financing? I don't think so. I think there is going to be some limit to that, so we need to talk about tax revenue. We might want to go back and revisit the 2017 tax cut and who benefited and what the opportunities might be to rearrange that equation.

What would we invest in? Infrastructure. Now, if we are going to invest in infrastructure, we already know we are short of skilled labor. That brings us to education and labor force preparation. Is there a role for the Federal Government here, together with the State governments and businesses, to develop the workforce, to train the workforce? The answer is absolutely yes.

We know how to do this. This has been done before during World War II. As Mr. SCHWEIKERT pointed out correctly, the millennial women joining

the labor force—guess who the millennial women were in 1942 and 1943? Yes, they were Rosie the Riveter. Who trained them in the government contracts to the shipbuilders, to the tank builders, to the truck builders? There was money in those contracts to train the workforce. The government, together with the private sector, trained the workforce. The models are there.

We do have community colleges. We do have apprenticeship programs with labor unions, labor-management apprenticeship programs. All of those are there.

If we need a well-trained workforce, we don't need to reinvent it. It is already available to us: labor-management apprenticeship programs and the Federal Government providing incentives in the contracts for shipbuilding.

I was talking to one of my Democratic colleagues about a shipyard that was unable to have trained workers: welders, shipbuilders, plumbers, pipefitters, and the like. The company was not investing in the workforce, in the apprenticeship programs. That can be solved.

If we need to subsidize that through the contracts, do it. Set it aside, make it a special part of it. Yes, you are going to build naval ships, but, yes, you are also going to train workers. Here is how it will be done. Here is the money to do it. We can do these things.

Education, research, fundamental investments, we need to pay attention to making it in America. I have spent days and days here on the floor in these Special Order hours talking about how we can do that. I want to give you an example.

America today is exporting oil and natural gas. Ten years ago, we used to be net importers. Now we are net exporters. That strategic natural resource is going out to the world, largely to China, on ships. Whose ships? This strategic national asset needs to be coupled with another strategic national asset, which is the American maritime industry.

Consider for a moment, if we were to require that a small percentage of that oil and natural gas be on American-built ships with American crews, American mariners, what would happen. One, 2, 3, percent, up to 5, 6, 7, 8 percent over the next decade, we would build 50 ships. In the shipyards across America, we would employ American workers to build those ships.

Is it possible? Absolutely, it is possible. Do you know what it takes? It takes a very simple law requiring that, for the necessity of America's national security, we be able to maintain our maritime industry so that, should something happen, we will be able to transport across the oceans of the world our military as needed, that we in our shipyards maintain the workforce and the viability of the shipyards so that they can build the necessary naval vessels.

Is it possible? All it takes is a law.

I recommend that we pay attention. I introduced this legislation last year

with my good friend, Senator WICKER from the Senate side, and we are going to reintroduce it here in the next few days.

The Energizing American Shipbuilding Act will soon be on the floor of the House and the Senate. I draw our attention to that because it combines a necessary national security issue with jobs.

However, what I said a moment ago is critical. That is that, along the way in this process, we must train workers starting in high school, starting with the apprenticeship programs, making sure that the shipyard businesses are in the business of training workers together with community colleges and other apprenticeship programs. If we do this, even if we need to subsidize that process, we will grow this economy, and we will have high-paid, high-skilled workers.

Similarly, as we rebuild the American bridges, as we rebuild the short-line railroads, as we rebuild the infrastructure of America, whether it is in high-speed internet communications systems or in highway transportation, river transportation, all the rest, we need to keep in mind the training of the workforce.

I thank Mr. SCHWEIKERT for bringing to the attention of the floor tonight this critical issue. There are so many things we can do together. There are different ways of approaching this. But I know that if we are willing to engage in a debate, an honest debate about growing the American economy, about making sure that our task is for the people, not the special interests but for the fundamental American working men and women, we will be successful.

Again, we can do it through education, job training, research, make it in America, and paying attention to our infrastructure.

If we are short 350,000 workers to fill the 350,000 jobs that are open today, then it is incumbent upon this Congress to get at it.

I want to do one final thing. There is an infrastructure project in California. It is an infrastructure project that has been discussed for the last 30 years, and it is an infrastructure project that is extraordinarily damaging.

California water is extremely complex. Basically, water flows from northern California rivers into the great Sacramento-San Joaquin River Delta, the largest inland estuary on the West Coast of the Western Hemisphere, an extraordinary place, a place that I represent and a place where I have lived for the last 40-some years.

It is an extraordinary part of America. It is now a national heritage area.

It has been suggested over the last three decades that the water systems of California need to circumvent the natural flow of water into this estuary. Over this period of time, I have had the obligation to fight those proposals.

First, it was the Peripheral Canal to take the water around the delta. Then in the last decade, it has been the Twin

Tunnels, two massive tunnels that literally had the capacity to drain the Sacramento River, to drain it dry. The river runs some 12,000 to 16,000 cubic feet per second 6 months of the year. The tunnels were sized at 16,000 cubic feet per second and, therefore, capable of literally drying the delta and destroying the incredible ecosystem of the delta.

We fought. We fought the battle, and I commend our new Governor, Governor Newsom, for stepping back and taking the time to rethink this proposal called the California WaterFix, to rethink its impact on the ecology and the environment of the delta. I thank him for taking WaterFix and pushing it aside.

He said no, we are not going to pursue that. We are going to go back and do the environmental analysis, not on two tunnels capable of drying out the delta or drying out the Sacramento River, but, rather, look at how this water problem in California can be solved without ecological damage.

We will pursue this once again, and I know that it can be done. Nearly 8 years ago, I proposed what I called a Water Plan for All California. It laid out solutions, not that I developed, but that had been developed by Californians in the water industry, in the agricultural industry, in the urban as well as the agricultural water systems.

Those proposals have been out there. We simply compiled them into a program: conservation, storage, paying attention to the aquifers, paying attention to the ecology of the fish and the environment, and providing in the delta a solution built upon improving the transport of water through the natural levees and through the natural sluices and rivers while keeping in mind that water should not be exported when it would damage the fish. All of that is possible. That law is now in place; it is called the WIN legislation, water infrastructure.

Now, we can move forward with a new opportunity as we revisit a solution that is both good for the environment, good for the delivery of water to all Californians, and done in a way that does not set up an existential danger, an existential system that could damage forever the largest estuary on the West Coast of the Western Hemisphere.

We can do it. Just as the optimism that I heard from my Republican colleagues in the first order hour here, I present an optimistic opportunity. I am not yet joyful, but I am optimistic because I know these solutions are there if we work together and if we keep our eye on the prize for the people, for the American people, not just the superwealthy, not just the major American corporations, but for mom and pop, for Wall Street, for the men and women who are working in the shipyards, working on the rails, and for those millennial women who are entering the workforce and the millennial men who will be following along.

I am optimistic, and I hope to be joyful.

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

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Ms. JACKSON LEE (at the request of Mr. HOYER) for today on account of travel delay.

SENATE BILL REFERRED

A bill of the Senate of the following title was taken from the Speaker's table and, under the rule, referred as follows:

S. 693. An act 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; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 8 o'clock and 46 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until tomorrow, Wednesday, May 8, 2019, at 10 a.m. for morning-hour debate.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 2 of rule XIV, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

893. A letter from the Acting Secretary, Department of Defense, transmitting a letter on the approved retirement of Lieutenant General Jeffrey S. Buchanan, United States Army, and his advancement to the grade of lieutenant general on the retired list, pursuant to 10 U.S.C. 1370(c)(1); Public Law 96-513, Sec. 112 (as amended by Public Law 104-106, Sec. 502(b)); (110 Stat. 293); to the Committee on Armed Services.

894. A letter from the Acting Secretary, Department of Defense, transmitting a letter on the approved retirement of Lieutenant General Robert S. Williams, Air National Guard of the United States, and his advancement to the grade of lieutenant general on the retired list, pursuant to 10 U.S.C. 1370(c)(1); Public Law 96-513, Sec. 112 (as amended by Public Law 104-106, Sec. 502(b)); (110 Stat. 293); to the Committee on Armed Services.

895. A letter from the Under Secretary, Research and Engineering, Department of Defense, transmitting the Department's Calendar Year 2018 List and Description of Activities at the Science and Technology Re-invention Laboratory Personnel Demonstration Projects, pursuant to 10 U.S.C. 2358 note; Public Law 110-181, Sec. 1107(d); (122 Stat. 358) and 5 U.S.C. 4703(b)(4)(B); Public Law 95-454, Sec. 601(a); (92 Stat. 1186); to the Committee on Armed Services.

896. A letter from the Acting Secretary, Department of Defense, transmitting a letter on the approved retirement of lieutenant General Gwendolyn Bingham, United States Army, and her advancement to the grade of lieutenant general on the retired list, pursuant to 10 U.S.C. 1370(c)(1); Public Law 96-513, Sec. 112 (as amended by Public Law 104-106, Sec. 502(b)); (110 Stat. 293); to the Committee on Armed Services.

897. A letter from the Acting Secretary, Department of Defense, transmitting a letter on the approved retirement of Vice Admiral Walter E. Carter, Jr., United States Navy, and his advancement to the grade of vice admiral on the retired list, pursuant to 10 U.S.C. 1370(c)(1); Public Law 96-513, Sec. 112 (as amended by Public Law 104-106, Sec. 502(b)); (110 Stat. 293); to the Committee on Armed Services.

898. A letter from the Acting Secretary, Department of Defense, transmitting a letter on the approved retirement of General Thomas D. Waldhauser, United States Marine Corps, and his advancement to the grade of general on the retired list, pursuant to 10 U.S.C. 1370(c)(1); Public Law 96-513, Sec. 112 (as amended by Public Law 104-106, Sec. 502(b)); (110 Stat. 293); to the Committee on Armed Services.

899. A letter from the Acting Principal Director, Department of Defense, transmitting the Department's final rule — Defense Federal Acquisition Regulation Supplement: Contract Closeout Authority (DFARS Case 2018-D012) [Docket: DARS-2018-0029] (RIN: 0750-AJ76) received April 30, 2019, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Armed Services.

900. A letter from the Acting Principal Deputy, Department of Defense, transmitting the Department's final rule — Defense Federal Acquisition Regulation Supplement: Small Business Set-Asides for Architect-Engineer and Construction Design Contracts (DFARS Case 2018-D057) [Docket: DARS-2018-0056] (RIN: 0750-AK18) received April 30, 2019, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Armed Services.

901. A letter from the Acting Principal Deputy, Department of Defense, transmitting the Department's final rule — Defense Federal Acquisition Regulation Supplement: Restriction on the Acquisition of Certain Magnets and Tungsten (DFARS Case 2018-D054) [Docket: DARS-2019-0016] (RIN: 0750-AK15) received April 30, 2019, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Armed Services.

902. A letter from the Chief Counsel, FEMA, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Suspension of Community Eligibility; West Virginia: Fairmont, City of, Marion County [Docket ID: FEMA-2019-0003; Internal Agency Docket No.: FEMA-8573] received April 30, 2019, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Financial Services.

903. A letter from the Chief of Staff, Media Bureau, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule — Amendment of Section 73.622(i) Post-Transition Table of DTV Allotments (Bridgeport and Stamford, Connecticut) [MB Docket No.: 18-126] (RM-11800) received April 30, 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.

904. A letter from the Associate Bureau Chief, Wireline Competition Bureau, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule — Connect America Fund [WC Docket No.: 10-90] received April 30, 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.

905. A letter from the Secretary, Department of the Treasury, transmitting a six-month periodic report on the national emergency with respect to the situation in or in relation to the Democratic Republic of the Congo that was declared in Executive Order 13413 of October 27, 2006, pursuant to 50

U.S.C. 1641(c); Public Law 94-412, Sec. 401(c); (90 Stat. 1257) and 50 U.S.C. 1703(c); Public Law 95-223, Sec. 204(c); (91 Stat. 1627); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

906. A letter from the Secretary, Department of the Treasury, transmitting a six-month periodic report on the national emergency with respect to significant narcotics traffickers centered in Colombia declared in Executive Order 12978 of October 21, 1995, pursuant to 50 U.S.C. 1641(c); Public Law 94-412, Sec. 401(c); (90 Stat. 1257) and 50 U.S.C. 1703(c); Public Law 95-223, Sec. 204(c); (91 Stat. 1627); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

907. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Bureau of Industry and Security, Department of Commerce, transmitting the Department's final rule — Revisions to the Unverified List (UVL) [Docket No.: 190130021-9021-01] (RIN: 0694-AH73) received April 30, 2019, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

908. A letter from the Acting Principal Director, Department of Defense, transmitting the Department's final rule — Defense Federal Acquisition Regulation Supplement: Use of the Government Property Clause (DFARS Case 2015-D035) [Docket: DARS-2016-0035] (RIN: 0750-AJ11) received April 30, 2019, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Armed Services.

909. A letter from the Attorney — Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's temporary final rule — Security Zone; Cumberland River, Nashville, TN [Docket Number: USCG-2019-0152] (RIN: 1625-AA87) 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 Transportation and Infrastructure.

910. A letter from the Attorney — Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's temporary final rule — Safety Zone; Sabine River, Orange, TX [Docket Number: USCG-2019-0160] (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 Transportation and Infrastructure.

911. A letter from the Attorney-Advisor, Office of Regulations and Administrative Law, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's temporary final rule — Special Local Regulation; Bush River and Otter Point Creek, Harford County, MD [Docket Number: USCG-2019-0083] (RIN: 1625-AA08) 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 Transportation and Infrastructure.

912. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Amendment of the Prohibition Against Certain Flights in the Tripoli Flight Information Region (FIR) (HLLL) [Docket No.: FAA-2011-0246; Amtd. No.: 91-321D] (RIN: 2120-AL40) 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.

913. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Amendment and Establishment of Multiple Air Traffic Service (ATS) Routes; Western United States [Docket No.: FAA-2018-0232; Airspace Docket No.: 17-ANM-33] (RIN: 2120-AA66) 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.

914. A letter from the Management of Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Honeywell International Inc. Turbofan Engines [Docket No.: FAA-2018-0719; Product Identifier 2016-NE-24-AD; Amendment 39-19589; AD 2019-05-07] (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.

915. A letter from the Chairman, Surface Transportation Board, transmitting the Board's final rule — Payment, Filing, and Service Procedures [Docket No.: EP 747] received April 30, 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.

916. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Energy, transmitting the Department's report to Congress concerning the Mixed Oxide (MOX) Fuel Fabrication Facility under construction at the Department's Savannah River Site near Aiken, South Carolina, pursuant to 50 U.S.C. 2566(a)(3)(A); Public Law 107-314, Sec. 4306(a)(3)(A); (116 Stat. 2747); jointly to the Committees on Energy and Commerce and Armed Services.

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:

Ms. SHALALA: Committee on Rules. House Resolution 357. Resolution providing for consideration for the bill (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, and providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 2157) making supplemental appropriations for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2019, and for other purposes (Rept. 116-51). Referred to the House Calendar.

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. JOHNSON of Texas (for herself and Mr. LUCAS):

H.R. 2528. A bill to direct the Director of the Office of Science and Technology Policy to carry out programs and activities to ensure that Federal science agencies and institutions of higher education receiving Federal research and development funding are fully engaging their entire talent pool, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology.

By Mr. ENGEL (for himself and Mr. McCAUL):

H.R. 2529. A bill to require certain reports and briefings to Congress relating to the expiration of the New START Treaty, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, and in addition to the Committee on Intelligence (Permanent Select), 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. CONNOLLY (for himself and Mr. CUMMINGS):

H.R. 2530. A bill to provide temporary authority to the general counsel of the Merit Systems Protection Board to grant stays of

personnel actions, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Oversight and Reform.

By Mr. AMODEI (for himself, Mr. GOMMERT, Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio, Mr. YOUNG, Mr. WESTERMAN, Mr. HICE of Georgia, Mr. COOK, Mr. GOSAR, Mrs. RODGERS of Washington, Mr. LAMBORN, Mr. TIPTON, Mr. LAMALFA, Mr. MOONEY of West Virginia, Mr. STAUBER, Mr. STEWART, Mr. MCCLINTOCK, Mr. HAGEDORN, and Mr. GIANFORTE):

H.R. 2531. A bill to require the Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of Agriculture to more efficiently develop domestic sources of the minerals and mineral materials of strategic and critical importance to the economic and national security and manufacturing competitiveness of the United States, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. GRIJALVA (for himself, Ms. HAALAND, Mr. HUFFMAN, Mr. NEGUSE, and Mr. KHANNA):

H.R. 2532. A bill to protect grizzly bear populations, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources, and in addition to the Committee on Agriculture, 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. PALLONE:

H.R. 2533. A bill to assist community water systems affected by PFAS contamination, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. HIMES:

H.R. 2534. A bill to amend the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 to prohibit certain securities trading and related communications by those who possess material, nonpublic information; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Ms. MOORE (for herself and Ms. FUDGE):

H.R. 2535. A bill to amend the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act to ensure that child protective services systems do not permit the separation of children from parents on the basis of poverty, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and Labor.

By Mr. FLORES:

H.R. 2536. A bill to repeal the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act and health care-related provisions in the Health Care and Education Reconciliation Act of 2010, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committees on Education and Labor, Ways and Means, the Judiciary, Natural Resources, Rules, House Administration, Appropriations, and 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 Mr. LEVIN of Michigan (for himself, Mr. HARDER of California, Mr. CARDENAS, Mr. VARGAS, Mrs. DAVIS of California, Ms. NORTON, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. BERGMAN, Mr. HUIZENGA, Mr. MOOLENAAR, Mr. KILDEE, Mr. UPTON, Mr. WALBERG, Ms. SLOTKIN, Ms. STEVENS, Mrs. DINGELL, Ms. TLAIB, Mrs. LAWRENCE, Mr. FORTENBERRY, Mr. GREEN of Texas, and Mr. AMASH):

H.R. 2537. A bill to defer removal of certain nationals of Iraq for a 24-month period, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. BANKS:

H.R. 2538. A bill to create child safety accounts in the District of Columbia, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Oversight and Reform.

By Ms. BARRAGÁN:

H.R. 2539. A bill to require the Secretary of Homeland Security to prioritize the assignment of certain officers and intelligence analysts from the Transportation Security Administration and the Office of Intelligence and Analysis of the Department of Homeland Security to locations with participating State, local, and regional fusion centers in jurisdictions with a high-risk surface transportation asset in order to enhance the security of such assets, including by improving timely sharing of classified information regarding terrorist and other threats, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security.

By Mr. FLORES (for himself, Mr. WELCH, Mr. WOMACK, and Mr. COSTA):

H.R. 2540. A bill to alleviate the ethanol blend wall under the renewable fuel program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. BLUMENAUER (for himself, Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania, Ms. SEWELL of Alabama, and Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois):

H.R. 2541. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to increase the national limitation amount for qualified highway or surface freight transfer facility bonds; to the Committee on Ways and Means, and in addition to the Committee on 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 Mr. BLUMENAUER (for himself, Ms. BONAMICI, and Mr. MICHAEL F. DOYLE of Pennsylvania):

H.R. 2542. A bill to direct the Secretary of Transportation to make grants for the operation of a clearinghouse to collect, conduct, and fund research on the influences of highly automated vehicles on land use, urban design, transportation, real estate, and municipal budgets, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology, and in addition to the Committee on 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 Mrs. BUSTOS (for herself, Mr. GIANFORTE, Mr. COOPER, Mr. MEADOWS, Ms. KUSTER of New Hampshire, Mr. GALLAGHER, Miss RICE of New York, Mr. CISNEROS, and Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHY):

H.R. 2543. A bill to amend the Improper Payments Elimination and Recovery Improvement Act of 2012, including making changes to the Do Not Pay Initiative, for improved detection, prevention, and recovery of improper payments to deceased individuals, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means, and in addition to the Committee on Oversight and Reform, 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. CASE:

H.R. 2544. A bill to amend title 31, United States Code, to clarify that, during a lapse in appropriations beginning on or after October 1, 2020, positions relating to providing services for paying or reimbursing Federal employees for official travel are excepted services under the Anti-Deficiency Act, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Oversight and Reform.

By Mr. CUMMINGS (for himself and Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHY):

H.R. 2545. A bill to create an Office of Cybersecurity at the Federal Trade Commission for supervision of data security at consumer reporting agencies, to require the promulgation of regulations establishing standards for effective cybersecurity at consumer reporting agencies, to impose penalties on credit reporting agencies for cybersecurity breaches that put sensitive consumer data at risk, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Ms. DEGETTE (for herself and Mr. NEGUSE):

H.R. 2546. A bill to designate certain lands in the State of Colorado as components of the National Wilderness Preservation System, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. DEUTCH (for himself and Mr. HASTINGS):

H.R. 2547. A bill to amend the Help America Vote Act of 2002 to require States to allow an individual to cure a mismatched signature on a mail-in or provisional ballot, and for other purposes; to the Committee on House Administration.

By Mrs. FLETCHER (for herself, Mr. OLSON, Mr. BUTTERFIELD, and Mr. MEADOWS):

H.R. 2548. A bill to modify eligibility requirements for certain hazard mitigation assistance programs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, and in addition to the Committee on 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. GRIJALVA (for himself and Ms. HAALAND):

H.R. 2549. A bill to amend the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act to require that equitable distribution of assistance include equitable distribution to Indian tribes and tribal organizations and to increase amounts reserved for allotment to Indian tribes and tribal organizations under certain circumstances, and to provide for a Government Accountability Office report on child abuse and neglect in American Indian tribal communities; 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 Mr. HASTINGS (for himself, Mr. WENSTRUP, and Ms. JACKSON LEE):

H.R. 2550. A bill to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to authorize the use of Homeland Security Grant Program funds for anti-blood loss purposes, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security.

By Mr. KILDEE (for himself, Mr. JOYCE of Ohio, Mrs. DINGELL, and Mr. HUIZENGA):

H.R. 2551. A bill to require the Under Secretary for Oceans and Atmosphere to update periodically the environmental sensitivity index products of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration for each coastal area of the Great Lakes, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. KILMER (for himself and Ms. STEFANIK):

H.R. 2552. A bill to direct the Secretary of Health and Human Services to prevent certain payment reductions for clinic visit services furnished at excepted off-campus outpatient departments of a provider under the Medicare program; 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 Speak-

er, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. LYNCH (for himself and Mr. MCKINLEY):

H.R. 2553. A bill to amend title 5, United States Code, to provide for certain index fund investments from the Postal Service Retiree Health Benefits Fund, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Oversight and Reform.

By Mr. SEAN PATRICK MALONEY of New York (for himself, Mr. FITZPATRICK, and Mr. GALLAGHER):

H.R. 2554. A bill to improve the ability of separating or retiring members of the Armed Forces to seek services provided by county veterans service officers; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. SEAN PATRICK MALONEY of New York (for himself, Mr. FITZPATRICK, Mr. CRAWFORD, and Mrs. LEE of Nevada):

H.R. 2555. A bill to amend the Combat Duty Pay Act of 1952 to require that former members of the uniformed services who were captured or entered a missing-in-action status during the Korean War while serving as a member of a combat unit in Korea receive combat pay for each month spent in a captured or missing-in-action status, rather than just a total of four months; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. SEAN PATRICK MALONEY of New York:

H.R. 2556. A bill to provide for an extension of the authority of the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to provide for the conduct of medical disability examinations by contract physicians; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. SEAN PATRICK MALONEY of New York (for himself, Ms. STEFANIK, Ms. TITUS, Mr. YOUNG, Ms. KUSTER of New Hampshire, and Mrs. LEE of Nevada):

H.R. 2557. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to improve the recruitment of physicians in the Department of Veterans Affairs; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. MOONEY of West Virginia:

H.R. 2558. A bill to define the dollar as a fixed weight of gold; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. MOONEY of West Virginia:

H.R. 2559. A bill to provide for the first true audit of gold owned by the United States in more than 65 years, and subsequent audits every 5 years; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. NORMAN (for himself, Mr. MEADOWS, Mr. FITZPATRICK, Mr. RUPERSBERGER, Ms. SHERRILL, Ms. STEFANIK, Mr. COLE, and Mr. GIANFORTE):

H.R. 2560. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to exclude certain disability-related first responder retirement payments from gross income; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Ms. OMAR (for herself, Mr. LEVIN of Michigan, Mr. RASKIN, Mr. POCAN, Mr. ESPAILLAT, and Ms. NORTON):

H.R. 2561. A bill to authorize the imposition of sanctions on officials of Brunei responsible for implementing the newly revised penal code, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, 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. PRICE of North Carolina (for himself, Mrs. DAVIS of California, and Mr. LEVIN of Michigan):

H.R. 2562. A bill to reauthorize title VI of the Higher Education Act of 1965; to the Committee on Education and Labor.

By Mr. RICHMOND (for himself and Mr. CUMMINGS):

H.R. 2563. A bill to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to direct the Secretary of Education to issue guidance and recommendations for institutions of higher education on removing criminal and juvenile justice questions from their application for admissions process; to the Committee on Education and Labor.

By Mr. SCHRADER (for himself, Mr. BILIRAKIS, Mr. THOMPSON of California, and Mr. BUCHANAN):

H.R. 2564. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for a special enrollment period under Medicare for individuals enrolled in COBRA continuation coverage, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committees on Ways and Means, and Education and Labor, 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. SHERMAN (for himself and Mr. GALLAGHER):

H.R. 2565. A bill to implement the recommendations of the U.S.-China Economic and Security Review Commission, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means, and in addition to the Committees on Foreign Affairs, Oversight and Reform, the Judiciary, Intelligence (Permanent Select), Armed Services, and Energy and Commerce, 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. SOTO:

H.R. 2566. A bill to require the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency to revise the Safer Choice Standard to provide for a Safer Choice label for pots, pans, and cooking utensils that do not contain PFAS, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Ms. WILD (for herself, Ms. OCASIO-CORTEZ, Ms. DEAN, Ms. FUDGE, and Ms. KUSTER of New Hampshire):

H.R. 2567. A bill to amend the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act to require mandatory reporting of incidents of child abuse or neglect, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and Labor.

By Mr. ZELDIN (for himself, Mr. FITZPATRICK, Mr. SUOZZI, Mr. THOMPSON of California, Mr. KING of New York, Miss RICE of New York, and Ms. LOFGREN):

H.R. 2568. A bill to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to study and report on the prevalence of cholangiocarcinoma in veterans of the Vietnam era, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Miss RICE of New York (for herself and Mr. KATKO):

H. Res. 355. A resolution amending the Rules of the House of Representatives to direct the Chief Administrative Officer to carry out an annual information security training program for Members, officers, and employees of the House; to the Committee on Rules.

By Mr. ENGEL (for himself, Mr. UPTON, and Mr. KING of New York):

H. Res. 356. A resolution expressing support for designation of May as "National Asthma and Allergy Awareness Month"; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Ms. BASS (for herself, Mr. SMITH of New Jersey, Mr. KIND, Mr. WALBERG, Mr. CASTRO of Texas, Mr. MEADOWS, Ms. OMAR, and Mr. WRIGHT):

H. Res. 358. A resolution calling on the Government of Cameroon and armed groups to respect the human rights of all Cameroonian citizens, to end all violence, and to pursue a broad-based dialogue without preconditions to resolve the conflict in the Northwest and Southwest regions; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Mr. EVANS (for himself and Mr. GRIJALVA):

H. Res. 359. A resolution supporting the goals and ideals of National Healthy Schools Day; to the Committee on Education and Labor.

MEMORIALS

Under clause 3 of rule XII, memorials were presented and referred as follows:

41. The SPEAKER presented a memorial of the Legislature of the State of Maine, relative to House Joint Resolution 1047, respectfully urging and requesting that the President of the United States not issue an Executive Order withdrawing the United States from the Paris Agreement; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

42. Also, a memorial of the House of Representatives of the State of Illinois, relative to House Resolution 65, urging the United States Congress and President Donald Trump to pass the Federal Reserve Transparency Act of 2019; which was referred to the Committee on Oversight and Reform.

43. Also, a memorial of the Legislature of the State of Idaho, relative to Senate Joint Memorial No. 102, urging the United States Congress to vote to propose the Regulation Freedom Amendment to the United States Constitution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary.

44. Also, a memorial of the Legislature of the State of Idaho, relative to Senate Joint Resolution No. 104, supporting the construction of a new pipeline to bring Snake River water to mountain Home Air Force Base to ensure the long-term viability of the base; which was referred jointly to the Committees on Armed Services and Energy and Commerce.

45. Also, a memorial of the Legislature of the State of Idaho, relative to Senate Joint Memorial No. 106, urging the President of the United States and Congress to take such action as necessary to require the Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of Agriculture to recognize valid easements existing pursuant to the 1866 Mining Act on lands under their respective administrations without requiring citizens of the United States to sue the government in order to enjoy the benefits of such validly existing easement rights; which was referred jointly to the Committees on Natural Resources and Agriculture.

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 Ms. JOHNSON of Texas:

H.R. 2628.

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. ENGEL:

H.R. 2529.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8 of the U.S. Constitution.

By Mr. CONNOLLY:

H.R. 2530.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 18 of the Constitution of the United States grants Congress the power to enact this law.

By Mr. AMODEI:

H.R. 2531.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

The constitutional authority on which this bill rests is the power of Congress to provide for the common defense and general welfare of the United States enumerated in Article I, Section 8, Clause 1 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. GRIJALVA:

H.R. 2532.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. PALLONE:

H.R. 2533.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8 of the Constitution.

By Mr. HIMES:

H.R. 2534.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 1 of the United States Constitution.

By Ms. MOORE:

H.R. 2535.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8

By Mr. FLORES:

H.R. 2536.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 1 of the Constitution of the United States: "The Congress shall have power to lay and collect taxes, duties, imposts and excises, to pay the debts and provide for the common defense and general welfare of the United States; but all duties, imposts and excises shall be uniform throughout the United States."

By Mr. LEVIN of Michigan:

H.R. 2537.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 1 of the Constitution.

By Mr. BANKS:

H.R. 2538.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

The constitutional authority of Congress to enact this legislation is provided by Article I, section 8 of the United States Constitution, specifically clause 18 (relating to the power to make all laws necessary and proper for carrying out the powers vested in Congress).

By Ms. BARRAGÁN:

H.R. 2539.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. FLORES:

H.R. 2540.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 3 of the Constitution of the United States.

By Mr. BLUMENAUER:

H.R. 2541.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section VIII, Clause I

By Mr. BLUMENAUER:

H.R. 2542.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section VIII, Clause III

By Mrs. BUSTOS:

H.R. 2543.

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, Clause 18 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. CASE:

H.R. 2544.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8

By Mr. CUMMINGS:

H.R. 2545.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8 of the United States Constitution [Page H2939]

By Ms. DEGETTE:

H.R. 2546.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, section 8 and Article IV, section 3 of the Constitution of the United States.

By Mr. DEUTCH:

H.R. 2547.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8.

By Mrs. FLETCHER:

H.R. 2548.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, 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.

By Mr. GRIJALVA:

H.R. 2549.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

U.S. Const. art. I, §§1 and 8.

By Mr. HASTINGS:

H.R. 2550.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8

By Mr. KILDEE:

H.R. 2551.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8

By Mr. KILMER:

H.R. 2552.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8 of the United States Constitution

By Mr. LYNCH:

H.R. 2553.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, cl. 18

By Mr. SEAN PATRICK MALONEY of New York:

H.R. 2554.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8

By Mr. SEAN PATRICK MALONEY of New York:

H.R. 2555.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8

By Mr. SEAN PATRICK MALONEY of New York:

H.R. 2556.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8

By Mr. SEAN PATRICK MALONEY of New York:

H.R. 2557.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8

By Mr. MOONEY of West Virginia:

H.R. 2558.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 5 of the U.S. Constitution

By Mr. MOONEY of West Virginia:

H.R. 2559.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

This legislation is authorized by Article I, Section 8 of the Constitution: "To coin money, regulate the value thereof, and of foreign coin, and fix the standard of weights and measures;" and "To provide for the punishment of counterfeiting the securities and current coin of the United States."

By Mr. NORMAN:

H.R. 2560.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8

By Ms. OMAR:

H.R. 2561.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8

By Mr. PRICE of North Carolina:

H.R. 2562.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

As described in Article 1, Section 1, "all legislative powers herein granted shall be vested in a Congress of the United States, which shall consist of a Senate and House of Representatives"

Article I, Section 8, Clause 1 of the Constitution provides Congress with the authority to "provide for the common Defense and general Welfare" of Americans. In the Department of Education Organization Act (P.L. 96-88), Congress declared that "the establishment of a Department of Education is in the public interest, will promote the general welfare of the United States, will help ensure that education issues receive proper treatment at the Federal level, and will enable the Federal Government to coordinate its education activities more effectively." The Department of Education's mission is to "promote student achievement and preparation for global competitiveness by fostering educational excellence and ensuring equal access."

By Mr. RICHMOND:

H.R. 2563.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

This bill is introduced pursuant to the powers granted to Congress under the General Welfare Clause (Art. 1 Sec. 8 Cl. 1), the Commerce Clause (Art. 1 Sec. 8 Cl. 3), and the Necessary and Proper Clause (Art. 1 Sec. 8 Cl. 18).

Further, this statement of constitutional authority is made for the sole purpose of compliance with clause 7 of Rule XII of the Rules of the House of Representatives and shall have no bearing on judicial review of the accompanying bill.

By Mr. SCHRADER:

H.R. 2564.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, clause 1

Article I, Section 8, clause 18

By Mr. SHERMAN:

H.R. 2565.

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. SOTO:

H.R. 2566.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, of the United States Constitution.

By Ms. WILD:

H.R. 2567.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I Section VIII Clause I

By Mr. ZELDIN:

H.R. 2568.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8 of the United States Constitution.

ADDITIONAL SPONSORS

Under clause 7 of rule XII, sponsors were added to public bills and resolutions, as follows:

H.R. 6: Mrs. AXNE.

H.R. 95: Mr. KINZINGER, Ms. JUDY CHU of California, Ms. MUCARSEL-POWELL, Mr. BALDERSON, Ms. SCHRIER, and Mr. JOHNSON of Louisiana.

H.R. 96: Mr. HARDER of California.

H.R. 141: Mr. VELA and Mr. CASE.

H.R. 186: Mr. BUTTERFIELD.

H.R. 188: Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York.

H.R. 196: Mr. SWALWELL of California.

H.R. 216: Mr. REED, Mr. COOK, Mr. KEVIN HERN of Oklahoma, Mr. KELLY of Mississippi, Mr. COLLINS of New York, Mr. ESTES, Mr. GONZALEZ of Ohio, and Mr. TAYLOR.

H.R. 218: Mr. HAGEDORN.

H.R. 230: Mrs. LOWEY.

H.R. 273: Mr. CASE.

H.R. 299: Ms. SCHRIER, Mrs. HAYES, Mr. GREEN of Tennessee, Mr. CLOUD, Mr. TIMMONS, Mr. FLEISCHMANN, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHRADER, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Mr. STANTON, and Ms. PRESSLEY.

H.R. 303: Mr. MEADOWS and Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER.

H.R. 305: Mr. FLORES.

H.R. 307: Mr. BACON, Mr. CASE, and Mr. VAN DREW.

H.R. 372: Mrs. MURPHY.

H.R. 375: Mrs. TORRES of California, Mr. LUJÁN, Mr. AGUILAR, Mr. KILDEE, and Mr. MULLIN.

H.R. 391: Ms. NORTON.

H.R. 397: Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER, Mrs. MCBATH, Mr. JEFFRIES, Mr. LOWENTHAL, Mr. BUTTERFIELD, Ms. SPANBERGER, Ms. SPEIER, Mr. SCHNEIDER, and Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi.

H.R. 401: Mr. STANTON.

H.R. 444: Ms. CASTOR of Florida.

H.R. 445: Mr. AGUILAR and Ms. KUSTER of New Hampshire.

H.R. 446: Mr. MAST and Mr. BAIRD.

H.R. 510: Mr. PHILLIPS, Mrs. DINGELL, Mr. WALTZ, Mrs. WAGNER, and Ms. SÁNCHEZ.

H.R. 553: Mr. SABLAN, Ms. SÁNCHEZ, Ms. JACKSON LEE, Mr. MCEACHIN, Mr. HAGEDORN, Mr. HIGGINS of New York, Mr. LUETKEMEYER, Mr. TRONE, and Ms. WILD.

H.R. 555: Mr. LEVIN of Michigan, Ms. DAVIDS of Kansas, Ms. SHERRILL, Mr. NADLER, Ms. CASTOR of Florida, Mr. HUFFMAN, Ms. SLOTKIN, Mr. RYAN, Ms. SPANBERGER, Ms. BASS, Ms. LEE of California, Mr. STEIL, and Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois.

H.R. 563: Mr. CISNEROS.

H.R. 586: Mr. FLEISCHMANN, Mr. ADERHOLT, Mr. GOODEN, and Mr. BRADY.

H.R. 594: Mr. MCGOVERN and Mr. LYNCH.

H.R. 647: Mr. SWALWELL of California, Ms. HERRERA BEUTLER, Mrs. WAGNER, and Mr. GOLDEN.

H.R. 663: Mr. BROWN of Maryland, Mr. BAIRD, Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER, and Ms. SCANLON.

H.R. 692: Mr. MAST, Mr. HILL of Arkansas, and Mrs. RODGERS of Washington.

H.R. 712: Mr. CÁRDENAS and Mr. RUIZ.

H.R. 724: Mr. SMUCKER, Ms. SPANBERGER, Mrs. TRAHAN, and Mrs. ROBY.

H.R. 737: Ms. DELBENE, Ms. FINKENAUER, Mr. HASTINGS, Mr. HORSFORD, Mr. SCHIFF, and Mr. SHERMAN.

H.R. 763: Mr. MOULTON.

H.R. 788: Mr. MAST.

H.R. 804: Mr. SCHIFF and Ms. LOFGREN.

H.R. 805: Mr. ROUDA.

H.R. 806: Mr. CASE and Mr. RASKIN.

H.R. 832: Mr. HAGEDORN.

H.R. 848: Mr. FLORES.

H.R. 860: Mr. HARDER of California.

H.R. 864: Mr. RASKIN.

H.R. 884: Mr. MCGOVERN.

H.R. 888: Mr. CARTER of Georgia.

H.R. 924: Mr. SABLAN.

H.R. 929: Ms. MCCOLLUM, Mr. DEUTCH, Mr. COX of California, Mr. COOK, Mr. SMITH of Washington, and Mr. STEWART.

H.R. 935: Mr. JEFFRIES, Ms. SPANBERGER, Mr. CARTWRIGHT, and Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHY.

H.R. 965: Ms. SCHRIER, Mr. JOYCE of Ohio, Mr. CASE, Mr. KHANNA, Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia, Ms. HOULAHAN, Mr. CASTEN of Illinois, Mr. NORMAN, and Ms. PINGREE.

H.R. 997: Mr. GROTHMAN.

H.R. 1004: Mr. SCHRADER.

H.R. 1007: Mr. BACON.

H.R. 1011: Mr. ENGEL.

H.R. 1012: Mr. SCHRADER.

H.R. 1025: Mr. ESPALLAT.

H.R. 1027: Mr. KEVIN HERN of Oklahoma.

H.R. 1034: Mr. LOUDERMILK.

H.R. 1035: Mr. LOUDERMILK.

H.R. 1046: Mrs. LURIA.

H.R. 1049: Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ and Ms. ESHOO.

H.R. 1055: Mr. CARTWRIGHT and Mr. MALINOWSKI.

H.R. 1058: Mr. CORREA, Mr. COOPER, Ms. CLARKE of New York, and Mrs. RODGERS of Washington.

H.R. 1109: Ms. CLARKE of New York and Ms. NORTON.

H.R. 1121: Mr. ROY.

H.R. 1135: Mr. COOK.

H.R. 1139: Ms. DELBENE and Mr. SWALWELL of California.

H.R. 1140: Ms. NORTON, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. PAYNE, Mr. AGUILAR, and Mr. PALLONE.

H.R. 1154: Mr. GARAMENDI, Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts, Ms. OMAR, Ms. FRANKEL, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. BROWN of Maryland, Mr. LIPINSKI, Mr. COOK, Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN, and Ms. BONAMICI.

H.R. 1174: Ms. SCHRIER.

H.R. 1175: Mr. LANGEVIN, Mr. COX of California, Mr. COLLINS of Georgia, Mr. STEIL, and Mr. VAN DREW.

H.R. 1179: Ms. TLAIB, Mr. TURNER, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. GALLEGO, Ms. SCANLON, and Mr. COLE.

H.R. 1183: Ms. PINGREE.

H.R. 1185: Mr. BUTTERFIELD.

H.R. 1191: Mr. KIND.

H.R. 1201: Ms. SLOTKIN.

H.R. 1236: Ms. LOFGREN.

H.R. 1237: Mr. ROUDA.

H.R. 1240: Mr. VAN DREW.

H.R. 1243: Ms. SCHRIER.

H.R. 1255: Ms. SCHRIER.

H.R. 1289: Mr. FITZPATRICK and Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi.

H.R. 1328: Ms. FINKENAUER, Mr. MEADOWS, Mr. TAYLOR, Mr. CARTWRIGHT, Mr. DELGADO, and Ms. SLOTKIN.

H.R. 1329: Mr. SENSENBRENNER.

H.R. 1342: Ms. PORTER, Mr. SWALWELL of California, and Mrs. BEATTY.

H.R. 1343: Mr. SCHIFF.

H.R. 1346: Mr. SOTO.

- H.R. 1359: Mr. KILMER.
H.R. 1368: Ms. SCHRIER.
H.R. 1370: Mr. SUOZZI and Mr. PANETTA.
H.R. 1373: Mr. CARTWRIGHT, Mr. WELCH, Ms. ESHOO, Mrs. BEATTY, and Mr. ROUDA.
H.R. 1374: Mr. BALDERSON, Mr. HURD of Texas, Mr. LATTA, Mr. LOEBSACK, Mr. GOSAR, Mr. GRAVES of Georgia, Mr. GONZALEZ of Texas, Mr. CLINE, Mr. JOHNSON of Louisiana, Mr. GREEN of Tennessee, Mr. MULLIN, Mr. ROGERS of Alabama, Mr. BISHOP of Georgia, Mr. KELLY of Mississippi, Mr. GROTHMAN, Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio, Mr. DUFFY, Mr. KEVIN HERN of Oklahoma, Mr. MOULTON, Mr. BROOKS of Alabama, Mr. HARRIS, Mr. GONZALEZ of Ohio, Mr. COMER, Mr. LUCAS, Mr. MEUSER, Mr. RUTHERFORD, Ms. SLOTKIN, Mr. SMITH of Nebraska, and Mr. SPANO.
H.R. 1375: Mr. MCKINLEY.
H.R. 1377: Mr. SMITH of Washington, Ms. MUCARSEL-POWELL, Mr. KILDEE, and Ms. CASTOR of Florida.
H.R. 1394: Ms. SCHAKOWSKY.
H.R. 1399: Mr. CARTER of Georgia.
H.R. 1406: Mr. SIMPSON.
H.R. 1441: Mr. COOK.
H.R. 1444: Mr. ABRAHAM and Mr. ROGERS of Alabama.
H.R. 1446: Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHY, Mr. FITZPATRICK, Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania, and Ms. CLARKE of New York.
H.R. 1452: Mr. PRICE of North Carolina and Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia.
H.R. 1454: Mr. PALLONE.
H.R. 1499: Ms. KELLY of Illinois, Mr. CASTEN of Illinois, Ms. HOULAHAN, Mr. CARSON of Indiana, Mr. CARBAJAL, and Ms. DAVIDS of Kansas.
H.R. 1507: Mr. WELCH and Ms. BONAMICI.
H.R. 1530: Mr. CONNOLLY, Ms. NORTON, Mr. JOYCE of Ohio, Mr. PAYNE, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mrs. KIRKPATRICK, and Ms. KUSTER of New Hampshire.
H.R. 1554: Mr. BILIRAKIS, Mr. BURGESS, and Mr. GROTHMAN.
H.R. 1560: Mr. HORSFORD and Mr. COOPER.
H.R. 1568: Mr. VAN DREW, Mr. HASTINGS, Mr. CASE, Mr. RASKIN, Mr. BEYER, Mr. SOTO, Mr. DEUTCH, and Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts.
H.R. 1570: Mr. CROW, Mr. LEVIN of California, Ms. SCHRIER, Ms. PORTER, Mr. MAST, Mr. EMMER, and Mr. GROTHMAN.
H.R. 1581: Mr. DELGADO, Mr. BROWN of Maryland, and Mr. DESAULNIER.
H.R. 1583: Mrs. LURIA.
H.R. 1592: Mr. RUPPERSBERGER.
H.R. 1595: Ms. MOORE.
H.R. 1597: Mr. SOTO, Mr. TURNER, Ms. KELLY of Illinois, Mr. VEASEY, Mr. BILIRAKIS, Ms. PRESSLEY, and Mr. SWALWELL of California.
H.R. 1603: Mr. GRIJALVA and Ms. MATSUI.
H.R. 1605: Mr. DESJARLAIS.
H.R. 1610: Mr. CARTER of Georgia and Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia.
H.R. 1618: Ms. KELLY of Illinois.
H.R. 1641: Mr. MOULTON, Mr. KIND, Mrs. LURIA, and Mr. SHIMKUS.
H.R. 1648: Mr. SPANO.
H.R. 1674: Mr. HARDER of California.
H.R. 1678: Mrs. HARTZLER.
H.R. 1679: Mr. QUIGLEY, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. HUNTER, Mr. LAHOOD, Mr. WALBERG, and Mr. RUSH.
H.R. 1688: Mr. DESAULNIER.
H.R. 1704: Mr. MEADOWS and Mr. SCHWEIKERT.
H.R. 1709: Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Mrs. DEMINGS, Mr. SOTO, Mr. PRICE of North Carolina, Ms. NORTON, Miss RICE of New York, Mr. GALLEG0, Mr. RASKIN, Mr. CRIST, Mr. CARTWRIGHT, and Mrs. KIRKPATRICK.
H.R. 1728: Mr. GOSAR.
H.R. 1730: Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Mr. WITTMAN, and Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD.
H.R. 1738: Mr. PERRY.
H.R. 1740: Mr. CUELLAR.
H.R. 1748: Ms. PINGREE and Ms. SPANBERGER.
H.R. 1749: Ms. SHERRILL.
H.R. 1750: Ms. SHERRILL.
H.R. 1753: Mr. DAVID P. ROE of Tennessee and Mr. HUDSON.
H.R. 1754: Mr. CARTWRIGHT, Ms. WILD, Mr. HUNTER, and Ms. BONAMICI.
H.R. 1765: Ms. HAALAND and Mr. BRENDAN F. BOYLE of Pennsylvania.
H.R. 1766: Mr. DESAULNIER, Mr. CLEAVER, Mr. HOLLINGSWORTH, and Ms. TLAIB.
H.R. 1771: Mr. LEVIN of Michigan.
H.R. 1776: Mr. HIMES.
H.R. 1781: Mr. BURCHETT, Ms. MUCARSEL-POWELL, Mr. KIM, and Mr. CASTEN of Illinois.
H.R. 1786: Mr. KIM, Mr. HIMES, Mr. PAYNE, and Mrs. RADEWAGEN.
H.R. 1814: Mr. KELLY of Mississippi, Mr. KILMER, and Mr. BRENDAN F. BOYLE of Pennsylvania.
H.R. 1826: Mr. FITZPATRICK.
H.R. 1830: Mrs. AXNE.
H.R. 1837: Ms. GRANGER, Mr. DIAZ-BALART, Mr. GUTHRIE, Mr. BRINDISI, Mr. TONKO, Mr. PHILLIPS, Ms. BROWNLEY of California, Mr. BROWN of Maryland, Mr. DELGADO, Mr. BYRNE, Mr. AMODEI, Mr. MITCHELL, Mr. TIPTON, Mr. BUDD, Mr. PANETTA, Mr. BALDERSON, Mr. WALDEN, Mr. LEVIN of California, Mr. SMITH of Missouri, Mr. GOMEZ, Ms. MENG, Mr. KINZINGER, Mr. HUDSON, Mr. COURTNEY, Mr. STIVERS, Mr. WEBER of Texas, Mr. RESCHENTHALER, and Mrs. WALORSKI.
H.R. 1840: Ms. KUSTER of New Hampshire.
H.R. 1854: Mr. WALBERG and Mr. LONG.
H.R. 1862: Mr. DAVIDSON of Ohio and Mr. CLOUD.
H.R. 1865: Mr. DESAULNIER, Mr. LOUDERMILK, Mr. FULCHER, and Ms. SLOTKIN.
H.R. 1869: Ms. KUSTER of New Hampshire, Mr. LOUDERMILK, Ms. SPANBERGER, Mr. WALBERG, Mr. KIM, Mr. BAIRD, Mr. LOEBSACK, and Mr. SMITH of Nebraska.
H.R. 1873: Mr. BUCHANAN and Ms. BROWNLEY of California.
H.R. 1884: Mrs. LURIA, Mr. HIMES, Ms. PORTER, and Mr. CASE.
H.R. 1896: Ms. KUSTER of New Hampshire, Ms. MCCOLLUM, and Mr. COOK.
H.R. 1897: Mr. SWALWELL of California, Ms. PRESSLEY, Ms. OMAR, Ms. CASTOR of Florida, Mr. SERRANO, Mr. VAN DREW, and Ms. VELÁZQUEZ.
H.R. 1900: Ms. GABBARD, Mr. CISNEROS, Mr. GALLEG0, Mr. O'HALLERAN, Mr. KIND, and Ms. KENDRA S. HORN of Oklahoma.
H.R. 1903: Mr. CALVERT.
H.R. 1910: Mr. ROY.
H.R. 1911: Mr. BUCHANAN, Mr. DUNN, Mr. MOONEY of West Virginia, Mr. POSEY, and Mr. CARTER of Georgia.
H.R. 1939: Mr. RYAN.
H.R. 1941: Ms. BONAMICI.
H.R. 1942: Mr. DAVIDSON of Ohio.
H.R. 1943: Mr. BUTTERFIELD.
H.R. 1948: Mr. RESCHENTHALER, Mr. THORNBERRY, Mrs. BEATTY, Ms. OMAR, Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky, Mr. AGUILAR, Ms. DELAULO, Mr. GONZALEZ of Texas, Mr. PETERS, and Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ.
H.R. 1952: Mr. LAMBORN.
H.R. 1954: Mr. RICE of South Carolina and Mr. HILL of Arkansas.
H.R. 1959: Mr. AMASH.
H.R. 1968: Mr. RASKIN, Mr. KILMER, Mr. BERA, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. KATKO, Mr. MCNERNEY, Mr. SOTO, Ms. MUCARSEL-POWELL, Mr. TAKANO, Ms. MCCOLLUM, Mr. LANGEVIN, Mr. O'HALLERAN, Mr. PETERS, Mr. LIPINSKI, Mrs. LURIA, Mr. CORREA, Mr. SCHIFF, Mr. HARDER of California, Mr. CASE, Mr. LYNCH, Mr. POCAN, Mr. LEWIS, Mr. TURNER, Mr. MCEACHIN, Mr. RUPPERSBERGER, and Mr. SWALWELL of California.
H.R. 1970: Mr. THORNBERRY and Mr. YOHO.
H.R. 1976: Ms. PINGREE and Mr. GALLAGHER.
H.R. 1982: Mr. ROSE of New York, Mr. ESPAILLAT, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. PALLONE, Mr. KHANNA, and Mr. MEEKS.
H.R. 1984: Miss GONZÁLEZ-COLÓN of Puerto Rico.
H.R. 1994: Mr. GROTHMAN, Mrs. FLETCHER, Mr. COLE, Mr. KING of New York, Mr. RESCHENTHALER, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. BISHOP of Georgia, Mr. AMODEI, Ms. TORRES SMALL of New Mexico, Mr. KILDEE, Mr. BILIRAKIS, Mr. VAN DREW, Mr. GOODEN, Mr. LOEBSACK, Ms. GABBARD, Mr. KILMER, Mr. PERLMUTTER, Mr. ESTES, Mr. KIM, Mr. JOHN W. ROSE of Tennessee, Mr. SOTO, Mr. GOTTHEIMER, Ms. KENDRA S. HORN of Oklahoma, Mr. WATKINS, Ms. SPANBERGER, Mr. PERRY, and Ms. FINKENAUER.
H.R. 2002: Mr. BACON and Mr. TAYLOR.
H.R. 2006: Ms. WILSON of Florida and Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ.
H.R. 2013: Ms. SLOTKIN and Mr. MOULTON.
H.R. 2015: Mr. FITZPATRICK and Mr. ADERHOLT.
H.R. 2036: Mr. SIMPSON.
H.R. 2039: Ms. BONAMICI.
H.R. 2048: Mrs. HAYES.
H.R. 2076: Mr. CARSON of Indiana.
H.R. 2081: Mr. GIBBS and Mr. ARMSTRONG.
H.R. 2089: Mr. BACON, Mr. KING of Iowa, Mr. GUEST, and Mr. BOST.
H.R. 2094: Mr. HASTINGS.
H.R. 2096: Mr. BEYER.
H.R. 2109: Mr. HECK.
H.R. 2113: Ms. UNDERWOOD.
H.R. 2121: Mr. CARTWRIGHT.
H.R. 2130: Mr. HECK.
H.R. 2135: Mr. PHILLIPS and Mr. COOPER.
H.R. 2142: Ms. SEWELL of Alabama.
H.R. 2148: Mr. SABLAN, Ms. OCASIO-CORTEZ, Ms. CASTOR of Florida, Mr. ROUDA, Mr. TED LIEU of California, Mrs. DINGELL, Mr. CICILLINE, Mr. SMITH of Washington, Mrs. KIRKPATRICK, and Mr. DEUTCH.
H.R. 2151: Mr. CARTER of Georgia.
H.R. 2153: Mr. COOK and Mr. PAPPAS.
H.R. 2156: Ms. WILD.
H.R. 2161: Mr. MITCHELL and Mr. LAMALFA.
H.R. 2163: Mr. MAST.
H.R. 2174: Mr. LUTHEMEYER.
H.R. 2177: Mr. STIVERS.
H.R. 2178: Mr. ROUDA, Ms. OMAR, Mr. TONKO, Ms. KUSTER of New Hampshire, Mr. EMMER, and Mr. HIMES.
H.R. 2204: Mr. POSEY, Mr. HUDSON, Mr. MOONEY of West Virginia, Mr. BUCHANAN, Mr. WEBER of Texas, and Mr. DUNN.
H.R. 2207: Mrs. KIRKPATRICK.
H.R. 2208: Ms. NORTON.
H.R. 2211: Ms. NORTON, Mr. MCGOVERN, and Ms. KELLY of Illinois.
H.R. 2218: Mr. FITZPATRICK.
H.R. 2219: Mr. MAST, Mr. COLLINS of Georgia, Mr. MARSHALL, Mr. CONAWAY, and Ms. MOORE.
H.R. 2222: Mr. MCGOVERN.
H.R. 2226: Ms. KUSTER of New Hampshire.
H.R. 2231: Mr. MCGOVERN and Mr. HUFFMAN.
H.R. 2235: Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. STIVERS, Mr. HIMES, and Mr. COLE.
H.R. 2249: Mr. LANGEVIN and Mr. RICE of South Carolina.
H.R. 2256: Ms. STEVENS, Mrs. DINGELL, Mr. LEVIN of Michigan, Mr. DEFazio, Mr. HUFFMAN, Mr. LOWENTHAL, Mr. AGUILAR, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Ms. DELBENE, and Mr. GARCÍA of Illinois.
H.R. 2275: Ms. TLAIB and Mr. POCAN.
H.R. 2291: Mr. GOHMERT.
H.R. 2293: Mr. JOYCE of Ohio.
H.R. 2300: Mr. MCGOVERN, Ms. PRESSLEY, Ms. BONAMICI, and Mr. SMITH of Washington.
H.R. 2311: Mr. LANGEVIN, Mr. KIND, and Mr. WALDEN.
H.R. 2314: Mr. LAMB.
H.R. 2315: Ms. SCANLON, Mr. HASTINGS, and Mr. SIRES.

H.R. 2316: Ms. BONAMICI.
 H.R. 2327: Ms. BONAMICI and Mr. RASKIN.
 H.R. 2336: Mr. KATKO.
 H.R. 2340: Mr. LYNCH.
 H.R. 2353: Mr. PHILLIPS.
 H.R. 2354: Mr. HUFFMAN, Mr. RASKIN, Mr. WELCH, Mr. BLUMENAUER, and Mr. MCGOVERN.
 H.R. 2355: Ms. CLARKE of New York.
 H.R. 2365: Ms. MOORE.
 H.R. 2375: Mr. MEADOWS.
 H.R. 2376: Mr. NEGUSE and Mr. ROSE of New York.
 H.R. 2377: Ms. MATSUI, Mrs. DINGELL, Mr. SWALWELL of California, Mr. ESPAILLAT, Ms. NORTON, Mr. ROUDA, and Mrs. CRAIG.
 H.R. 2379: Mr. VAN DREW, Mr. COOK, Ms. NORTON, Mr. KHANNA, Ms. HILL of California, and Mr. TIPTON.
 H.R. 2382: Mr. VELA, Mr. HIGGINS of New York, Ms. NORTON, Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHY, Mrs. CRAIG, and Mr. MCGOVERN.
 H.R. 2388: Mrs. HARTZLER, Mr. YOHO, and Mr. BAIRD.
 H.R. 2400: Mr. SWALWELL of California.
 H.R. 2411: Mr. MCGOVERN and Ms. GABBARD.
 H.R. 2417: Mr. MORELLE.
 H.R. 2428: Ms. JACKSON LEE and Mr. KIM.
 H.R. 2429: Ms. NORTON.
 H.R. 2430: Mr. PETERS.
 H.R. 2438: Ms. NORTON, Ms. DELBENE, Mr. FITZPATRICK, Mrs. BUSTOS, Mr. LARSEN of Washington, and Ms. KUSTER of New Hampshire.
 H.R. 2440: Mr. GIBBS, Mr. SCHRADER, Mr. GRAVES of Louisiana, Miss GONZÁLEZ-COLÓN of Puerto Rico, Ms. BONAMICI, Ms. WILSON of Florida, and Mr. SEAN PATRICK MALONEY of New York.
 H.R. 2470: Mrs. NAPOLITANO.
 H.R. 2471: Ms. LEE of California.
 H.R. 2474: Mrs. LURIA, Ms. HILL of California, Ms. MOORE, and Ms. SCANLON.
 H.R. 2480: Mr. FITZPATRICK, Mr. GUTHRIE, Mr. WALBERG, Mr. BANKS, Mr. TAYLOR, Mr. MEUSER, Mr. TIMMONS, Mr. MORELLE, Ms. WILSON of Florida, Mrs. HAYES, Ms. OMAR, Mr. TRONE, Mr. TAKANO, Mr. DESAULNIER, Mrs. DAVIS of California, Ms. WILD, Mr. LEVIN of Michigan, Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania, Mr. SMUCKER, Mr. WATKINS, Mr. WRIGHT, Ms. JAYAPAL, and Mr. HARDER of California.
 H.R. 2482: Ms. JAYAPAL, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Mr. DOGGETT, Mr. MEEKS, Mr. VAN DREW, Ms. MATSUI, Mr. ROUDA, and Mr. MEADOWS.

H.R. 2493: Mr. YOHO and Mr. WENSTRUP.
 H.R. 2494: Mr. COOK and Mr. KILDEE.
 H.R. 2502: Mr. MEADOWS.
 H.R. 2504: Mr. HUNTER, Ms. ADAMS, Mrs. BEATTY, and Mr. LOWENTHAL.
 H.R. 2509: Mr. WELCH and Mr. O'HALLERAN.
 H.R. 2517: Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York and Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ.
 H.J. Res. 48: Ms. PRESSLEY.
 H. Con. Res. 12: Mr. BUTTERFIELD.
 H. Con. Res. 20: Mrs. HARTZLER and Mr. SMITH of New Jersey.
 H. Con. Res. 32: Ms. OMAR and Mr. SHERMAN.
 H. Res. 33: Mr. GOLDEN and Mr. MCNERNEY.
 H. Res. 54: Mr. PETERS, Mr. BUTTERFIELD, Ms. KUSTER of New Hampshire, Ms. MUCARSEL-POWELL, and Mr. MCNERNEY.
 H. Res. 60: Ms. WEXTON, Mr. RUPPERSBERGER, Ms. KUSTER of New Hampshire, and Mr. BUTTERFIELD.
 H. Res. 96: Mr. BUTTERFIELD.
 H. Res. 114: Mr. DUNCAN.
 H. Res. 138: Mrs. LOWEY and Mr. MEEKS.
 H. Res. 152: Ms. ESHOO and Mr. DEFazio.
 H. Res. 174: Mr. CICILLINE.
 H. Res. 179: Ms. HILL of California, Ms. JUDY CHU of California, Mr. CARTWRIGHT, Ms. MUCARSEL-POWELL, and Mr. BILIRAKIS.
 H. Res. 189: Mrs. MURPHY and Mr. CLAY.
 H. Res. 231: Mr. NORCROSS, Mr. MCGOVERN, and Mr. CARTWRIGHT.
 H. Res. 246: Mr. CARTWRIGHT, Mr. SCALISE, Mr. McEACHIN, Mr. BURCHETT, Mr. GONZALEZ of Ohio, and Mr. KINZINGER.
 H. Res. 250: Ms. SCHRIER, Mr. CARBAJAL, and Mr. PERLMUTTER.
 H. Res. 255: Mr. BIGGS, Ms. BROWNLEY of California, and Mr. SHIMKUS.
 H. Res. 273: Mr. BACON, Mr. GONZALEZ of Texas, Mr. BURGESS, and Mr. GROTHMAN.
 H. Res. 277: Mr. LOWENTHAL.
 H. Res. 285: Miss RICE of New York, Mr. MITCHELL, Mr. COLLINS of New York, Mr. VAN DREW, Mrs. LURIA, and Mr. COLE.
 H. Res. 292: Mr. BARR.
 H. Res. 296: Mrs. LURIA and Mr. MOOLENAAR.
 H. Res. 300: Mr. RASKIN.
 H. Res. 310: Mr. WATKINS.
 H. Res. 325: Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. TAKANO, Mr. CUMMINGS, Mr. KENNEDY, Ms. FUDGE, Mrs. DAVIS of California, Mr. MOULTON, and Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia.
 H. Res. 326: Ms. SPEIER, Ms. WATERS, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. BISHOP of Georgia, Ms. NOR-

TON, Ms. HILL of California, Ms. LEE of California, Mr. TONKO, Mr. TAKANO, Mr. CISNEROS, Ms. KAPTUR, Mr. RASKIN, and Mr. DEFazio.
 H. Res. 330: Ms. TLAIB.
 H. Res. 335: Mrs. MURPHY and Ms. CLARKE of New York.
 H. Res. 337: Mr. RASKIN and Mr. MCGOVERN.
 H. Res. 338: Mr. GROTHMAN, Mr. WALBERG, Mr. BALDERSON, Mr. BUCK, Mr. BRADY, and Mr. KILMER.

CONGRESSIONAL EARMARKS, LIMITED TAX BENEFITS, OR LIMITED TARIFF BENEFITS

Under clause 9 of rule XXI, lists or statements on congressional earmarks, limited tax benefits, or limited tariff benefits were submitted as follows:

OFFERED BY MR. YARMUTH

The provisions that warranted a referral to the Committee on the Budget in H.R. 2157 do not contain any congressional earmarks, limited tax benefits, or limited tariff benefits as defined in clause 9 or rule XXI.

DELETIONS OF SPONSORS FROM PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 7 of rule XII, sponsors were deleted from public bills and resolutions, as follows:

H. Res. 346: Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHY.

PETITIONS, ETC.

Under clause 3 of rule XII,

18. The SPEAKER presented a petition of the House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, relative to Concurrent Resolution 95, requesting the Congress of the United States of America to pass legislation that provides for equal treatment for the United States citizens residing in Puerto Rico regarding the right to receive Supplemental Security Income (SSI); which was referred to the Committee on Ways and Means.



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No. 75

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.

Almighty God, our hope for years to come, show us how to live victoriously each day. Lead us to a place of understanding in spite of challenges and difficulties. Lord, make us more than conquerors because of Your power and love. Today, inspire our lawmakers to strive to do Your will. As they perform their daily tasks, guide them in the selection of their priorities. Lord, show them Your truth so they will be instruments of Your purposes. When their light of hope is threatened, renew them with faith in Your providence and mercy.

We pray in Your strong 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.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mrs. HYDE-SMITH). The majority leader is recognized.

MUELLER REPORT

Mr. MCCONNELL. Madam President, it has now been more than 6 weeks since Special Counsel Bob Mueller, the former FBI Director, concluded his investigation into Russia's interference in our 2016 election and delivered his findings to the Justice Department. It has been 2 weeks since Attorney Gen-

eral William Barr made the 450-page report public. This investigation went on for 2 years. It is finally over.

Many Americans were waiting to see how their elected officials would respond. With an exhaustive investigation complete, would the country finally unify to confront the real challenges before us? Would we finally be able to move on from partisan paralysis and breathless conspiracy theorizing or would we remain consumed by unhinged partisanship and keep dividing ourselves to the point that Putin and his agents would need only to stand on the sidelines and watch us as their job would actually be done for them? Regrettably, the answer is pretty obvious.

So that is what I want to discuss this morning—Russia's interference in American elections, the special counsel's and the Attorney General's work, and how we can finally end this "Groundhog Day" spectacle, stop endlessly relitigating a 2½-year-old election result, and move forward for the American people.

Now, it bears remembering what this investigation was actually supposed to be about—Russian interference in 2016. For many of the President's opponents, it quickly morphed into something else—a last hope that maybe they would never have to come to terms with the American people's choice of a President. In some corners, Special Counsel Mueller came to be regarded as a kind of secular saint who was destined to rescue the country from the inconvenient truth that the American people actually elected Donald Trump. For 2 years, many of the President's opponents seemed to be hoping the worst conspiracy theories would actually be true. They seemed to be hoping for a national crisis for the sake of their own politics.

Look, I will say it was at least heartening to see many of my Democratic colleagues and the media abruptly awoken to the dangers of Russian ag-

gression. Remember, not long ago, the Democrats mocked Republicans like John McCain and MITT ROMNEY for warning about the dangers posed by Putin's Russia.

Remember President Obama's quip back in 2012, when then-Governor Romney emphasized his concerns with Russia? Here is what President Obama said when MITT ROMNEY emphasized his concerns about Russia back in 2012: "The 1980s are now calling to ask for their foreign policy back." That was President Obama in 2012. Well, I think many of us now see that President Obama's approach to Russia could have used some more of the 1980s—more Ronald Reagan and less Jimmy Carter.

We would have been better off if the Obama administration had not swept Putin's invasion and occupation of Georgia under the rug or had not looked away as Russia forced out Western NGOs and cracked down on civil society; if President Obama had not let Assad trample his redline on Syria or had not embraced Putin's fake deal on chemical weapons; if the Obama administration had responded firmly to Putin's invasion and occupation of Ukraine in 2014, to the assassination of Boris Nemtsov in 2015, and to Russia's intervention in Syria. Maybe stronger leadership would have left the Kremlin less emboldened. Maybe tampering with our democracy wouldn't have seemed so very tempting.

Instead, the previous administration sent the Kremlin the signal it could get away with almost anything. So is it surprising that we got the brazen interference detailed in Special Counsel Mueller's report or a concerted effort to divide Americans through social media campaigns or the hacking into the email accounts and networks of the Clinton campaign and the Democratic Party?

Thanks to the investigation, we know more about these tactics. Thanks to the investigation, 13 Russian nationals, 3 Russian companies, and 12 more

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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Russian intelligence officers have been indicted. These are the people who really did seek to undermine our democracy. Yet, curiously, many of our Democratic colleagues and most of the news media don't seem to care about that. New insight into defending America? Russian nationals being indicted? These don't seem to interest my colleagues across the aisle—no interest—just like there has been little interest in the steps this administration has taken to make Russia pay for its interference and strengthen America's hand.

Election interference was just one part of Russia's strategy to undercut the United States, and this administration has taken the problem head-on. We have a new, coherent national security strategy and national defense strategy that actually take the threat seriously.

We have new sanctions. We have provided Georgia and Ukraine with weapons to better defend themselves—capabilities the previous administration denied our partners—now listen to this—out of fear of provoking Russia. We have worked against pipeline projects like Nord Stream 2 that would further expand Putin's influence. We have strengthened and reformed NATO so the alliance can present a united front. We proved Russia's noncompliance with the INF and walked away from a treaty that Moscow had turned into a sham. Over Russian objections, the Trump administration has also twice enforced President Obama's redline in Syria after Assad's use of chemical weapons.

With respect to election security, Congress appropriated hundreds of millions of dollars to State governments to shore up their systems. The administration increased information sharing from the Department of Homeland Security in cooperation with the States. According to press reports, the Department of Defense has expanded its capabilities and authorities to thwart cyber threats to our democracy. No longer will we just hope Moscow respects our sovereignty—we will now defend it. These are just a few examples, and there is already evidence they are having an effect.

We just had the 2018 midterm elections. Thanks to this administration's leadership, all 50 States and more than 1,400 local election jurisdictions focused on election security like never before. The DHS provided resources to localities for better cybersecurity, and private social media companies monitored their own platforms for foreign interference. Thanks to efforts across the Federal Government in 2018, we were ready. Clearly, that is progress. The Mueller report will help us as will the upcoming report from the Select Committee on Intelligence. These threats and challenges are real. Our responsibility to strengthen America is serious, and it requires serious work.

Speaking of serious, seriousness is not what we have seen from the Democratic Party in recent days. What we

have seen is a meltdown—an absolute meltdown. We have seen an inability to accept the bottom-line conclusion on Russian interference from the special counsel's report, which read that the investigation did not establish that members of the Trump campaign conspired or coordinated with the Russian Government in its election interference activities. That was the conclusion—2 years of exhaustive investigation and nothing to establish the fanciful conspiracy theory that the Democratic politicians and TV talking heads had treated like a forgone conclusion. They told everyone there had been a conspiracy between Russia and the Trump campaign. Yet, on this central question, the special counsel's finding is clear—case closed.

This ought to be good news for everyone, but my Democratic colleagues seem to be publicly working through the five stages of grief. The first stage is denial. Remember what happened when the Attorney General released his preliminary letter that described the special counsel's bottom-line legal conclusion? Denial. Immediately, there was totally baseless speculation that perhaps Attorney General Barr had not quoted the report properly.

Then comes stage No. 2—anger. Welcome to Washington in recent days. The Democrats are angry—angry that the facts have disappointed them, angry that our legal system will not magically undo the 2016 election for them. They have opted to channel all of their partisan anger onto the Attorney General. They seem to be angrier at Bill Barr for doing his job than they are at Vladimir Putin. This is a distinguished public servant whose career stretches back almost 50 years. He is widely respected. Nobody claims he has any prior personal allegiance to this particular President.

Why are they angry? Why are they angry? Did the Attorney General fire the special counsel or force him to wind down prematurely? No. Did he sit on the Mueller report and keep it secret? No. He quickly reported out his bottom-line legal conclusions and then released as much as possible for the world to see. Did he use redactions? Did he use redactions to mislead the public? No. Working with the special counsel's team, he released as much as possible within standard—standard—safeguards. So it is hard to see the source of the anger.

Maybe our Democratic colleagues are thinking of some strange new kind of “coverup” where you take the entire thing you are supposedly covering up and post it on the internet. The claims get more and more utterly absurd. There are baseless accusations of perjury and laughable threats of impeachment.

We all know what is going on here. This is the whole angry barrage that Democrats had prepared to unleash on President Trump—except the facts let them down. The facts let them down. So the left has swung all these cannons

around and fired them at the Attorney General. It is not for any legitimate reason but just because he is a convenient target.

There is this “outrage industrial complex” that spans from Capitol press conferences to cable news. They are grieving—grieving—that the national crisis they spent 2 years wishing for did not materialize. But for the rest of the country, this is good news. It is bad news for the “outrage industrial complex” but good news for the country. So now they are slandering a distinguished public servant because the real world has disappointed them.

Instead of taking a deep breath and coming back to reality, our colleagues across the aisle want to shoot the messenger and keep the perpetual outrage machine right on going, even undermining the institution of the Attorney General itself in the process.

Remember, Russia set out to sow discord, to create chaos in American politics, and to undermine confidence in our democracy. But on that front, given the left's total fixation on delegitimizing the President Americans chose and shooting any messenger who tells them inconvenient truths, I am afraid the Russians hardly need to lift a finger—hardly need to lift a finger.

The last stage of grievance is acceptance. For the country's sake, I hope my Democratic friends get there sometime soon. There are serious issues the American people need us to tackle. There is more progress for middle-class families we need to deliver.

For 2 years, the Democratic Party held out hope that the legal system would undo their loss in 2016. They refused to make peace with the American people's choice. But the American people elected this President. They did. The American people voted for change. The American people sent us here to deliver results for their families. That is what Republicans have been doing for the past 2 years and counting. That is what Republicans will continue to do. Whenever our Democratic friends can regain their composure and come back to reality, we look forward to their help.

MEASURES PLACED ON THE CALENDAR—S. 1332 AND H.R. 9

Mr. McCONNELL. Madam President, I understand there are two bills at the desk due for a second reading en bloc.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The leader is correct.

The clerk will read the titles of the bills for the second time en bloc.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 1332) to set forth the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2020 and setting forth the appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2021 through 2029.

A bill (H.R. 9) to direct the President to develop a plan for the United States to meet its nationally determined contribution under the Paris Agreement, and for other purposes.

Mr. McCONNELL. In order to place the bills on the calendar under the provisions of rule XIV, I object to further proceedings en bloc.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection having been heard, the bills will be placed on the calendar.

Mr. McCONNELL. 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 PRESIDING OFFICER. The Democratic leader is recognized.

MUELLER REPORT

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I have just listened to my friend the majority leader engage in an astounding bit of whitewash—not unexpected but entirely unconvincing.

Yes, the Mueller investigation took 2 years, and, yes, it produced a stunning document in the end—not only a damning appraisal of our election security and just how willing a major Presidential campaign was to accept and amplify the disinformation of a foreign adversary but also a thorough examination of the behavior of a lawless President, who at least on 11 occasions, according to the report, may have obstructed a Federal investigation.

So while my friend the majority leader wants to say “case closed”—I don’t blame them—375 former Federal prosecutors looked at the Mueller report and said publicly that the conduct of the President amounts to felony obstruction of justice. In any other case, were he not President, those prosecutors would have recommended bringing charges.

Our leader saying “Let’s move on” is sort of like Richard Nixon saying “Let’s move on” at the height of the investigation of his wrongdoing. Of course he wants to move on. He wants to cover it up. He wants silence on one of the most serious issues we face—whether a foreign power can manipulate our elections, the wellspring of our democracy.

If the leader is sincere, then put election security on the floor. Let’s debate it. Put sanctions on Russia on the floor. Let’s debate it. He doesn’t want to move on; he wants to run away from these awful facts that relate to the wellspring of our democracy—foreign interference in our election and a President who is lawless. That is what he wants to push under the rug.

Of course, he would say this is all done. It is not done. If Russia interferes in 2020, it is not done. If this President or future Presidents believe

that they can avoid the law and even break the law—at least according to 375 prosecutors—it is not done. This is very serious stuff.

The leader bemoans “breathless conspiracy theorizing.” For a moment, I thought he was referring to the President and to those House and Senate Republicans who for 2 years intentionally sought to undercut Mueller’s investigation by peddling farfetched conspiracy theories about deep state “coups,” unmasking scandals, and uranium purchases to muddy the waters. I guess he meant something about Democrats. But I don’t remember the Republican leader bemoaning those breathless conspiracies; nor do I remember the Republican leader or the Republican Senators having such a distaste for congressional oversight during the Obama administration. On things far less serious, they were relentless in wanting investigations. Now they say “never mind” when the wellspring of our democracy is at stake, there is foreign interference in our elections, and a President who just disobeys the law. The leader sure acted differently a few years back.

What I remember is that from the very beginning, the Republican leader has not taken the threat of Russia’s election interference as seriously as he should. In the run-up to the 2016 election, when the Obama administration sought to warn State election officials about foreign meddling and designate election systems as “critical infrastructure,” Leader McCONNELL reportedly delayed for weeks, “watered down” the letter from congressional leaders, and pushed back against the designation. Yes, I would have swept this under the rug if I had done that. I wouldn’t want to keep talking about it.

Despite 2 years in charge of the Senate since the 2016 election, Leader McCONNELL has pursued additional election security only after being prodded by Democrats, and it has been half-baked at that.

Leader McCONNELL thwarted the Rules Committee from marking up the bipartisan legislation designed to enhance election security.

At the beginning of the year, 42 Republicans, including Leader McCONNELL, essentially voted in favor of the administration’s proposal to weaken sanctions against Russia.

In the last round of negotiations, Senate Republicans blocked our attempt to fund additional efforts to make our election safe in 2020.

Now, despite a preponderance of testimony from our intelligence officials—not politicians; intelligence officials who are in charge of our security and well-being—they testified that foreign powers are ramping up to interfere in our next election. The Senate has done nothing to grapple with the problem, even as minimal of a request as I made to the leader: an all-Senators’ classified briefing from our defense and intelligence leaders so that the Senate understands what we need to do to pro-

tect American in 2020 and beyond. I have been asking for 2 weeks, and we still haven’t gotten action.

Let’s bring the bipartisan Secure Elections Act to the floor and debate and amend. Let’s strengthen sanctions against Putin and any other adversary who would dare to interfere with the sanctity of our elections.

Regardless of what you believe about the President’s conduct, we should all—every single Democrat and every single Republican—be working to ensure that what happened in 2016 never happens again. We can debate how much of an effect it had, but we sure don’t want it to be worse—whatever it was—in 2020 than it was in 2016. And the leader sits on his hands, does nothing, creates a legislative graveyard for these and every other issue, and then says: Let’s move on. No way. No way. We can do both. We can make our elections more secure. We can examine what happened so we can make them more secure and do other issues. So far, Leader McCONNELL is doing neither.

What we have here is very simple. What we have here is a concerted effort to circle the wagons to protect the President from accountability, to whitewash his reprehensible conduct by simply declaring it irrelevant. In that effort, the leader and Senate Republicans are falling down drastically on their constitutional duty to provide oversight and, I fear, to defend the national interest as well.

SENATE LEGISLATIVE AGENDA

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, let me now talk about something related—the legislative graveyard.

Leader McCONNELL says: Let’s move on and work together. There hasn’t been a single bill put on the floor on issues we can debate, whether it is protecting preexisting conditions, making our education system better, dealing with the problem of the high cost of drugs, doing infrastructure—nothing. Just appointments have been put on the floor. And nothing has been done on election security at the very minimum.

I know the leader is afraid to debate what happened and explore what happened given the tawdry history of certainly President Trump and of Senate Republicans in responding to this serious issue, but at least he could move forward and we could put some bills on the floor and debate them to strengthen our election security, which everyone admits is weak.

So if Leader McCONNELL, as he says, is ready to move on to serious things, then how about bringing forward legislation to protect our elections? For 4 months, the Senate has been little more than a legislative graveyard, and election security is exhibit A.

The House passed important reforms to improve and safeguard our elections. No action here in the Senate. We have a bipartisan election security bill waiting in committee. No movement from the leader.

As long as this place remains a legislative graveyard, we are rolling out the welcome mat for foreign adversaries—not just Russia but Iran, Turkey, North Korea, China—to interfere in our elections. We are essentially encouraging a sequel to 2016 because the leader is sitting on his hands, because the leader is presiding over a legislative graveyard on election security and just about everything else. What about bipartisan background checks? What about paycheck fairness? What about election reform? What about even the Violence Against Women Act, which passed the House with 33 Republicans? None of those are being put on the floor so that we can act and debate.

Later this morning, my friend Senator UDALL will come here to the floor to press our Republican friends to take up this bill and shed light on the fact that it includes long-overdue reforms to protect Native American women. The House is moving on legislation this week to protect our healthcare law and protections for Americans with pre-existing conditions from the administration's efforts to destroy those protections. There is no reason for Leader MCCONNELL, who says he wants to move on, to let these bills collect dust in the Senate. Even if he doesn't love every particular in these bills, why not bring them to the floor to debate and amend? Surely, we could find a way to agree on issues. Ninety, ninety-five percent of Americans agree on every one of these. But the Republican Party and Leader MCCONNELL are so in the grasp of powerful special interests and lobbyists from the hard right that they are afraid to move any of this.

DISASTER RELIEF

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, on disaster, last week, the city of Davenport in Iowa became the site of the latest national disaster to wreak havoc on our homeland. It has been 8 weeks since the Midwest began battling major flooding, 6 months since the last major wildfire in California, 12 months since a volcano erupted in Hawaii, and over a year and a half since Hurricanes Irma and Maria devastated the island of Puerto Rico. But because the President has stubbornly and inexplicably opposed aid to Puerto Rico, a comprehensive disaster package has failed to get the necessary support of my colleagues on the other side of the aisle, of a majority in the House, and has languished in the Congress.

Unfortunately, the President continues to belittle Puerto Rico and tell flat-out mistruths about the level of support they are receiving. Just yesterday, the President said the people of Puerto Rico "should be very happy" with what he has done for them so far. Well, don't ask me. Ask the Governor of Puerto Rico—hardly a left-wing, partisan Democrat; ask the mayor of San Juan; ask the people of Puerto Rico if they are happy. Don't put words in their mouths. Ask them if they are

happy with the support they have received from this administration. Ask them if they are happy with HUD's missing its own deadline to advance the release of \$8 billion in disaster mitigation funding last week. Ask them, and you will get a much different answer. No one in the Puerto Rican community is happy with the way this President has treated the island and its 3 million American citizens. He has treated them with contempt. It needs to stop.

So, President Trump, if you want to help the farmers in the Midwest, be fair to everyone. You can't pick and choose.

Some of them say: Oh, but Puerto Rico isn't spending its aid well. I heard that when we wanted Sandy money for New York. You can say that about any region. In an emergency, no government program will be perfect, but that is not a reason to hold back the money. Instead, send the money and have some oversight, but help the people. They need it. You can't pick and choose which Americans to help.

I would say this to President Trump: As our President, you must represent all Americans, not just the ones who voted for you.

I yield the floor.

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 Joseph F. Bianco, of New York, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Second Circuit.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Utah.

EXPORT-IMPORT BANK

Mr. LEE. Madam President, many Americans might be surprised, shocked, and troubled to learn that some of their tax dollars are going directly to Chinese companies and that some of those dollars even go to corporations owned by the Chinese Government, like Chinese banks, Chinese development agencies, and Chinese microprocessor factories. In recent years, in fact, China received \$50 million in loans and guarantees, all backed by American citizens.

Taxpayers would be right to be puzzled and concerned about why their hard-earned money is subsidizing Chinese state-owned companies. To be clear, we are not talking about voluntary investment from American

businesses; we are taking about the backing of the U.S. Government. They might ask: How is this the case? Why on Earth would we do this? Why is this happening? The answer has to do with the very institution to which we are going to be trying to confirm nominees today.

The Export-Import Bank—or Ex-Im, as it is often described—was created during the height of the Great Depression to help U.S. exporters when they were desperate for customers and foreign markets lacked the capital to finance trade. It was conceived particularly to help small businesses to be able to compete, as many of its current proponents still claim, still insist, to this very day.

But for decades, the institution that is the Export-Import Bank has unfortunately been used as a giant tool for corporate welfare. Ex-Im has operated to benefit the wealthiest and the most politically connected businesses in America, as well as their overseas clients and, believe it or not, foreign governments. Take Boeing, for instance. Look, it is no coincidence that Ex-Im has been nicknamed "Boeing's bank." When Ex-Im financing was at its peak, Boeing received 70 percent of all Export-Import Bank loan guarantees and 40 percent of all Ex-Im dollars.

Which other large corporations have benefited? Well, they include General Electric, John Deere, Caterpillar, and other industrial giants—hardly businesses that are unable to get financing elsewhere; hardly businesses that fit within the category of what the biggest proponents of Ex-Im claim need Ex-Im to exist in the first place.

In fact, while Ex-Im claims that 90 percent of the businesses to which it provides support are "small businesses," when you dive into those numbers, the numbers tell a somewhat different story. They show that small businesses received only about 25 percent of Ex-Im dollars. That doesn't even touch the fact that in 2014 Caterpillar and Boeing were the first and fourth largest recipients of so-called small business funds from Ex-Im. So if Boeing and Caterpillar—great U.S. companies that employ tens of thousands of hard-working Americans and make good products used by people all over the world—if they can be considered small businesses, it makes you question the vernacular used by Export-Import Bank proponents.

Looking at the Bank's track record as a whole, only one-half of 1 percent of all small businesses in America actually benefit from Export-Import financing—a very small tip of a very large iceberg; a very small portion of all business enterprises in the United States. It makes one question, why, then, do we have one entity that is set up to provide such a large benefit to so few businesses?

It is a similar story on the foreign side. Abroad, Ex-Im has largely benefited big companies that already collect massive subsidies as state-controlled entities and entities that can easily get private financing elsewhere.

The No. 1 buyer of exports subsidized by Ex-Im between 2007 and 2013 was Pemex. For those not familiar with Pemex, it is the notoriously corrupt petroleum company owned by the Mexican Government. Pemex, which has a market cap of \$416 billion, received more than \$7 billion in loans backed by U.S. taxpayers. Why?

During the same period, Ex-Im backed \$3.4 billion in financing to Emirates Airlines—a company wholly owned by the Government of Dubai—for Emirates' purchase of Boeing planes.

Indeed, a large share of Ex-Im financing has historically gone to foreign airlines and to foreign energy companies—businesses that are, in fact, competing with American companies.

Now, not that there is anything wrong with competition. It is great. Competition ought to exist. Competition improves quality, and it brings down prices. But why is it that we, as the U.S. Government, are in many instances financing the competitors of U.S. businesses—competitors that in many instances are owned by foreign governments? Moreover, we have been sending money to countries that in many cases have what we would describe as dubious records on human rights and high levels of corruption.

In the last 5 years, Saudi Arabia and Mexico were the top foreign recipients of Export-Import Bank aid, and in the past, when Ex-Im had the authority to grant larger subsidies, the top foreign recipient was typically China. In 2014, China received \$2.2 billion in U.S. taxpayer-backed loans and guarantees with most of it going to businesses owned by the Chinese Government. If it weren't so sad, this would be funny. If it weren't so strange, it would be interesting. To top it all off, Ex-Im has had poor accounting and has had rather significant problems with transparency.

In 2013, Ex-Im was either unable or unwilling to provide any justification whatsoever for half of the financing deals in its portfolio. Here again, this is stunning. I find it troubling that we are seriously considering these nominees without first addressing why we have the Export-Import Bank in the first place and why there haven't been more reforms required before we confirm additional nominees to its governing body. There have already been 30 corruption and fraud investigations into Ex-Im's activity.

Now, thankfully, Congress put a check on some of Export-Import Bank's power back in 2015 when we allowed the Board's quorum to expire, and thus, we capped its ability to make deals larger than \$10 million.

In the past few years, 66 percent of Ex-Im's loans have actually gone to

small businesses instead of the Boeings and Caterpillars, compared to the 25 percent that went to them before. It turns out that the big businesses have been doing just fine, even since those limitations kicked in a few years ago. In fact, some of them—many of them—are doing even better than before. Last year was Boeing's best year yet, with exports making a particularly strong showing. As Boeing itself admitted, it had "robust" private sector financing. According to reports in 2017, there were unprecedented levels of competition among lenders and insurers to finance aircraft exports.

It turns out that when the government leaves a profitable line of business, private business enterprises do in fact compete in the marketplace to take its place, and, as it turns out, private businesses make better business decisions than governments. That is the lesson we need to take from this. The sky did not fall when these limitations kicked in a few years ago, and they would not fall if we continued additional reforms, or even, I would dare say, if we phased out the Export-Import Bank altogether.

Furthermore, with the decrease in Ex-Im's subsidies, U.S. exports have actually risen slightly. Between 2014 and 2018, exports rose from \$1.7 trillion to \$1.8 trillion.

Yet today the swamp strikes back. The prospect of confirming three nominees to the Ex-Im Bank, thanks to the nuking of the Senate rules a few weeks back, suggests Boeing's bank will in fact rise from the grave to resume its long history of fraud, corruption, abusive power, and government manipulation of the marketplace.

We do not need to further empower the rich and politically connected companies that are already flourishing. That only undermines trust in our government, which is supposed to protect taxpayers from corruption and from waste, and it unilaterally prevents us from having a more thriving, more competitive economy—one that would actually produce more jobs in America and one that would actually produce things in such a way that would benefit more consumers in America. We do not need to use this outdated, broken, corrupt Bank as a tool for countering foreign interests. We certainly don't need it as a tool for subsidizing foreign interests. The way to confront China's and other countries' expansionism is certainly not to subsidize their state-owned companies.

No, we don't need Boeing's bank, and neither do we need Beijing's bank. Cronyism and policy privilege threaten exactly, precisely the principles upon which our Nation was founded and the principles that have fostered the development of the greatest civilization and of the strongest economy the world has ever known. They subvert the rule of law by codifying inequality and rob ordinary Americans—the moms and pops and small business owners—from having a level playing field in what is sup-

posed to be the land of opportunity. People's access to opportunity shouldn't depend on their access to government. It shouldn't depend on their ability to employ an army of lobbyists and government consultants. No, it should depend on their ability to innovate.

We are great as a country and we are strong as an economy not because of who we are but because of what we do. We have succeeded precisely because we have chosen free markets over central planning. We have chosen the rights of the individual in a free, open, robust marketplace rather than having business decisions made by a government bureaucrat in Washington, DC.

The fact that this might have made sense to those sitting in this Chamber and the House of Representatives some eight or nine decades ago doesn't mean that it has to make sense now. It doesn't mean that we are stuck perpetually in this same path. It certainly shouldn't mean that the American people should be required to work days, weeks, and months out of every year to fund the Federal Government that includes this program, the Export-Import Bank, which ends up giving a whole lot of that money to big businesses in America and to state-owned businesses abroad to participate in what is supposed to be a free-market economy and, thereby, dilutes the power of that economy.

If we are to move toward restoring fairness to our economy and our government, it would be in our best interest to get rid of this cronyist Bank altogether. At the very least, we ought not to empower it to its full capacity for abuse by confirming these nominees today. I will vote against them.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. SCOTT of Florida). The majority whip is recognized.

TRIBUTE TO MIKE ENZI

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, before I begin, I want to take a moment to say how sorry I am that the Senate will be losing Senator MIKE ENZI at the end of next year.

During his 20-plus years in the Senate, MIKE has been a leader on so many issues, including healthcare and the budget. As the chairman of the Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Committee, he oversaw major pension reform. As the chairman of the Budget Committee, he was an indispensable part of the effort to comprehensively reform our Nation's outdated Tax Code and put more money in the American people's pockets. As always, he has been a powerful voice for small businesses during that process, not to mention a powerful voice for the West throughout his entire career.

The Senate will be a lesser place without MIKE ENZI, but he has earned some more time with his wife Diana, their three children, and his four grandchildren.

I am grateful to have served with MIKE and grateful that Senators will

have a little time before his well-deserved retirement to continue to draw on his wisdom and expertise over the course of the next year and a half.

ECONOMIC GROWTH

Mr. President, good news about the economy keeps pouring in. On Friday we learned that the economy created an impressive 263,000 new jobs in April. Meanwhile, the unemployment rate dropped to its lowest level in half a century. The last time unemployment was this low was 1969.

Wages are growing at the fastest pace in a decade. April marked the ninth straight month that wage growth was at or above 3 percent. Economic growth for the first quarter of 2019 was a robust 3.2 percent, which completely smashed expectations. Personal income is up, business investment is up, and the list goes on.

Importantly, the benefits of this economic growth are being spread far and wide. In fact, blue-collar workers are seeing some of the biggest benefits. The Wall Street Journal noted on Friday: “Believe it or not—and liberals won’t want to admit it—the evidence is that the faster economic growth of the last two years is reducing income inequality.”

Where did all of this growth come from?

Well, a little over 2 years ago, at the end of the Obama administration, the outlook wasn’t too rosy. American families were struggling. The economy was sputtering. The historically slow recovery had left experts predicting that weak economic growth would be the new normal. Republicans, however, did not think that we needed to resign ourselves to a future of weak growth. We knew that American workers and American businesses were as dynamic and creative as ever. We also knew that burdensome regulations and an outdated tax code were holding our economy back and reducing the opportunities available to workers.

So when we took office in 2017, we got right to work on improving our economy in order to improve life for the American people. We knew that our economy needed to thrive if American families were going to thrive. We were determined to give Americans access to the jobs, opportunities, and wages that they needed for a secure future. So we eliminated burdensome regulations that were acting as a drag on economic growth. We passed historic reform of our Tax Code to put more money in Americans’ pockets and make it easier for businesses to grow and to create jobs.

Now we are seeing the results: strong job creation, low unemployment, robust economic growth, higher wages, and more. American families are feeling the effects.

Last week, Gallup reported:

At the start of 2019, Americans’ optimism about their personal finances reached levels not seen in more than 16 years, as 69% expected that they would be financially better off in a year. . . . A majority of Americans,

56%, rate their current financial situation as “excellent” or “good”. . . . This overall positive rating has increased 10 percentage points since 2015 and is currently the highest since 2002. Likewise, the 57% of Americans who now say their overall financial situation is getting better has risen 10 points since 2016 and is at its highest numerical point since 2002.

That is from Gallup last week.

Republicans had one goal with tax reform: Make life better for Americans. That is exactly what tax reform is doing. Thanks to tax reform, workers have more money in their paychecks; they have better access to good jobs with good wages and good benefits; and they have better opportunities for advancement.

I am proud that Republican policies are making life better for Americans. We are not stopping here. Republicans will continue to make American workers and American families our priority. We are committed to making sure that every American has access to a secure, prosperous, and hopeful future, which is why I am hopeful that the President will soon be able to close the ongoing trade negotiations and create greater market access for U.S. exports, especially agricultural exports, which will correct trade abuses and kick our economy into an even higher gear.

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.

Ms. CANTWELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

NOMINATIONS

Ms. CANTWELL. Mr. President, I come to the floor today to speak in favor of confirming the three nominees before us for the Board of Directors at the U.S. Export-Import Bank. All three of these nominees are well qualified, with years of experience in relevant fields, and all three have received support from Democrats and Republicans. In fact, all three advanced out of the Banking Committee earlier this Congress by a voice vote.

We must confirm these nominees to ensure that the Export-Import Bank is once again fully operational. It is critical for jobs and for our economy, not just in my home State of Washington but throughout the United States.

I believe in an export economy. I believe the United States of America manufactures and makes great products, and we should be shipping them around the globe to customers in a growing middle class. To do that, we have to have a functioning export credit agency that works with the private sector as a tool to get more of our products to markets where that kind of banking and assistance does not exist. If the United States fails to participate here, customers receive products from other countries—other countries that may not necessarily want that foreign

product over our U.S. product, but clearly the foreign export credit agency support by creates an incentive for them to purchase other products.

Since 2015, the Bank has not been fully operational due to the lack of a quorum on the Board of Directors.

I am not going to go into a lot of why that has happened. I will just say that if you truly believe in an export economy, you believe in having a credit agency, such as the Export-Import Bank, existing as a fundamental tool.

Basically what it has meant is that, with a lack of Board of Directors, we have not been able to approve financing transactions over \$10 million—a situation that has left nearly \$40 billion in limbo. That is \$40 billion worth of American exports unable to reach those new markets and new customers. That is \$40 billion worth of exports supporting high-paying American jobs and economic output held hostage every day that the Bank is not fully operational.

According to the National Association of Manufacturers, since the Ex-Im Bank lost its quorum in 2015, American manufacturers have lost billions of dollars of sales, which meant the loss of at least 80,000 American jobs in manufacturing in 2016 and 2017 and a loss of at least \$119 billion in economic output.

Trust me, as I have followed this issue from U.S. equipment to impacts to GE and to other companies, I have seen people lose business simply because we haven’t had a functioning credit agency to take the best valued product—that is, some of the most high-priced U.S. manufacturing product—and help get it to overseas markets.

At least 95 percent of the world customers live outside the United States, and every day that the Export-Import Bank is not fully operational, American manufacturers and small businesses lose opportunities. These opportunities are lost throughout our country, from Mack Trucks losing out on an opportunity to export Pennsylvania-manufactured vehicles to Cameroon, to the aerospace industry in my State losing out on a commercial satellite deal in Asia, to impacts on small businesses in the supply chain.

Losing these opportunities means losing high-paying American jobs. In fiscal year 2013, when the Bank was fully operational, it supported nearly 39,000 jobs in my State of Washington and over 200,000 in the United States. In fiscal year 2018, without a quorum, the Bank only supported 650 jobs in Washington and only 33,000 nationwide. That is a decrease of nearly 84 percent. So we need to take action. Every day that the Bank is not fully operational, American businesses lose ground to their competitors.

I believe American businesses are some of the best in the world. They make great products, and they can compete on any stage with other countries. But without the Export-Import Bank, there is simply not a level playing field.

There are more than 100 other export credit agencies worldwide helping foreign companies reach new markets. Without the Export-Import Bank, American companies are forced to sit on the sideline and watch as other countries fill that void. In fact, China has done more export financing in the last 3 years than the Export-Import Bank has done in its 85-year history. What does that mean? It means that if other countries continue to use credit support financing as a tool to help products reach markets and the United States doesn't, they will have an unfair advantage.

So it is not only time to confirm these nominees to ensure the Export-Import Bank is fully functional, it is also important to make sure we have a functioning Export-Import Bank. With its authorization set to expire in September, we need to reauthorize the Export-Import Bank so it can continue to provide new financing that supports American jobs and American exporters.

For many U.S. companies, the Export-Import Bank guarantees financing in emerging markets where private financing is very difficult or impossible to obtain. These tools have been essential. For example, Spokane-based SCAFCO makes grain storage bins, silos, and other agricultural processing and storage equipment. It sells its product to more than 80 markets around the world. We are very proud of that company and what they have achieved. Financing from the Export-Import Bank helped SCAFCO sell a grain storage system to Cambodia. Cambodia is normally a very tough market for U.S. businesses to reach, but thanks to the Export-Import Bank, SCAFCO was able to make the sale.

The Senate should not be in the business of making it harder for U.S. companies to compete; we should be making it easier for them to compete. We should not be putting American companies at a disadvantage and costing American jobs. It is time to recognize that in order to compete in a 21st-century global economy where there is huge growth and economic opportunity outside of the United States, we have to have a very aggressive export strategy.

I hope my colleagues will not only help us get these nominees finally to support a functioning Export-Import Bank, but they will also work very collaboratively to make sure the Bank does not expire again this September.

S. RES. 144

Mr. President, I would like to turn to another subject. My colleague, Senator UDALL from New Mexico, was out here earlier, I believe—or maybe he is coming later this afternoon—to remember the honoring this past Sunday of the National Day of Awareness for Missing and Murdered Native Women and Girls. This is an important day to recognize because this has become an epidemic in the United States.

Last year, the Seattle Indian Health Board released a report that examined

the number of murdered and missing Native women in urban areas, where 71 percent of Native Indians and Alaska Natives reside. These are urban centers in which they found at least 506 cases of missing or murdered indigenous women and girls in 71 cities. One hundred and twenty-eight were missing, and 280 were murdered.

The report found that Washington State has one of the highest number of cases of murdered and missing Native American women. Two of my State's largest cities—Seattle and Tacoma—are in the top 10 nationwide of cities with the highest number of cases. Seattle ranks No. 1.

We are experiencing this crisis, and it is time that this report be a wake-up call to action. We can no longer ignore these huge numbers. We need to find answers.

One of the answers is in the legislation sponsored by my colleague, Senator MURKOWSKI from Alaska, Savanna's Act, which will improve the response of local, State, and Federal-Tribal enforcement in cases of missing and murdered Tribal women and girls. This is so important, and that is why I have joined Senator MURKOWSKI and Senator CORTEZ MASTO as a cosponsor of this legislation and am urging that the Senate pass it immediately.

Right now, hours and days can be wasted in responding to this. Savanna's Act will streamline the protocols and process between our Tribes and law enforcement agencies, which will mean swifter action and a more rapid pace.

Why am I bringing this up now? I know we also have to reauthorize the Violence Against Women Act, but this legislation has good bipartisan support in the Senate. We can pass this legislation very soon and send it over to the House of Representatives. That way, it will be ready to be put into the hands of our law enforcement, if it passes and goes to the President's desk for signature—a tool that can be used now, not delayed another 7 or 8 months until we get the reauthorization of the Violence Against Women Act.

I thank my former colleague, Senator Heitkamp, for trying to push this legislation at the end of the last congressional session. I hope my colleagues will realize that the great bipartisan support that existed in the Senate to move this legislation still exists. What is different now is a House of Representatives that is very willing to take up and pass Savanna's Act, and we should do that as soon as possible.

I thank the Presiding Officer.

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.

Ms. WARREN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The Senator from Massachusetts.

MUELLER REPORT

Ms. WARREN. Mr. President, a little while ago, the majority leader stood on this floor to speak about the investigation into the 2016 Presidential election. He triumphantly declared “case closed”—“case closed.” Wishing will not make it so.

I read the Mueller report. I read it cover to cover, every page. I read late into the evening on the day it was released and into the next morning. I didn't start reading by expecting to make a statement about it, but I was shaken by the evidence that the special counsel had gathered and by the conclusions that he drew.

The majority leader would have us believe that scrutinizing this evidence is a matter of Democrats refusing “to make peace with the American people's choice.” He wants to portray this as just an “outrage industrial complex” because some people don't like that President Trump won. Again, wishing will not make it so.

Sure, there is plenty to be outraged about in the special counsel's report, but no one here is pitching a fit that Democrats didn't win the election. No, what is at stake here is the Constitution of the United States of America. Will Congress do its job and fulfill its constitutional duty to serve as a check on the President? The answer from the majority leader and his Republican colleagues is no—“case closed.” “Case closed,” they cry.

Instead of reading the words of the special counsel's report, they just want to circle the wagons around this President. Instead of protecting the Constitution, they want to protect the President. This is a huge difference.

At the core of the Constitution is the principle that no one is above the law, not even the President of the United States. My oath of office is the same as MITCH MCCONNELL's. I swore and he swore to uphold the Constitution of the United States. Our Constitution is built on the principle of separation of powers precisely to prevent a dictator, an autocrat, from taking control of our government. This separation of powers is part of the brilliance of our Constitution, and it has served us well for centuries.

Yes, I took an oath to uphold the Constitution of the United States, and so did everybody in the Senate and the House, including the majority leader. Now we must act to fulfill that oath. There is no “political inconvenience” exception to the U.S. Constitution. If any other human being in this country had done what is documented in the Mueller report, they would be arrested and put in jail.

The majority leader doesn't want us to consider the mountain of evidence against the President. That is wrong. He and his colleagues have moved to protect the President instead of defending the Constitution. Maybe my colleagues on the other side of the aisle are confused or maybe they just didn't read the report. Well, I did, and there

were some passages that stuck out to me.

Since the majority leader has pronounced his judgment here on the Senate floor, I would like to spend some time reminding him of exactly what this report said. Let's start with this one. Robert Mueller's report makes clear that the President took steps to impede the Mueller investigation and that his report, though it does not charge the President, did not exonerate him from wrongdoing. According to Mueller:

On May 17, 2017, the Acting Attorney General for the Russia investigation appointed a Special Counsel to conduct the investigation and related matters. The President reacted to news that a Special Counsel had been appointed by telling advisors that it was "the end of his presidency" and demanding that Sessions resign. Sessions submitted his resignation, but the President ultimately did not accept it. The President told aides that the Special Counsel had conflicts of interest and suggested that the Special Counsel therefore could not serve. The President's advisors told him the asserted conflicts were meritless and had already been considered by the Department of Justice. On June 14, 2017, the media reported that the Special Counsel's Office was investigating whether the President had obstructed justice. Press reports called this "a major turning point" in the investigation: while Comey had told the President he was not under investigation, following Comey's firing, the President now was under investigation. The President reacted to this news with a series of tweets criticizing the Department of Justice and the Special Counsel's investigation. On June 17, 2017, the President called McGahn [who was White House Counsel] at home and directed him to call the Acting Attorney General and say that the Special Counsel had conflicts of interest and must be removed.

That ends the quote from the Mueller report. According to McGahn, the President was extremely insistent, calling him repeatedly and not taking no for an answer. Here is what McGahn told the special counsel—back to the Mueller report:

On Saturday, June 17, 2017, the President called McGahn and told him to have the Special Counsel removed. McGahn was at home and the President was at Camp David. In interviews with this Office, McGahn recalled that the President called him at home twice and on both occasions directed him to call Rosenstein and say that Mueller had conflicts that precluded him from serving as Special Counsel.

On the first call, McGahn recalled that the President said something like, "You gotta do this. You gotta call Rod." McGahn said he told the President that he would see what he could do. McGahn was perturbed by the call and did not intend to act on the request. He and other advisors believed the asserted conflicts were "silly" and "not real," and they had previously communicated that view to the President. McGahn also had made clear to the President that the White House Counsel's Office should not be involved in any effort to press the issue of conflicts. McGahn was concerned about having any role in asking the Acting Attorney General to fire the Special Counsel because he had grown up in the Reagan era and wanted to be more like Judge Robert Bork and not "Saturday Night Massacre Bork." McGahn considered the President's request to be an inflection point and he wanted to hit the brakes.

That ends the quote from the Mueller report.

Starting again from the Mueller report:

When the President called McGahn a second time to follow up on the order to call the Department of Justice, McGahn recalled the President was more direct, saying something like, "Call Rod, tell Rod that Mueller has conflicts and can't be the Special Counsel." McGahn recalled the President telling him "Mueller has to go" and "Call me back when you do it." McGahn understood the President to be saying that the Special Counsel had to be removed by Rosenstein. To end the conversation with the President, McGahn left the President with the impression that McGahn would call Rosenstein. McGahn recalled that he had already said no to the President's request, and he was worn down. So he just wanted to get off the phone.

McGahn recalled feeling trapped because he did not plan to follow the President's directive, but he did not know what he would say next time the President called. McGahn decided he had to resign. He called his personal lawyer, and then he called his chief of staff, Annie Donaldson, to inform her of his decision. He then drove to the office to pack his belongings and submit his resignation letter. Donaldson recalled that McGahn told her the President had called and demanded that he contact the Department of Justice and that the President wanted him to do something that McGahn did not want to do. McGahn told Donaldson that the President had called at least twice and, in one of the calls, asked, "have you done it?" McGahn did not tell Donaldson the specifics of the President's request because he was consciously trying not to involve her in the investigation, but Donaldson inferred that the President's directive was related to the Russia investigation. Donaldson prepared to resign along with McGahn.

That evening, McGahn called both Priebus and Bannon and told them that he intended to resign. McGahn recalled that, after speaking with his attorney and given the nature of the President's request, he decided not to share details of the President's request with other White House staff. Priebus recalled that McGahn said that the President had asked him to "do crazy shit," but he thought McGahn did not tell him the specifics of the President's request because McGahn was trying to protect Priebus from what he did not need to know.

Priebus and Bannon both urged McGahn not to quit, and McGahn ultimately returned to work that Monday and remained in his position. He had not told the President directly that he planned to resign, and when they next saw each other the President did not ask McGahn whether he had followed through with calling Rosenstein. Around the same time, Chris Christie recalled a telephone call with the President in which the President asked what Christie thought about the President firing the Special Counsel. Christie advised against doing so because there was no substantive basis for the President to fire the Special Counsel, and because the President would lose support from Republicans in Congress if he did so.

That is the end of that part of the Mueller report.

Now, the other President's aides ultimately refused to carry out his orders and prepared to resign rather than do so. The President persisted.

Mueller recounts:

Two days after directing McGahn to have the Special Counsel removed, the President made another attempt to affect the course of the Russia investigation. On June 19, 2017, the President met one-on-one in the Oval Office with his former campaign manager, Corey Lewandowski, a trusted advisor outside the government, and dictated a message for Lewandowski to deliver to Sessions. The message said that Sessions should publicly announce that, notwithstanding his recusal from the Russia investigation, that the investigation was "very unfair" to the President, the President had done nothing wrong, and Sessions planned to meet with the Special Counsel and "let [him] move forward with investigating election meddling for future elections." Lewandowski said he understood what the President wanted Sessions to do.

One month later, in another private meeting with Lewandowski on July 19, 2017, the President asked about the status of his message for Sessions to limit the Special Counsel's investigation to future election interference. Lewandowski told the President that the message would be delivered soon. Hours after that meeting, the President publicly criticized Sessions in an interview with the New York Times, and then issued a series of tweets making it clear that Sessions's job was in jeopardy. Lewandowski did not want to deliver the President's message personally, so he asked senior White House official Rick Dearborn to deliver it to Sessions. Dearborn was uncomfortable with the task and did not follow through.

That is the conclusion of that part of the report.

Now, President Trump also took steps to "prevent public disclosure of evidence" that was related to the special counsel's investigation.

Back to the Mueller report:

In early 2018, the press reported that the President had directed McGahn to have the special counsel removed in June 2017 and that McGahn had threatened to resign rather than carry out the order. The President reacted to the news stories by directing White House officials to tell McGahn to dispute the story and to create a record stating that he had not been ordered to have the Special Counsel removed. McGahn told those officials that the media reports were accurate in stating that the President had directed McGahn to have the Special Counsel removed. The President then met with McGahn in the Oval Office and again pressured him to deny the reports.

That is the end of that section.

Now, the President also tried to influence witnesses, like Michael Flynn and Paul Manafort, while they cooperated with the special counsel.

Back to the Mueller report:

With regard to Flynn, the President sent private and public messages to Flynn encouraging him to stay strong and conveying that the President still cared about him before he began to cooperate with the government. When Flynn's attorneys withdrew him from a joint defense agreement with the President, signaling that Flynn was potentially cooperating with the government, the President's personal counsel initially reminded Flynn's counsel of the President's warm feelings toward Flynn and said "that still remains." But when Flynn's counsel reiterated that Flynn could no longer share information under a joint defense agreement, the President's personal counsel stated that the decision would be interpreted as reflecting Flynn's hostility toward the President.

That sequence of events could have had the potential to affect Flynn's decision to cooperate, as well as the extent of that cooperation.

With respect to Manafort, there is evidence that the President's actions had the potential to influence Manafort's decision whether to cooperate with the government. The President and his personal counsel made repeated statements suggesting that a pardon was a possibility for Manafort, while also making it clear that the President did not want Manafort to "flip"—

That is in quotes in the Mueller report—

and cooperate with the government. On June 15, 2018, the day the judge presiding over Manafort's D.C. case was considering whether to revoke his bail, the President said that he "felt badly" for Manafort and stated, "I think a lot of it is very unfair." And when asked about a pardon for Manafort, the President said, "I do want to see people treated fairly. That's what it's all about." Later that day, after Manafort's bail was revoked, the President called it a "tough sentence" that was "Very unfair!" Two days later, the President's personal counsel stated that individuals involved in the Special Counsel's investigation could receive a pardon "if, in fact, the [P]resident and his advisors . . . come to the conclusion that you have been treated unfairly,"—using language that paralleled how the President had already described the treatment of Manafort.

This is Mueller's report.

Those statements, combined with the President's commendation of Manafort for being a "brave man" who "refused to break," suggested that a pardon was a more likely possibility if Manafort continued not to cooperate with the government. And while Manafort eventually pleaded guilty pursuant to a cooperation agreement, he was found to have violated the agreement by lying to investigators.

That concludes that portion of the Mueller report.

Now, Mueller declined to take a position because of the existing Department of Justice Office of Legal Counsel policy that you cannot indict a sitting President. He intended to leave the matter to Congress. He laid the evidence out in the Mueller report, which made clear that the President of the United States obstructed justice.

And don't just take my word for it. Just yesterday, over 600 former Federal prosecutors wrote a letter stating that "the conduct of President Trump described in Special Counsel Robert Mueller's report would, in the case of any other person not covered by the Office of Legal Counsel policy against indicting a sitting President, result in multiple felony charges for obstruction of justice."

So I am going to read their letter because I think it is important, and I want to make sure it is in the RECORD here. Here is the letter from more than 600 former prosecutors.

We are former federal prosecutors. We served under both Republican and Democratic administrations at different levels of the federal system: as line attorneys, supervisors, special prosecutors, United States attorneys, and senior officials at the Department of Justice. The offices in which we served were small, medium, and large; urban, suburban, and rural; and located in all parts of our country.

Each of us believes that the conduct of President Trump described in Special Counsel Robert Mueller's report would, in the case of any other person not covered by the Office of Legal Counsel policy against indicting a sitting President, result in multiple felony charges for obstruction of justice.

I just want to read that again: "would . . . result in multiple felony charges for obstruction of justice."

The Mueller report describes several acts that satisfy all of the elements for an obstruction of justice charge. Conduct that obstructed or intended to obstruct the truth-finding process, as to which the evidence of corrupt intent and connection to pending proceedings is overwhelming. These include:

The President's efforts to fire Mueller and to falsify evidence about that effort;

The President's effort to limit the scope of Mueller's investigation to exclude his conduct; and

The President's efforts to prevent witnesses from cooperating with investigators probing him and his campaign.

This is under the heading in the letter "Attempts to fire Mueller and then create false evidence."

Continuing with the letter:

Despite being advised by then-White House Counsel Don McGahn that he could face legal jeopardy for doing so, Trump directed McGahn on multiple occasions to fire Mueller or to gin up false conflicts of interest as a pretext for getting rid of the Special Counsel. When these acts began to come into public view, Trump made "repeated efforts to have McGahn deny the story"—going so far as to tell McGahn to write a letter "for our files" falsely denying that Trump had directed Mueller's termination.

Firing Mueller would have seriously impeded the investigation of the President and his associates—obstruction in its most literal sense. Directing the creation of false government records in order to prevent or discredit truthful testimony is similarly unlawful. The special counsel's report states: "Substantial evidence indicates that in repeatedly urging McGahn to dispute that he was ordered to have the Special Counsel terminated, the President acted for the purpose of influencing McGahn's account in order to deflect or prevent scrutiny of the President's conduct toward the investigation."

Also within the letter, under the header Attempts to Limit the Mueller Investigation, the report describes multiple efforts by the President to curtail the scope of the special counsel's investigation.

First, the President repeatedly pressured then-Attorney General Jeff Sessions to reverse his legally mandated decision to recuse himself from the investigation. The President stated the reason was that he wanted an Attorney General who would "protect" him, including from the special counsel's investigation. He also directed then-White House Chief of Staff Reince Priebus to fire Sessions, and Priebus refused.

Second, after McGahn told the President he could not contact Sessions himself to discuss the investigation, Trump went outside the White House and instructed his former campaign manager Corey Lewandowski to carry a demand to Sessions to direct Mueller to confine his investigation to future elections. Lewandowski tried and

failed to contact Sessions in private. After a second meeting with Trump, Lewandowski passed Trump's message on to senior White House official Rick Dearborn, who Lewandowski thought would be a better messenger because of his prior relationship with Sessions. Dearborn did not pass along Trump's message.

As the report explains, "[s]ubstantial evidence indicates that the President's effort to have Sessions limit the scope of the Special Counsel's investigation to future election interference was intended to prevent further investigative scrutiny of the President's and his campaign's conduct."

In other words, the President employed a private citizen to try to get the Attorney General to limit the scope of an ongoing investigation into the President and his associates.

All of this conduct—trying to control and impede the investigation against the President by leveraging his authority over others—is similar to conduct we have seen that has been charged against other public officials and people in powerful positions.

The next section of the special counsel's report establishes that the President tried to influence the decisions of both Michael Cohen and Paul Manafort with regard to cooperating with investigators. Some of this tampering and intimidation, including the dangling of pardons, was done in plain sight via tweets and public statements. Other such behavior was done via private messages through private attorneys, such as Trump counsel Rudy Giuliani's message to Cohen's lawyer that Cohen should "[s]leep well tonight[], you have friends in high places."

Of course, these aren't the only acts of potential obstruction detailed by the special counsel. It would be well within the purview of normal prosecutorial judgment also to charge other acts detailed in the report.

We emphasize that these are not matters of close, professional judgment. Of course, there are potential defenses or arguments that could be raised in response to an indictment of the nature we describe here. In our system, every accused person is presumed innocent, and it is always the government's burden to prove its case beyond a reasonable doubt. Yet to look at these facts and say that a prosecutor could not probably sustain a conviction for obstruction of justice—the standards set out in Principles of Federal Prosecution—runs counter to logic and our experience.

As former Federal prosecutors, we recognize that prosecuting obstruction of justice cases is critical because unchecked obstruction, which allows intentional interference with criminal investigations to go unpunished, puts our whole system of justice at risk. We believe strongly that but for the OLC memo, the overwhelming weight of professional judgment would come down in favor of prosecution for the conduct outlined in the Mueller report.

Over 600 former Federal prosecutors are saying that if we were talking

about any person in this country other than the President of the United States, that person would be prosecuted for obstruction of justice. Because of that OLC opinion that a sitting President cannot be indicted, the only mechanism to hold the President accountable and to ensure that the President is not above the law is for Congress to initiate impeachment proceedings.

There has been more commentary. Scholars at Lawfare have put together a very helpful piece that breaks down all of the examples documented in the Mueller report in which Trump may have obstructed justice. Then it analyzes the strength of the case to be made that the President is guilty of obstruction of justice.

Per Lawfare:

The key question is how Robert Mueller and his team assessed the three elements “common to most of the relevant statutes” relating to obstruction of justice, which are an obstructive act, a nexus between the act and an official proceeding, and corrupt intent.

As Mueller describes, the special counsel’s office “gathered evidence . . . relevant to the elements of those crimes and analyzed them within an elements framework—while refraining from reaching ultimate conclusions about whether crimes were committed” because of the Office of Legal Counsel (OLC)’s guidelines against the indictment of a sitting president.

The Lawfare blog identified four instances in the Mueller report that documented “substantial” evidence of all three of those elements. In other words, in the following four examples that were documented in the Mueller report, there is “substantial” evidence on all three of the elements that Mueller based his assessment on that the President obstructed justice.

First, when it comes to the President’s efforts to fire Mueller, the report found “substantial evidence”—that is from the report—that the President’s actions constituted an obstructive act. On page 89, it found that the former White House Counsel, Don McGahn, was a “credible witness” in providing evidence that Trump, indeed, attempted to fire Mueller. The report reads that this “would qualify as an obstructive act” if the firing “would naturally obstruct the investigation and any grand jury proceedings that might flow from the inquiry.”

Then it established that there was a nexus between the act and an official proceeding, reading on page 89 that there is “substantial evidence” that Trump was aware that “his conduct was under investigation by a federal prosecutor who could present any evidence of federal crimes to a grand jury.”

On the question of intent, the Mueller report found “substantial evidence indicates that the President’s attempts to remove the Special Counsel were linked to the Special Counsel’s oversight of investigations that involved the President’s conduct[.]”

The second example that Mueller cites is the President’s efforts to cur-

tail Mueller. On the question of whether those actions constituted an obstructive act, Mueller found that Trump’s effort to force Sessions to confine the investigation to investigating only future election interference “would qualify as an obstructive act if it would naturally obstruct the investigation and any grand jury proceedings that might flow from the inquiry.” The report continues: “Taken together, the President’s directives indicate that Sessions was being instructed to tell the Special Counsel to end the existing investigation into the President and his campaign[.]”

On the question of whether there was a nexus between the act and an official proceeding, Mueller found that at the relevant point, “the existence of a grand jury investigation supervised by the Special Counsel was public knowledge.”

On the question of intent, Mueller found “substantial evidence” that indicates that Trump’s efforts were “intended to prevent further investigative scrutiny of the President’s and his campaign’s conduct.”

MITCH MCCONNELL came to the floor to declare that there will be no more investigation into what the President has done. Yet the Mueller report has made clear that there are repeated instances of obstruction of justice. More than 600 Federal prosecutors have now said that what is laid out in the Mueller report would constitute obstruction of justice and would trigger a prosecution for any human being in this country other than for the President of the United States.

Robert Mueller has put all of the facts and information together for us and has abided by the Trump administration’s declaration, under the Office of Legal Counsel, that a sitting President cannot be indicted for his crimes. He has handed it over to the Congress of the United States of America for us to do our constitutional duty.

We are a government that works by a separation of powers. We are not a government that circles the wagon around a leader and says that everything else falls away. Instead, we say there are powers that are given to the President and powers that are given to Congress, and each operates as a check on the other.

The information that has been given to us in the Mueller report clearly constitutes adequate information to begin an impeachment proceeding in the House of Representatives. No matter how many times MITCH MCCONNELL or the rest of the Republicans want to wish that away, it is there in black and white in the report.

I urge every Republican in this Chamber, every Republican and Democrat in Congress, and every person in this country to read the Mueller report.

Robert Mueller makes clear that the President of the United States worked actively to obstruct justice. There is enough here to bring an impeachment

proceeding. For us, for this body, for Congress, to back up from that and to say that protecting the President is more important than protecting the Constitution is not only wrong, it is a violation of our oath of office.

I am here to say one more time and publicly this is not a fight I wanted to take on, but this is the fight in front of us now. This is not about politics. This is about the Constitution of the United States of America.

We took an oath not to try to protect Donald Trump; we took an oath to protect and serve the Constitution of the United States of America, and the way we do that is we begin impeachment proceedings now against this President.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. CRUZ). The assistant Democratic leader.

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I want to thank my colleague from Massachusetts for her statement and for going into depth on the Mueller report and talking about the findings.

This morning, of course, we heard the Republican leader, Senator MCCONNELL, come to the floor and say something quite different—to quote what he said, the work of the special counsel and the Attorney General “and how we can finally end this ‘Groundhog Day’ spectacle, stop endlessly relitigating a 2½-year-old election result, and move forward for the American people.”

It is pretty clear the Republican leader would like to say to the American people: Keep on moving, there is nothing to be seen here. But we know better.

If you take a look at the Mueller report: \$26 million spent, 50 attorneys and agents, almost 2 years, scores of indictments that came down and some guilty pleas already and yet even more to follow. This isn’t over, and it will not be over soon, nor should it be.

It is obvious my Republican colleagues want to move on as quickly as possible from talking about how Russia interfered in the 2016 election with the stated intent of helping to elect Donald Trump President. They definitely don’t want to talk about the many links between the Russians and the Trump campaign or how, in the words of the Mueller report: “The campaign expected it would benefit electorally from information stolen and released through Russian efforts.”

They certainly don’t want to talk about the overwhelming evidence that Donald Trump obstructed justice.

Today I believe the count was up to 566 former prosecutors, including U.S. attorneys, who believe that, reading the Mueller report, there is ample evidence to go forward with the prosecution on obstruction.

We know Mueller himself has said in the report that it is an opinion by the Office of Legal Counsel precluding the indictment and prosecution of a President while in office that stopped him short of either charging or exonerating the President on this charge.

No, my Republican colleagues want to put the Russia investigation in the past, and as quickly as possible. And then in the next breath, of course, at the hearing where Attorney General Barr appeared, we see that they want to return to those thrilling days of yesterday. They say we need to look at Hillary Clinton's emails all over again. That, to them, is a more compelling issue. I think they are wrong. The interference by a foreign power in the U.S. election is the most compelling issue before us, and it cannot and should not be ignored.

The work on the Russia investigation is not over. The Mueller report has 14 criminal investigations that have been referred by the special counsel to other Justice Department components. Twelve of those referred investigations are redacted so we don't know their nature.

There is also the counterintelligence side of the investigation. We need to fully understand what evidence Special Counsel Mueller uncovered about how the Russians were able to accomplish what they did.

A spokesman for the White House said several days ago that he couldn't understand all the furor behind this Russia interference. After all, they just bought a couple Facebook ads. Well, it turns out he was wrong. There was a lot more involvement, and the Mueller report pointed to it.

Here is my concern: Attorney General Barr's actions have compromised his credibility when it comes to overseeing the continuing investigations that were brought on by the Mueller inquiry. Barr's blatant mischaracterization of the Mueller report in his March 24 letter and April 18 press conference, his 19-page memo in 2018 that showed bias on the question of obstruction, his decision to make a prosecutorial judgment on obstruction despite Mueller's view that it was not appropriate for the Department to do so in light of that OLC opinion, and Barr's many stunning statements before Congress have undermined confidence in his independence and his judgment.

I have called on him publicly and renew that call that he recuse himself from those pending criminal investigations and prosecutions that emanate from the Mueller report. At a minimum, he should recuse himself from the 14 ongoing referred criminal investigations, and Special Counsel Mueller and Don McGahn should be called on to testify about unresolved questions.

Why in the world are they trying to cover up this investigation? Why wouldn't we bring Bob Mueller before the Senate Judiciary Committee, for example, and ask obvious questions?

Remember, there are two volumes in the Mueller report. The first volume relates to Russian interference in the election and our continuing concern that they are going to try it again in 2020. Shouldn't it be priority one of the Senate Judiciary Committee to have

Bob Mueller before us, to have the evidence he accumulated carefully evaluated to protect the integrity of the election process in 2020? Is there any higher priority in a democracy than the integrity of an election?

Clearly, there is, and we have seen it and heard it from the chairman of the Judiciary Committee as well as from the Republican leader today. The highest priority for them is to move on; make certain that we don't spend any moment contemplating, considering, or even arguing about what we could do to make this a better and safer democracy in the next electoral cycle.

On the issue of obstruction of justice, I am afraid we are going to be debating that for some time, but I certainly would like to hear from Bob Mueller, directly, what he did find and why he did not reach a conclusion to exonerate the President on that charge. That is a critical element.

Let me say one last word about a recurring theme and message from the Republican leader about how the previous President, Barack Obama, did not take seriously the threats of Russian involvement in the 2016 election.

I think the record speaks for itself. Leading up to October 7, when the President came forward and publicly stated what he had been doing—what his administration had been doing to investigate this Russian interference, he called for a bipartisan commitment of Republicans and Democrats to stop it in place.

There was one voice of resistance, and it came from Senator McConnell, the Republican leader. He didn't want to take this as seriously as President Obama did. So for him to blame President Obama for not doing enough is to ignore the obvious. Given the chance, as the Republican Senate leader, he did little or nothing to acknowledge the Russian threat or do anything about it.

Now we should do something to make sure 2020 turns out to be an election we can be proud of, regardless of the outcome. Let the American people have the last word, not Vladimir Putin.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Idaho.

ORDER OF PROCEDURE

Mr. CRAPO. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that notwithstanding the provisions of rule XXII, the cloture votes on the Reed, Bachus, and Pryor nominations occur at 4 p.m. on Tuesday, May 7; further, that if cloture is invoked on the nominations on Wednesday, May 8, at 10 a.m., the Senate vote on the confirmations of the following persons and nominations in the order listed: Bianco, Reed, Bachus, and Pryor; that if confirmed, the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table and the President be immediately notified of the Senate's actions and the Senate resume consideration of the Dhillon nomination.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, is it so ordered.

EXPORT-IMPORT NOMINATIONS

Mr. CRAPO. Mr. President, I rise to speak in support of several of the nominations to the Export-Import Bank: Ms. Kimberly Reed, to be President of the Export-Import Bank; the Honorable Spencer Bachus, to be a member of the Board of Directors of the Export-Import Bank; and Ms. Judith Pryor, to be a member of the Board of Directors of the Export-Import Bank.

These three highly qualified nominees, if confirmed, will be in a position to ensure that the Export-Import Bank has the ability to provide finance in response to governments, like China, that provide aggressive subsidies and place U.S. exporters at a disadvantage.

The President and his team have recently reinforced their commitment to restoring the ability of the Bank to support American economic interests in global marketplaces.

The Director of the National Economic Council, Larry Kudlow, recently noted that the Ex-Im Bank is needed in the current trade environment, particularly with respect to China, in order for the United States to compete and succeed in international markets, calling it a "financial tool and a national security weapon."

U.S. Trade Representative Robert Lighthizer has called the lack of a functioning Ex-Im Bank a serious blow to the economy.

Peter Navarro, Director of the Office of Trade and Manufacturing Policy, has said: "The costs of keeping the Ex-Im Bank on the sidelines can be measured in the tens of billions of dollars of products we fail to export—and in the thousands of jobs we fail to create when this country does not have a fully functioning export credit agency to compete with its counterparts around the world."

It is clear that in our current trade environment, a fully functioning bank could help the United States better succeed in international markets.

President Trump's recent budget submission to Congress notes that the President "supports a fully functioning Ex-Im Bank to implement reforms and help American exporters compete in an increasingly unfair global marketplace."

As President of the Export-Import Bank, Kimberly Reed will be able to draw from an already distinguished career in public service, having previously served as a senior adviser to former Treasury Secretaries Paulson and Snow, as well as on several congressional committees.

During her nomination hearing, she committed to focusing on strong standards of conduct, increased transparency, sound risk management practices, and eliminating waste, fraud, and abuse.

I can testify that she has gone out of her way to make herself available to all Senators on both sides of the aisle to introduce herself and to answer any questions the Senators have and to discuss any reforms and improvements

she may be able to make to the Bank when she is confirmed.

Former Representative Bachus and I were elected to the House of Representatives in the same term and worked closely together in the House for a number of years. He served the Sixth District of Alabama from 1993 to 2015. During that time, he served as both chairman and ranking member of the House Financial Services Committee. He is a pragmatic conservative and has demonstrated a longstanding commitment to promoting economic opportunity.

Finally, a native of Cleveland, OH, Ms. Pryor has spent the majority of her career in the private sector, working with international businesses, many in the high-tech industry. More recently, she has served as the Vice President of External Affairs at the Overseas Private Investment Corporation under President Obama. During her confirmation hearing, Ms. Pryor expressed a commitment to particularly help raise awareness of the Export-Import Bank's financing products for small businesses and community banks.

While it is not really being included in the coverage of these nomination votes as being one of the consequences of there being a lack of a quorum on the Board, it is important to understand another important reason to confirm not one but all three of these nominees.

When the Export-Import Bank was last reauthorized in 2015, Congress implemented a number of reforms to the Bank. However, by not confirming a quorum of at least three Board members for the last several years, Congress has actually impeded implementation of a number of its own reforms, which require a vote of a quorum of the Board for approval.

These reforms include appointing a chief ethics officer, appointing a chief risk officer, forming a risk management committee, implementing new guidelines to expedite small business loans under \$25 million, and developing an expanded medium-term program to finance and ensure transactions up to \$25 million.

We have many colleagues who have said there need to be reforms implemented in order for them to further support operation of the Bank, and they would like to work with us on the Banking Committee to pursue those reforms. I support reforms, too, and look forward to working with interested colleagues, but we need to understand that we will need a quorum on the Ex-Im Bank to finalize them.

For any previous or future congressionally directed reforms to be implemented, Senators need to support all three nominations before the Senate this week in order to restore the quorum necessary to implement those reforms.

The Banking Committee approved each of these nominees with broad bipartisan support earlier this year. Each

will be an asset to the Bank's Board, and I urge my colleagues to support these nominations.

RECESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate stands in recess until 2:15 p.m.

Thereupon, the Senate, at 12:30 p.m., recessed until 2:15 p.m. and reassembled when called to order by the Presiding Officer (Mrs. CAPITO).

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR—Continued

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from West Virginia.

NOMINATION OF KIMBERLY A. REED

Mr. MANCHIN. Madam President, I am very honored to offer my support today for Kimberly Reed to be President of the Export-Import Bank of the United States. I think the Presiding Officer is very proud, too. We are both proud that the first woman to lead the Ex-Im Bank will also be the first West Virginian.

As a former West Virginia small business owner, I know this is an engine for economic growth and long-term stability and prosperity. It is truly beneficial for those businesses to reach broader markets and new customers. Rural states like West Virginia have a lot of talent and a lot of great businesses, but we need to make sure these companies are hitting global markets and building in sales and supporting more jobs here at home.

The Ex-Im Bank creates jobs and helps businesses, both big and small, to sell their products overseas at no cost—I repeat, at no cost—to the Federal Government, in addition to providing loans and other forms of credit. The Bank can also help with market research and to identify potential buyers and distributors of products in foreign countries. It is like having your own reconnaissance team, PR team, and a sales force, everything wrapped up into one.

In 2014, I invited the former Ex-Im Bank Chairman, Fred Hochberg, to West Virginia. Since then the Bank has worked with 14 West Virginia businesses throughout the State, providing \$11 million in loans to support \$18 million in exports. The people in West Virginia had no idea of the opportunities that a small business person would have with the Ex-Im Bank. They had no idea how to get into foreign markets. They didn't have any idea about the collections process or the legal expertise in that arena. This helped them immensely.

I know Kimberly wants to do the same thing for our State and for small businesses across rural America.

I can state that Kim's West Virginia roots shaped her to be the leader she is today. Growing up in Buckhannon, WV, and graduating from West Virginia Wesleyan College and West Virginia University, Kim checks all of the boxes

for the best and brightest our State can offer. Every West Virginian will know what it means when I say that she was a Golden Horseshoe awardee and a Governor's Honors Academy graduate.

She hasn't lost sight of those roots, either. She continues to serve on the Wesleyan board of trustees and has worked with West Virginians every step of her career, whether it was as the senior adviser to the Secretary of the Treasury or the head of the Community Development Financial Institutions Fund.

Kim exemplifies bedrock Appalachian values, and her deep commitment to serving her Nation through the House of Representatives and the Department of Treasury is a true testament to her character. I have always been proud to call her a West Virginian, and I know that I and the Presiding Officer will be proud to call her the President and Chairwoman of the Ex-Im Bank.

I urge my colleagues to support Kimberly Reed to lead the Export-Import Bank of the United States.

Thank you, Madam President.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Texas.

ECONOMIC GROWTH

Mr. CORNYN. Madam President, the performance of the U.S. economy is something to behold. It doesn't matter if you measure it by the unemployment rate, by the quarterly growth rates, or by wages, virtually every sign points to a growing thriving economy.

Let me emphasize some of the outstanding job numbers that came out just last week. In April, there were 263,000 new jobs created—263,000—beating even the most optimistic estimates. The unemployment rate fell to 3.6 percent—the lowest unemployment rate in nearly half a century.

The first quarter saw a 3.2 percent growth, the best in 4 years. The truth is, the United States' economy has taken off like a rocket.

Today we find ourselves in what some economists refer to as a "full employment" economy, because there are more job openings than there are job seekers. That is a remarkable place to be, and I have no doubt that it is in significant part due to the pro-growth policies created by a Republican-led Congress and the Trump administration the last 2 years.

Less than 1½ years ago we passed the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act. We tried to make this a bipartisan effort, but our Democratic friends wanted no part of it. This was the first major tax overhaul in a generation. This legislation removed many of the burdens from families, entrepreneurs, and job creators and let the free market take the wheel.

A lot of pundits and a lot of the naysayers—the professional cynics—said it wouldn't work, but I think the results speak for themselves. Workers

are bringing home more in their paychecks, and businesses are using their savings to invest in their employees.

One of the most common remarks I hear from employers when I am in Texas is that they can't find enough qualified workers for the job openings that exist. That is their biggest challenge because of this booming economy.

In the days and months following the signing of the tax bill, companies began announcing how they would use the money that they would save because of the legislation to invest in their employees and their business. We heard from big companies like AT&T, which is headquartered in Dallas, which provided \$1,000 bonuses for more than 200,000 of its employees, including more than 32,000 who live in Texas. There was also Southwest Airlines, which gave all 550,000 of its employees a \$1,000 bonus. Plus Southwest Airlines donated \$5 million to charity, to boot.

We saw headlines in the major newspapers about how these and countless other big companies were using their savings, but the less read stories about local businesses in small town papers are just as important.

This week is National Small Business Week, an opportunity to celebrate small businesses that line Main Streets throughout America, but don't let the word "small" fool you. America's 30 million small businesses are an economic force unparalleled anywhere in the world. More than half of Americans either own or work for a small business—more than half. Small businesses are responsible for about two out of every three jobs created.

One of the reasons my State is doing so well economically is because we welcome small businesses with open arms. It is an ideal home for entrepreneurs because we believe in keeping taxes low and regulations at a rational minimum. According to the Small Business Administration, there are more than 2.6 million small businesses throughout the State of Texas, accounting for 99.8 percent of all Texas businesses. They employ more than 45 percent of the State's workforce and account for a massive portion of our State's economy. These are exactly the kind of folks I had in mind when I voted to pass the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act, because I knew it would lower rates for small businesses and allow them to use the savings to invest in their employees and their business.

After the legislation passed, just to make sure, I traveled the State and held roundtables with small businesses to learn more about how they were using the savings. One of the small business owners I heard from was Josh Agrelin, whose company, Re-Bath, specializes in bathroom remodeling. A few years ago, back in 2014, I spent a day with the crews at Re-Bath of Austin as part of the NFIB's Small Business Challenge Campaign. I got to try my hand at tiling and remodeling a bathroom, and while I will not be opening

my own contracting company any time soon, I had a great time learning about this Austin franchise and getting to know its employees.

When I saw Josh again at our roundtable last year, he told me he plans to use the savings from tax reform to grow the size of his workforce by adding two additional installation crews and purchasing new equipment.

For big businesses that might not sound like a lot, but for small businesses like Re-Bath, it makes a world of difference. It means they can offer more services and gain more business, grow the size of their business, and pay their employees even better. It was great to see how Joshua was looking forward to opportunities to grow his business and I am glad this legislation could help make that possible.

In Houston, I visited with Southland Hardware, a store that opened in 1935. This is an old-fashioned hardware store. You don't see many of those anymore. It has been a community staple, and it is appropriately dubbed "the store that has 'almost' everything." It is owned by Marty and Patricia O'Brien, and they were kind enough to host me and a couple of other businesses for a roundtable last spring.

Marty told me that because of the tax savings, they were able to provide bonuses and raises, hire another employee, and do some improvements on their property. For Marty, being able to invest more in his business, which was originally owned by his father-in-law and will one day be run by his children, is no small thing.

I also spent some time on the gulf coast, in Corpus Christi, speaking to Steve Raffaele, the president of American Bank. He told me the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act would likely provide them with \$12 million of additional capital savings. He said that for each dollar of capital saved, they are able to lend approximately \$10 in their market communities along the Coastal Bend region of our State. He estimated that over 5 years that equates to \$120 million of additional lending and investment. Given their average loan size, that means more than 500 small businesses could be positively impacted. That is a big deal for a community like Corpus Christi, but especially for one so severely impacted by Hurricane Harvey just about 1½ years ago.

Today small business optimism is at a record high. I hope that small businesses across the country feel empowered to take their businesses further because of these pro-growth policies. Small businesses are, as I said, the backbone of our economy and, of course, of each of our communities.

This Small Business Week we celebrate the entrepreneurs and the job creators who had the courage to take an idea and build it into an opportunity for themselves, for their families, for their employees, and for their communities. These men and women are proof that the American dream is alive and well, and we are grateful to

each of them for the contributions they make to our communities and to our country.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Pennsylvania.

EX-IM BANK

Mr. TOOMEY. Madam President, later today I believe the Senate will be considering nominations of three Board members for the Export-Import Bank, and this is a very important and, I think, unfortunate development.

Since 2015, the Ex-Im Bank Board has not had a quorum. The confirmation of these three nominees will change that and give them a quorum, and that matters for a number of reasons. Perhaps the principle reason is that in the absence of a quorum, such as the way we have been operating for these last 4½ years, the Ex-Im Board cannot approve transactions without a quorum, and it requires Ex-Im Board approval to do a deal over \$10 million. So for these last 4½ years, the Export-Import Bank has been in existence and operating, but at a very much smaller level than what it had done previously, and what, I am afraid, it will again resume.

Let me explain why I oppose confirming this quorum to the Board of the Export-Import Bank. First of all, as I will explain, I think that with a quorum there is a very real risk that the Ex-Im Bank returns to business as usual, which is a form of crony capitalism and taxpayer subsidy of companies far and wide.

Historically, the fact is the Ex-Im Bank has used the American taxpayer to subsidize some of the largest and best connected companies in the world, including governments that are very unfriendly to the United States. So I want to describe my policy objections to the Ex-Im. I want to rebut some of the arguments that proponents of the Ex-Im Bank make. I want to walk through a little history to remind my colleagues about the folks who have blocked what I think are very common-sense efforts to make some meaningful reforms. Then, finally, I do want to discuss a path forward. So let me walk through my concerns, my objections to the way Ex-Im Bank has operated in the past when it is in full-blown operation mode and with a quorum on the Board.

First of all, it has been a series of risky bets for taxpayers. The Ex-Im has sometimes claimed it only takes risks that private lenders are unable or unwilling to take. Well, we should stop right there and ask ourselves, if private lenders are unwilling or unable to take a risk, why should taxpayers be forced to take that risk? Yet, at the same time, the Ex-Im Bank also claims it only makes safe bets. Well, it is impossible to do both.

The Bank cannot take only those transactions so risky that no one else will do it and at the same time be doing only safe transactions. It is pretty obvious. The fact is, Ex-Im Bank wins business by systemically underpricing the risk. That is why borrowers

go to the Ex-Im Bank, instead of any number of private lenders that would not offer deals on the same terms as the Ex-Im Bank. No, because they have shareholders to answer to—Ex-Im Bank, not so much.

Proponents of the Ex-Im Bank point out that the Bank isn't drawing any money from the U.S. Treasury so everything must be OK—not so clear. First of all, right now we have the best economy in decades. My goodness. I would hope they would not be drawing on Treasury with an economy booming the way it is.

As recently as 2014, the last year in which the Ex-Im Bank was fully operational, the CBO report suggested that the Ex-Im portfolio, their loans and guarantees on their books, were underwater by \$2 billion. Remember, we have heard this before. Remember, Fannie and Freddie, two other inventions of the Federal Government. They were very profitable until they weren't. Then they ended up costing the taxpayers \$200 billion.

Another objection I have is the fact that Ex-Im Bank necessarily picks winners and losers in our economy. I don't think any entity of the Federal Government ought to be doing it. It is a great deal for businesses that get the support of Ex-Im Bank, but it provides an unfair advantage to beneficiaries over companies that do not get that support. In the process, it can destroy jobs. This isn't just hypothetical; this is real. This has happened, and we know it because we have heard testimony. We have seen examples. One famous such example is a case where Air India, the national airline of the country of India, used Ex-Im Bank financing to subsidize its purchase of Boeing jets. That is very nice for Air India because they get lower cost financing on their biggest ticket item, the jets they fly. They were able to lower the fares they charge on flights from New York to Mumbai. That is great if you are Air India. It is not so great if you are Delta Airlines, an American company that employs Americans and happens to compete on that exact same route, but Delta could not get access to Ex-Im financing to buy its Boeing jets. Why would we do a thing like that, have taxpayers subsidizing a foreign airline that is competing directly against a U.S. airline? That is the kind of thing Ex-Im does. There is also a history of waste, fraud, and abuse.

Ex-Im Bank has not been very well run for a long period of time. Over many years, there have been a number of issues raised by the Office of the Inspector General. Ironically enough, supporters of Ex-Im Bank have blocked my efforts to get a new inspector general confirmed. Makes you wonder, why do these proponents not want an inspector general on the job inspecting the practices of the Ex-Im Bank? In 2015, an employee pled guilty to accepting bribes to push unqualified loan applications. Maybe one of the most fundamental reasons I object to the Ex-Im

Bank is our economy doesn't need the Ex-Im Bank.

Now, some Ex-Im supporters would have you believe that without the Ex-Im Bank, U.S. exports would just collapse. Well, the reality is, U.S. exports are higher today than they were in 2014, certainly, the last year when the Ex-Im Bank was fully functional. As a matter of fact, now, you know, 4½ years since the Ex-Im Bank was fully functional, we have the strongest economy of our lifetime, despite the fact that the Ex-Im can only do tiny transactions. This is no surprise because, even in its heyday, Ex-Im financed a very tiny percentage of all U.S. exports. Typically, it is less than 2 percent. So 98-point-something percent of all U.S. exports managed to get sold without Ex-Im financing, but yet we are to believe that without Ex-Im financing we cannot have exports?

Interestingly, even the companies that benefited the most from Ex-Im Bank haven't apparently suffered since it has been virtually closed. Consider the case of Boeing. According to a Mercatus study, Boeing was the biggest seller of exports financed with Ex-Im subsidies in 2014, the last year in which Ex-Im was fully functional, and nearly 40 percent of all Ex-Im deals by dollar value were used to finance Boeing aircraft.

Now, the Ex-Im proponents often argued that companies like Boeing would take a huge hit without a fully functioning Ex-Im. Instead, Boeing has consistently had record deliveries and multiyear back orders since Ex-Im stopped doing deals that would finance Boeing aircraft. In fact, during the years that Ex-Im Bank has been virtually closed, Boeing has recorded record sales.

In late 2018, prior to the recent problems they have had with one category of aircraft, the Wall Street Journal reported that Boeing suppliers could not keep up with the huge demand for Boeing aircraft, despite the fact that nobody could finance an aircraft from Boeing through the Ex-Im Bank. Now, why? Why is that? How could that be? It is because Boeing was making great products; demand was strong; and there is plenty of private capital available to finance great products being used for very productive purposes.

I think Boeing is proof that the Ex-Im Bank wasn't acting as the lender of last resort, filling in where private markets could not or would not. Ex-Im Bank was acting as the lender of first resort, crowding out the private sector lenders. As soon as the Ex-Im Bank's funding was constrained so it would not fund aircraft, well, private money came flooding into the market. Yet we still have proponents argue that Ex-Im Bank is the lender of last resort, steps in when private financing is unavailable, but, again, no matter how you look at it, this just doesn't add up. It doesn't add up in the example of Boeing, when we look at an American manufacturer that sells its products,

and, in the past, some of those purchases were funded through the Ex-Im Bank, but it also doesn't hold up if you look at it the other way around. Look at who, in 2014—again, the last year in which the Ex-Im Bank was fully functional—were the top recipients of the Ex-Im taxpayer subsidies, who was it that was borrowing the money so they could make these purchases? Well, it was all entities that have easy access to private money but some pretty surprising entities, nevertheless.

The No. 1 borrower, the No. 1 consumer of U.S. taxpayer subsidies through Ex-Im Bank was Petroleos Mexicanos, a state-owned oil company in Mexico. It is a huge company from a really large country that can easily access private markets.

Do you know who is No. 2? Kenya Airways. Kenya Airways, owned by the Government of, you guessed it, Kenya.

Do you know who is No. 3? Air China, of all places, a totally state-owned airline of a country that last time I checked is not terribly friendly to us, but it gets worse.

Do you know who ranks No. 4? No. 4 in terms of accessing Ex-Im financing in 2014—the last year in which they were fully operational—according to a study by the Mercatus Institute, the VNE Bank, state owned by the Russian Government, by the way, under sanctions now for bad behavior they have engaged in. So all four of these are state owned in States that have easy access to plenty of private lending, but, of course, they go to Ex-Im because Ex-Im will offer them a better deal, a subsidized deal.

No. 5 is a good one too. No. 5 is not a state-owned company. No. 5 is Roy Hill mining. Royal Hill Holdings owns mining. It is not state owned. Instead, it is owned by the richest woman in Australia, a multibillionaire. Are we to really presume that she cannot arrange for financing for part of her enormous conglomerate? Really, the richest woman in Australia? She is probably a really lovely woman. This is not a criticism of her; it is a criticism of us. We are going to allow U.S. taxpayers to take more risks underpricing and funding acquisitions by some of the richest people in the world and countries that are downright hostile to us.

Of course, all of these governments and all of these companies can finance their acquisitions privately, but who would not take a U.S. taxpayer subsidy if it is offered to you? The question is, Why are we OK with that? How can it be OK to force American taxpayers to take a financial risk for these entities, state-owned companies, including those owned by China and Russia? It is unbelievable.

My concern is, if we restore a quorum later today, we are going to go right back to this because we haven't enacted any reforms. We haven't insisted on any reforms as a condition of reestablishing this quorum.

We hear sometimes from the proponents that we just have to have Ex-

Im funding because it has to level the playing field. China has an export subsidy bank. They have used that aggressively, and so we ought to emulate the Chinese so we will have a level playing field.

Well, among the unbelievable ironies in this whole story, guess who is a big recipient of U.S. Ex-Im subsidies? It is the Chinese export bank. You cannot make this stuff up. That is a fact. It is not just Air China. It is not just the state-owned airline.

In 2014—again, the last year in which Ex-Im was fully operational, which apparently they are going to return to—there were 17 transactions where the primary borrower is the Export-Import Bank of China.

So here we are, we are funding the Chinese export bank, which we cite as the reason we need an export bank. It is unbelievable.

In 2014, the Ex-Im Bank also funded a deal with Huawei, which we have all come to appreciate is a very significant national security threat to the entire Western world, especially the United States. Of course, what more can you say about subsidizing Russian- or state-owned businesses? There were multiple deals back in 2014 where the Ex-Im Bank funded Russia. I already mentioned VNE Bank, now sanctioned, and two deals with Spur Bank, also sanctioned.

In any case, I think this whole argument, that if some other country is engaged in this behavior, therefore, we have to—I think that is a really weak argument. Think of all the things the Chinese Government does, intellectual property theft, forced technology transfer, bribery, and corruption. As a matter of fact, in Malaysia, the previous corrupt Government of Malaysia stole billions of money from an investment fund, and China offered to use their Ex-Im Bank to help cover up the graft, which indirectly we were facilitating by doing transactions with that Chinese Ex-Im Bank. I trust that supporters of the Bank do not want the U.S. to emulate all of these kinds of nefarious activities. I am sure they do not, but the same argument could apply.

So with all of these concerns in mind, I have been advocating for reform of the Ex-Im Bank since joining the Senate. Let me be clear. I would rather not have an Ex-Im Bank, but if we are going to have one, and if we are going to reconstitute a Board and allow them to do large-scale business, I think, at a minimum, we ought to make some sensible reforms. Unfortunately, proponents of Ex-Im Bank in this body and in the other body have blocked almost every effort to do so. One small reform that many of us have been clamoring for, for years, would be to have the administration, whatever administration, work to pursue a mutual disarmament. The argument that we hear most frequently is we need Ex-Im Bank because other countries have export-subsidizing banks. Well, OK, how

about having a mutual negotiation to phase these out, right? Well, the Obama administration did absolutely nothing about it, and we have a lot of trade talks going on right now under this administration. I have not heard one word about encouraging a wind down of everybody's mutually unfortunate export subsidy vehicles.

That brings me to the history of the nomination. A while back, President Trump nominated Scott Garrett, a very well qualified, bright, and capable guy, and an avowed reformist. He was a skeptic about Ex-Im Bank but was committed to executing his responsibilities as President under the charter and under the law but was going to insist on reforms.

By the way, had Scott Garrett been confirmed, Ex-Im would probably be up and running now. But the proponents of the Bank didn't want the reforms, apparently, so they scratched Scott Garrett's nomination.

Despite that, I continued to try to find a reasonable way forward. One of the things I proposed was confirming Kim Reed as President. Let me say a word about Kim. I think she is a very capable person. She is very intelligent, very knowledgeable, and has a terrific reputation and great integrity. My proposal was to confirm Kim Reed because she has committed to the kinds of meaningful reforms the Bank needs.

She and I and my staff walked through six very specific categories of reform. We did that privately in my office. We did that publicly at the Banking hearing. We talked about adding transparency to how the Ex-Im Bank operates. We talked about taxpayer protections that would be implemented to reduce the risks taxpayers currently take. We agreed that we should move in the direction of protecting domestic companies, such as the example I gave where Delta was put at a competitive disadvantage against Air India. We agreed we should encourage private financing to be first in line rather than the Ex-Im Bank. We agreed that we should be cracking down on any bad actors. We also agreed that there should be a mutual reduction in reliance on credit export agencies globally.

On that basis, I was willing to confirm Kim Reed and give her a chance to implement some of these reforms and prove they are actually being implemented, at which point I would support restoring a quorum so that a reformed Ex-Im would be back in business. But that deal was blocked by proponents of the Ex-Im Bank here in this body. It is very hard to conclude anything other than that those folks never want these reforms to take place.

I am still open to working with the new President when she is confirmed, and the new Board. We have a reauthorization that is presumably on the agenda for later this year. But I am going to oppose all the nominees today because we are going ahead and putting the cart before the horse. We are re-opening Ex-Im Bank on a full scale

without first implementing the reforms, and that is backward.

I appreciate the conversations I have had with Kim Reed, and I trust that she actually sincerely does want to implement some of these reforms. I hope she can. I look forward to working with her to make sure that if we do, in fact, go through a reauthorization process, it codifies the reforms that require codification. But I feel very strongly that we are doing this backward. That is the reason I am going to vote against all the nominees today.

The Ex-Im Bank, unreformed, is an example of crony capitalism that puts U.S. taxpayers at risk and subsidizes some pretty unsavory characters. I am pretty disappointed that we are moving ahead with this today. I hope that at least we will be able to codify the necessary reforms in the reauthorization.

I yield the floor.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. ROMNEY). The Senator from New Mexico.

VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN ACT

Mr. UDALL. Mr. President, thank you for the recognition. It is good to see you today.

I am going to be joined by a number of my Senate colleagues to talk about reauthorization of the Violence Against Women Act. We have many who are very concerned that we need to move this reauthorization, so they will be joining me here today.

The first chart we are putting up here is of Hanna Harris, who is a member of the Northern Cheyenne Tribe. Here she is with her son just months before she was brutally murdered on the Northern Cheyenne Reservation. Hanna was all of 21 years old, and her son was only 10 months old. We now honor Hanna and all murdered and indigenous women and girls each year on Hanna's birthday, May 5, as a national day of awareness.

It is fitting to remember and honor these women and girls, and it is critical that we understand the magnitude of violence that Native women face. Eighty-four percent of Native women have experienced violence in their lifetime. That is four out of five. In some Tribal communities, Native women are murdered at rates more than 10 times the national average—10 times. One out of three Native women has been raped.

Behind these statistics are thousands of faces, thousands of lives disrupted, shattered, and cut short—faces like that of Ashley Loring Heavy Runner. This is a photo of Ashley. Ashley was an outgoing 20-year-old Native college student during the summer of 2017 when she went missing on the Blackfeet Reservation in Montana. Last December, I heard firsthand about the devastating impact of Ashley's disappearance when her sister, Kimberly Loring Heavy Runner, came before the Indian Affairs Committee to ask Congress to take action. Kimberly told us:

We are going missing, we are being murdered. I am here to stress to you . . . we are loved and we are missed. We will no longer be . . . invisible people . . . we have worth.

That is Kimberly talking.

By the end of 2017, the FBI had identified 5,600 additional cases of missing Native women and girls. This number is likely a very, very severe undercount. This crisis is devastating Native families across the country. It is unacceptable.

Just last week, the Senate passed a resolution remembering murdered and missing indigenous women and girls, and I thank Senator DAINES and other Republicans for sponsoring this bipartisan resolution. Now we must make good on those words. We must walk the walk. We must take bipartisan action to end the cycle of violence, and we should start by reauthorizing the Violence Against Women Act and strengthening provisions to protect Native women.

I have been a strong proponent of VAWA from the beginning, and I pushed hard for the law's passage in 1994 when I was New Mexico's attorney general. But it became clear early on that VAWA's provisions weren't reaching Tribal communities because of the Tribal jurisdictional maze put in place by a 1978 U.S. Supreme Court decision.

In *Oliphant v. Suquamish Indian Tribe*, the Court held that Indian Tribes cannot exercise criminal jurisdiction over non-Indians who commit crimes on reservations. This ruling undermined the sovereign right of Tribes to enforce the law on Tribal lands. It undercut public safety in Indian Country, and it let violent offenders escape prosecution.

An astounding number of violent crimes against Native women on reservations are committed by non-Indians. According to the National Institute of Justice, 97 percent of Native women who experience violence in their lifetime have been victimized by non-Indian perpetrators.

While Tribal authorities' hands were tied, Federal law enforcement authorities weren't addressing these cases either. Investigations were not pursued because the crimes took place in remote locations. Federal prosecutors declined to prosecute cases. Crimes against Native women and children were pushed to the back burner. The inability of Tribes to protect their own members was an inexcusable hole in the law.

By the time the Senate took up VAWA reauthorization in 2012 and 2013, we could no longer ignore *Oliphant*. We could no longer ignore that *Oliphant* left Native women at risk. In the Senate, I fought to restore Tribes' authority to provide for the safety of their members, and we ultimately reinstated their authority to prosecute anyone who commits domestic violence on a reservation through VAWA 2013. Since then, 18 Tribes have begun exercising jurisdiction over domestic violence crimes. There have been 143 arrests of 128 violent offenders with 74 convictions to date. This is a real step in the right direction.

With time and experience, Tribes have seen there are still gaps that

must be closed to stop violence against Native women. Tribes have identified four changes Congress must make to hold violent offenders accountable.

First, Tribal jurisdiction under VAWA doesn't extend to domestic violence against children. If a Native child is caught up in the violence, as is too often the case, Tribal law enforcement can't prosecute the offender. We have to change that.

Second, VAWA applies only to domestic violence. It doesn't apply to general cases of sexual assault, sex trafficking, or stalking. Like other types of violence, Native women face higher levels of sexual violence than other women in the United States. In fact, of the Native women who have experienced violence, 56 percent have experienced sexual violence. Yet VAWA 2013 didn't cover the entire range of sexual violence directed toward Native women. Congress must fix this.

Third, VAWA 2013 wasn't clear whether Tribes have jurisdiction over attempted domestic violence. If a perpetrator swings at his spouse and misses, there is no crime until the next time, when he lands a punch. We must fix this loophole or Native women will continue to be at risk.

Finally, VAWA doesn't cover crimes committed against Tribal law enforcement officers charged with responding to domestic violence. If an officer is responding to a domestic violence case and he or she is assaulted, they aren't covered under the law, so that needs to be fixed.

Domestic violence calls, as all of us know, are some of the most dangerous law enforcement responds to. Police officers, including Tribal officers, are assaulted when responding to disturbance calls more than in any other circumstance. Yet Tribes can't protect their own officers. These gaps in VAWA undermine the very purpose of the law and put children, women, and police officers at great risk. We must remedy this.

Senators MURKOWSKI, SMITH, and I have introduced the Native Youth and Tribal Officer Protection Act to ensure Tribes can exercise jurisdiction to prosecute crimes against children and Tribal officers and attempted domestic violence. The bipartisan bill is supported by 16 former U.S. attorneys appointed under Republican and Democratic administrations and the Indian Law and Order Commission, a body of Tribal public safety experts established under the bipartisan Tribal Law and Order Act. We have also introduced the Justice for Native Survivors of Sexual Violence Act, which makes sure that Tribes have authority to prosecute sexual assault, sex trafficking, and stalking crimes.

The House of Representatives already passed these measures last month on a bipartisan basis as part of the Violence Against Women Act Reauthorization of 2019. It is now our turn to take action. We cannot allow this bill to be buried in the majority leader's so-called legis-

lative graveyard, not when women's lives are literally at stake.

Friends, we must all agree it is long past time to address violence against women in Indian Country. I urge this body to reauthorize VAWA and pass the Native Youth and Tribal Officer Protection Act and Justice for Native Survivors Act. Let the families of Hanna and Ashley and thousands of other missing and murdered Native women know that they are not invisible, that they have worth, and that they deserve justice.

I mentioned earlier that 16 U.S. attorneys, both Republican and Democratic, wrote to us about the Native Youth and Tribal Officer Protection Act. They wrote very eloquently about what the situation is that we face today. These are U.S. attorneys who prosecuted in States that have Tribes. They were trying to do everything they could to bring justice to these situations. Their letter of support for S. 2233, the Native Youth and Tribal Officer Protection Act, reads of some of the things here that I am going to quote, which, I think, make very, very poignant points about why we should take up this legislation and pass it immediately.

The Supreme Court's 1978 decision in *Oliphant v. Suquamish* severely limits Tribal nations' ability to prosecute crimes committed against Indians by non-Indians. Congress removed Federal limits on the inherent authority of Tribal governments to prosecute the non-Indian domestic violence offenders in the 2013 followup reauthorization.

Under current law, the Tribal justice system has arresting and prosecuting authority over a non-Indian domestic violence offender, but it has no recourse if that same offender commits a crime against the responding Tribal public safety officer.

U.S. attorneys' offices with jurisdiction often decline to prosecute a non-Indian who commits a violent crime on Tribal lands. The absence of Tribal criminal jurisdiction over some non-Indian perpetrated crimes and low Federal prosecution rates for those crimes contribute to the high rates of violence against Native people, particularly women and children who live on Tribal lands.

Due to the experiences of the letter's signatories—the 16 former U.S. attorneys, Democratic and Republican—they say public interest, safety, health, and welfare all support the concept that, if possible, crimes committed on Tribal lands should be prosecuted by the presiding Tribal government. These former U.S. attorneys support the goal of this legislation—to restore Tribal jurisdiction over crimes that have been committed against Tribal police officers and children citizens of the Tribal nations.

The need for Tribal jurisdiction over crimes against Tribal law enforcement is absolutely clear here. Under VAWA 2013 Tribal jurisdiction, Tribes cannot

hold defendants accountable for violence against officers who are enforcing the law. This leaves arresting officers, court bailiffs, and corrections officers vulnerable. The Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians is an example of the injustice here. It had one non-Indian defendant who had hit and strangled his girlfriend and, while in jail, had stricken the correctional officer who had been holding him after his arrest. He had threatened to come back and—this is his language—shoot up the reservation. The Tribe referred the assault and threat to Federal prosecutors, who ultimately dismissed the charges.

If we pass this legislation that has come over to us from the House, the Tribes in this circumstance would have the ability to step in and do something about this. They don't have any option today. If they get a declination, if there will be no action taken on the Federal side, they will not have the ability to deal with crime and violence on their reservation.

Let me talk a little bit about the need for Tribal jurisdiction over crimes against children. Fifty-eight percent of incidents reported by the implementing Tribes involve children. According to the Department of Justice, Native children suffer exposure to violence at rates that are higher than any other peer group in the United States. The Pascua Yaqui Tribe, which was one of the first five Tribes to implement the VAWA 2013 authority, identified at least 38 children involved as witnesses and victims with its VAWA 2013 cases.

Clearly, when there is a domestic violence incident, one of the things that needs to be done by law enforcement is with regard to a woman's being assaulted in the presence of a child. You should allow the prosecuting authorities to take that into consideration and make it a part of the charge. With the law we have today, that is not allowed. So children are not protected.

In another example, of the defendants and perpetrators who are known violent and criminal offenders, many defendants had run-ins with Tribal police for violence or criminal activity prior to getting arrested. For example, the Tulalip Tribe in Washington reported that the 70 defendants it prosecuted by using its VAWA 2013 authority had had a total of 171 contacts with Tribal police prior to their arrests. A Tulalip Tribal member was assaulted and raped by the father of her children—a non-Indian who had had 19 prior contacts with the Tribal police. VAWA 2013 allowed the Tribe to arrest and successfully prosecute the man.

This is a good example of how VAWA 2013 has worked, but in all of these circumstances I have talked about, we need to demand it—whether it is with a law enforcement officer who is assaulted in the course of enforcing the law or whether it is with a child who is a part of the circumstances that involve the prosecution.

I see that my good friend Senator CATHERINE CORTEZ MASTO is here on

the floor. She is a very active member of the Indian Affairs Committee. I know she cares passionately about these missing and murdered indigenous women and children. I would ask to have a colloquy with Senators who show up, but I will be here on the floor. So don't worry.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Nevada.

Ms. CORTEZ MASTO. Mr. President, let me say to my colleague, the ranking member of the Senate's Indian Affairs Committee—with whom, by the way, I know I have 2 more years—that I am so going to miss working with him. I appreciate his passion, particularly on days like today on which he is highlighting issues that affect so many of our communities across this country, particularly when it comes to our Tribal communities and Native communities.

Thank you for always being at the forefront, my friend.

This past Sunday, many Americans joined thousands of survivors and supporters in solidarity across the country to honor the National Day of Awareness for Missing and Murdered Native Women and Girls. Organizers hosted rallies and benefit runs; communities honored loved ones lost; and supporters posted on social media with the hashtag #NotInvisible. For many, this was a day to raise awareness about the alarming number of murdered and missing indigenous women, but for our Tribal communities, a day of awareness only scratches the surface of what is needed to address this epidemic.

Indian Country needs action. That starts right here in this Chamber, and it can start today. Right now, the Senate is considering three pieces of legislation—the reauthorization of the Violence Against Women Act and my bipartisan bills, Savanna's Act and the Not Invisible Act—which will help to combat this crisis. Passing these bills is critical in protecting the lives of Native women and girls.

The numbers speak for themselves. More than 80 percent of Native women will experience physical, sexual, or psychological violence in their lifetimes, often in the form of domestic or intimate partner violence. One in three Native American women has been raped or has experienced an attempted rape, and murder is the third leading cause of death for Native women and girls. In addition, Native American women who experience sexual or domestic violence are far more likely to fall victim to sex trafficking.

Even more distressing is the fact that we likely don't know the full scope of the problem because of underreporting. In fact, nearly half of the Tribal law enforcement agencies surveyed believe human trafficking is occurring on Tribal land beyond what has been brought to their attention. Because of a lack of coordination with Federal Agencies and because of sparse resources and limited jurisdiction in

which to prosecute crimes, women across Indian Country are dying and disappearing, and far too many of their cases go unreported, unsolved, or untouched by law enforcement.

This is unbelievable. We must act. Yet there is no targeted Federal plan or strategy to address this epidemic even as it becomes increasingly clear that we are failing to uphold our trust responsibility and, even more so, that we are failing Native women and their families.

As former Nevada attorney general, I have heard directly from survivors, family members, Tribal leaders, and law enforcement about the need for immediate action and Federal support to address violence in Native communities. Congress must take concrete action to help support the Tribal governments, organizations, and law enforcement members who are on the frontlines every day.

The House of Representatives has already taken an important first step this year by reauthorizing the Violence Against Women Act. This legislation will protect Native women from the effects of domestic violence, which is an early indicator of nearly half of all murder cases involving women nationwide. I know it will have a positive impact because, as attorney general, I saw the impact it had on our Tribal communities in the State of Nevada. The reauthorization of VAWA also gives Tribal governments additional and much needed jurisdictional power to directly address violent crime against Tribal members on reservations.

My Democratic colleagues and I are committed to fighting for the full reauthorization of the Violence Against Women Act and especially for the important criminal jurisdictional expansions it gives Tribal law enforcement to help get violent offenders off the streets.

We can't stop there. We need to shine a light on the staggering number of missing and murdered indigenous women and girls and ensure that we understand the full scope of the problem. That is why, with my colleague Senator LISA MURKOWSKI, I have also introduced Savanna's Act and the Not Invisible Act—both bipartisan bills. They are designed to work to directly combat the crisis of missing, murdered, and trafficked Native women, and they will give our law enforcement and communities the support they need to protect our Native women and girls. These bills help in stopping cases from falling through the cracks.

Specifically, Savanna's Act works to ensure that Indian Country has access to accurate, up-to-date crime databases so State, local, and Tribal law enforcement can implement guidelines for responding to relevant criminal cases.

The Not Invisible Act ensures the Federal Government works across Agencies to best use its resources when addressing violence against Native women while recognizing the unique

challenges that are faced within Tribal communities. The bill also creates an advisory committee to examine ways to reduce violent crime, sexual assault, and trafficking in Tribal communities.

These bills, along with the reauthorization of the Violence Against Women Act, are critical to keeping Native women and girls safe.

My home State of Nevada is home to many Tribal communities. These communities are full of mothers, daughters, sisters, and friends whose lives are vibrant and full of potential. I will not let these women become statistics. It is time to take action, and I am committed to doing all I can in the Senate to fight for justice for Native American women and girls.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from New Mexico.

Mr. UDALL. Mr. President, I thank Senator CORTEZ MASTO for her talk today. I can tell that she is very passionate about this issue. Both of us were State attorneys general from Western States. We have significant Native American populations, and we are very familiar with the jurisdiction issue.

I have seen Senator CORTEZ MASTO question many times in the committee on the issue of jurisdiction. And what I am talking about there—you have Tribal jurisdiction, and then you have Federal jurisdiction, and many times there is some State jurisdiction. So when the Supreme Court in 1978 came out with a ruling in the Oliphant case, they created a big hole, and for almost 30 years, there was a zone that really wasn't being prosecuted. Senator CORTEZ MASTO is very familiar with this. Because of that, we had kind of a situation in Indian Country where, without enforcement, I think some of this violence grew.

I am sure that ever since Senator CORTEZ MASTO has been in law enforcement, she has seen this problem and advocated for changes to it, and we have seen dramatic changes with VAWA 2013, which allowed prosecution to take place. I don't know whether any of Senator CORTEZ MASTO's Tribes within Nevada took cases and initiated things, but I think that across Indian Country, it is fair to say that there was very, very extensive effort. I think there have been a number of arrests—143, I think; 74 convictions—and things have really been moving along.

Has that been your experience in terms of watching what has happened both at the State level and the Federal level since 2013? Have we been making some progress here?

Ms. CORTEZ MASTO. Mr. President, to my colleague from New Mexico, absolutely. Let me just say I was attorney general in 2013 when you reauthorized VAWA and you included the Tribal provisions in there. There are about 27 Tribal reservations and communities in the State of Nevada, and I can guarantee you they were beneficiaries of what you did to prevent and address vi-

olence in Tribal communities through VAWA.

I know that because I actually chaired the Domestic Violence Prevention Council in the State of Nevada. On my council—which, as the attorney general, came through my office—there were Tribal members. I also know that the VAWA funding that comes into the State of Nevada came through my office as the attorney general. So we made sure that all of our communities that were impacted by domestic violence in particular—any type of violence—had the benefit of this money that was coming in.

I can guarantee you, working with my Tribal communities as attorney general, it was a benefit. That is why I am fighting now for that reauthorization and that funding to continue for our Tribal communities. There is no doubt in my mind that I saw the benefits in Nevada, and we can see that now across the country. I am really kind of baffled why it is not in this provision here. This really should be a bipartisan issue that we all focus on.

So that is my fight. I have seen the benefits, and I know the impact it has on our Tribal communities.

Let me just say this: We need to address any type of violence in our Tribal communities. And I thank you for highlighting this because it is not just the domestic violence; it is the issue of missing and murdered Native women and girls. My concern there is, we do not have enough data that tells us what is going on. The data we do report at the Federal level is underreported. I know the last data that we had was in 2016. That showed about 5,700 missing Native girls and women. That is underreported. But what we don't know is why they have gone missing.

I have worked very hard to address sex trafficking prevention in the State of Nevada. This is happening across the country. There is no doubt in my mind that some of these Native women and girls are victims of sex trafficking, but we do not know it because of the challenges in capturing that data and then doing something about it at the Federal level. That is what I am fighting for. That is what my colleague from New Mexico is fighting for.

I so appreciate the opportunity to talk about this on the floor today.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Washington.

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, I, too, want to thank the Senator from New Mexico for organizing today's effort on this very important issue.

I rise today to join my colleagues in really shining a spotlight on a crisis that has brought terror and pain to Tribal communities across my home State of Washington and the Nation for far too long. It is an alarm that has been sounding, actually, for generations and one that has impacted literally countless families, robbing them of their mothers and grandmothers, their sisters, their aunts, their daughters.

“Family of missing Native woman demands answers in Wapato.”

In Yakima County:

A year after her body was found, officials are now officially calling the death of this young woman a homicide.

A year after.

In Toppenish:

16-year-old . . . disappeared after Christmas Eve in 1971. Her sister refuses to give up the search.

Those are just a few of the headlines that have appeared in news outlets in Washington State within just the last few months highlighting the scope of the crisis of missing and murdered indigenous women and girls in our communities.

For far too long, our Nation has ignored or misclassified the terrible stories of violence against women and girls in Tribal communities, who have been reported missing or murdered at much higher rates than their non-Native counterparts or, worse, not reported at all.

It is a crisis that is particularly salient in Washington State, which ranks second among States with the highest number of reported cases of missing and murdered Native women. Even worse, Seattle ranks No. 1 among cities with the highest number of cases. But it isn't just Seattle; it is the Yakama Nation, Spokane, Tacoma. The epidemic of missing and murdered Native women isn't an urban problem or a rural problem. It is not an issue just for western Washington or eastern Washington. This is an alarming trend that is devastating communities every day throughout Washington State and across the country, one for which Native women and girls are paying the ultimate price.

Now, thanks to the determination of Native women who have spent years raising their voices to bring attention to this tragic pattern of injustice, we are beginning to develop the tools and resources we need to combat this epidemic.

I am very grateful for Native leaders and organizations like the Seattle Indian Health Board, which last November released a landmark new report—the first of its kind—on the crisis of missing and murdered indigenous women, collecting important data and insights. It is a major step toward removing a significant barrier that has burdened efforts to end the decades-long epidemic, but there is so much more we need to do to keep Native women and girls safe and seek justice.

As important as it is to bring awareness to this devastating crisis, more than awareness, we need action. Congress has to wake up to the crisis affecting Native women and recognize the Federal Government's responsibility and role in ending it, and that includes improving and reauthorizing the Violence Against Women Act—a critical law which for years has worked to help communities decrease assaults against women and girls and which Republicans let lapse earlier this year.

This law has long garnered bipartisan support. In fact, we were able to come together just 6 years ago to pass an even stronger version of the law that strengthened protections and resources for our Tribal communities. I know there are champions for this issue on both sides of the aisle, Members who have listened to Native voices in their own States and understand why we have to equip Tribal communities with the tools and resources they need to protect Tribal members and hold others accountable when they cause harm or bring violence. There is no excuse to not get this done. We have done it before; we can do it again.

Now that VAWA has passed the House, know that I am going to keep working with my colleagues to push the Senate to get it over the finish line. In the meantime, I and others will continue lifting up the stories of Native women and girls, as well as Tribal leaders and members.

As a partner to Washington State's Tribal communities here in the Senate, I am going to keep fighting to strengthen Federal support for Tribal priorities and listening to Native voices as well, as we all work together to end the tragedy of this senseless epidemic.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Minnesota.

Ms. SMITH. Mr. President, I rise today to urge my colleagues to take action to address the crisis of missing and murdered indigenous women and girls in this country. It is a crisis that we need to address now, and we can do this in the Senate by updating the Violence Against Women Act, which expired earlier this year.

I would like to thank my colleagues who have been able to join with us today to speak on this important topic led by Senator UDALL, and it is wonderful to be here today with Senator MURRAY as well.

Last month, I had an opportunity to lead a roundtable at the Minnesota State Capitol to discuss the crisis of missing and murdered indigenous women. This is a crisis that affects Tribal nations all over my State, as well as urban indigenous communities. I was there with Lt. Gov. Peggy Flanagan, who is the highest ranking Native woman elected in an executive branch role here in the United States. It was wonderful to be there with her and all of the advocates who were present as well.

At the roundtable, I heard about survivors who have experienced trafficking and sexual violence who feel invisible. I heard from Native advocates and families of victims who feel they are not being listened to by local law enforcement, and they also understand that there is a lack of knowledge about cultural and traditional practices that is impeding the efforts to end this crisis and to get help and healing to Native women who have been victimized.

In Minnesota, I hear time and again from leaders of Tribal nations—from

Red Lake and White Earth to Bois Forte, Mille Lacs, and Prairie Island—who speak of violent crimes on their land, including the crisis of missing and murdered indigenous women. I hear from some of these leaders about how they are unable to take action against the nonmember offenders who are committing these crimes.

According to the National Institute of Justice, 84 percent of Native women have experienced violence in their lifetimes—84 percent—and over half of Native women and more than one in four men have experienced sexual violence. Among those, almost all—96 percent of women and 89 percent of men—were victimized by a non-Tribal member. Few of these survivors end up seeing justice because what is happening is that the Federal Government is failing to address the scourge of violence against Native communities.

Raising awareness of this crisis is important, and that is what we are working to do today, but there are several bipartisan measures in the Senate that would take significant steps to address it. We must take action, and I am here today to talk about some of the things we can do.

In April, the House passed a Violence Against Women Act reauthorization bill with many strong Tribal protections to address the crisis of missing and murdered indigenous women, including my bill, with Republican Senator LISA MURKOWSKI, to help Tribes seek and get justice for their members and for survivors.

Our bill, which is called the Justice for Native Survivors of Sexual Violence Act, expands upon the landmark special domestic violence jurisdiction granted to Tribes during the last rewrite of the Violence Against Women Act in 2013.

Our bill would allow Tribes to prosecute cases of sexual assault, trafficking, and stalking, among other crimes of sexual violence, against nonmember offenders. Think about what this means today. If you are a nonmember and you commit a crime of sexual violence against a Tribal member, the Tribe, which is often in the best position to follow up on, investigate, and prosecute that crime, is currently unable to do that.

The bill that I am working on with Senator MURKOWSKI would fix that problem in the Violence Against Women Act. Without this jurisdiction, Tribes are unable to pursue charges against all offenders who commit crimes of sexual violence on Tribal land. Instead, those offenders go largely unpunished, as Federal courts fail to investigate or to prosecute these crimes. Passing our bill would go a long way toward deterring violence against Native women in Indian Country and holding offenders accountable when it happens.

I call on the Senate to take bold action to address the crisis of violence against Native communities by taking up the reauthorization of the Violence

Against Women Act and passing this legislation as soon as possible.

Any reauthorization bill must include strong Tribal protections, such as our Justice for Native Survivors bill, so that survivors can begin to heal and we can prevent violence from happening in the first place. Survivors and families of victims deserve this at the very least.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from New Mexico.

Mr. UDALL. Mr. President, thank you for the recognition. I just want to say to my colleague from Minnesota that we very much appreciate her efforts on the Senate Indian Affairs Committee. She has been a great member of the Senate Indian Affairs Committee. On all of these issues that are so pressing, whether it is violence or the lack of education or budgets that aren't adequate to support so many activities out in Indian Country, she has just been a terrific advocate. I know that she has followed this issue very closely in the years she has worked in government.

One of the things that is really clear is we have given the Tribes an opportunity—and I know Senator SMITH knows this very well—to undertake law enforcement in their communities as a result of VAWA 2013. Now is our chance to improve upon that, to lower the level of violence in Native American communities.

I yield to the Senator to talk about what she has seen as a State-elected official—again, just as a citizen in Minnesota—to make sure that laws that have been passed are working well and working better, and there is a lot more we need to do.

I yield to Senator SMITH from Minnesota.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Minnesota.

Ms. SMITH. Mr. President, first, I just want to say, as Senator UDALL knows, I was born in New Mexico, so I have a strong affinity for his wonderful State, my home State—my original home State—and I learned so much about the amazing cultural assets of indigenous people and Native American people in the Southwest.

When I moved to Minnesota and I had an opportunity to get to know Minnesota's 11 sovereign Tribal Nations, that was sort of my foundation for that work. When I became aware of how Native women, who were so often the victims of sexual violence, are literally invisible in the criminal justice system, I was just really horrified.

First, notice this: As Senator UDALL and I were talking about this issue with many others in the Indian Affairs Committee, I became aware that there are thousands and thousands of women who have been reported missing, yet the Justice Department has on their big list only about 100 of them. Literally, these women are invisible.

In the roundtable that I had with Lieutenant Governor Flanagan last

week and in other conversations I have had, I have heard personal stories so many times of women, like Savanna Greywind, who are murdered in terrible and violent ways and don't end up ever—their family never has the opportunity to feel the sense of justice and healing that you have from knowing that the perpetrator of this terrible violence has been brought to justice.

I am just going to—I would like to tell one story about a woman whom I spoke with in Saint Paul whose daughter was murdered in January of 2018. To this day, she still awaits the release of her daughter's body because of mixups and snafus in the system. Imagine what that would be like. This is just one example of how Native women in the criminal justice system don't get the dignity and the respect they deserve.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from New Mexico.

Mr. UDALL. Mr. President, one of the issues that has been highlighted by the two very capable Senators who are here on the floor, Senator CORTEZ MASTO and Senator SMITH, is that all of us—and I know that the Presiding Officer from the State of Utah also has many Tribes. All of us need to work in a very conscientious and deliberative way to try to make sure that we are able to do everything we can to bring forward the effort of the Federal Government to lower the violence level in Native American communities. The thing I saw over and over again in the State of New Mexico as I dealt with Tribes and then at the national level—I worked in the U.S. Attorney's Office for several years as an assistant U.S. attorney. I saw over and over again that we were unable to prosecute some cases, but we were well aware that the Tribes, if they were given the authority, would be able to move forward because they were closer to the circumstances and would be able to do the job. That is why it is so important that 16 former U.S. attorneys who have jurisdiction across the United States—full jurisdictions of an area—have stepped forward and said that they really feel that these pieces of legislation that Senator CORTEZ MASTO, Senator SMITH, Senator KLOBUCHAR, and many others are sponsoring and that the House has actually sent over to us are ready to go.

I see my good friend Senator TESTER is here. The vote is going to take place in a few minutes, so I am going to yield the floor so that Senator TESTER can speak on these very important issues. He is a great member of the Committee, and I always enjoy hearing from him because he is always right on point.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Montana.

Mr. TESTER. Mr. President, I think that might have been a hint to make it quick. Is that right, Senator UDALL?

Mr. UDALL. Take your time.

Mr. TESTER. All right, I will. Look, this is an issue that is critically important to this country. I think when people hear about it, they are astounded because this is a crisis we don't hear much about.

According to the National Institute of Justice—listen to these statistics—more than 80 percent of Native women have experienced violence, almost half within the last year. On many reservations, Native American women face murder rates up to 10 times the national average. The majority of this violence is either sexual or domestic in nature, and too much of it goes unreported and unprosecuted. That is why I have taken a three-pronged approach to address this crisis.

No. 1, we need to raise awareness; No. 2, we need to empower the Tribes around this country; and No. 3, this body needs to implement some solutions that will help those Tribes address this issue. But first we must acknowledge that there is an epidemic, an epidemic that—if we acknowledge it—we can fix.

We have made some progress on this front in the last few years. Since 2016, we have introduced resolutions declaring May 5 the National Day of Awareness for Missing and Murdered Native Women and Girls. We introduced this resolution in honor of Hanna Harris, a Northern Cheyenne Tribal member who was murdered in July of 2013, and thousands of other voices that have been silenced. We introduced this resolution to underscore the urgency of addressing domestic violence and sexual assault in Indian Country. We introduced this resolution to amplify the voice of the people who are on the vanguard, fighting for change—folks like Briana Lamb, a Missoula-based activist, who was my guest at this year's State of the Union Address, or Kim Loring, who testified in front of the Indian Affairs Committee back in December about the disappearance of her sister, Ashley Loring Heavy Runner, from Browning, MT.

Increasing awareness isn't where we end. We need to act, and we need to find and implement solutions. That is why, after leading a Senate hearing on the MMIW crisis in December, I drafted and introduced the Studying the Missing and Murdered Indian Crisis Act. This bill directs the GAO to conduct a full review of how Federal Agencies respond to reports of missing and murdered Native Americans and recommend solutions based on their findings.

The House has already passed this bill, along with the rest of the Violence Against Women Reauthorization Act, more than a month ago. The Senate has yet to take up this package. So instead of waiting around for Senator MCCONNELL to do his job and bring this bill up for a vote, I reached out to the GAO directly yesterday. A group of 10 Democrats and 7 Republicans wrote to the GAO, asking them to conduct this study, and the GAO agreed. But we

can't keep waiting around for the Senate to actually do its job and legislate. We need to act, and we need to pass the Violence Against Women Reauthorization Act so that we can start finding and implementing solutions—solutions to problems like Tribal jurisdiction.

Before 2013, the jurisdictional maze surrounding these crimes made it nearly impossible for Native authorities to prosecute non-Native criminals, despite the fact that almost 90 percent of the Native survivors had experienced violence at the hands of non-Native offenders. When we reauthorized the Violence Against Women Act back in 2013, we gave Tribal governments the ability to arrest and prosecute non-Native offenders for sexual and domestic crimes. Since March of 2015, 18 Tribes have used this authority to arrest approximately 150 offenders. As of today, more than half of those arrested resulted in convictions, and many are still pending trial. Fort Peck is one of the Tribes on the vanguard, arresting 18 offenders over the last 3 years—offenders who had gotten away with their abuse for far, far too long.

This year's violence reauthorization act will build upon that 2013 bill and extend Tribal jurisdiction even further, empowering Tribes to combat this crisis head-on. That is why the Senate needs to pass this critical legislation and start taking up dozens of other bills that we have introduced to combat this crisis—bills like Savanna's Act, which will improve information sharing between the Federal, State, and Tribal law enforcement agencies and establish better response protocols for cases of missing people or the Not Invisible Act, a bipartisan bill we recently introduced that would create an advisory committee to improve on how Federal law enforcement responds to cases of missing, murdered, and trafficked persons. Sure, it is nice to hold hearings and to write letters, but nothing can really happen unless we do our job.

Take funding, for example. We worked hard to secure a 5-percent set-aside for Indian Country in the Crime Victims Fund this year. That is \$168 million that Tribes can now use to prevent violence and support survivors across Indian Country. But this set-aside disappears next year if we don't pass the SURVIVE Act to make this funding permanent.

I hope that everybody in the Senate, including the majority, will finally get behind the Violence Against Women Act and help move these other bills forward also. Together, we can find solutions to this crisis and we can support survivors and we can bring their assailants to justice, but we can't do it if Congress doesn't act.

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.

CLOTURE MOTION

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. CASIDY). Under the previous order and 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 Kimberly A. Reed, of West Virginia, to be President of the Export-Import Bank of the United States for a term expiring January 20, 2021.

Mitch McConnell, Lindsey Graham, Kevin Cramer, Mike Rounds, Roy Blunt, Richard Burr, Johnny Isakson, Mike Crapo, Tim Scott, Jerry Moran, John Hoeven, Pat Roberts, Lisa Murkowski, Roger F. Wicker, Lamar Alexander, Rob Portman.

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 Kimberly A. Reed, of West Virginia, to be President of the Export-Import Bank of the United States for a term expiring January 20, 2021, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk called the roll.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senator is necessarily absent: the Senator from Alaska (Ms. MURKOWSKI).

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 82, nays 17, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 96 Ex.]

YEAS—82

Alexander	Gardner	Portman
Baldwin	Gillibrand	Reed
Bennet	Graham	Risch
Blumenthal	Harris	Roberts
Blunt	Hassan	Romney
Booker	Heinrich	Rosen
Boozman	Hirono	Rounds
Brown	Hoeven	Schatz
Burr	Hyde-Smith	Schumer
Cantwell	Isakson	Scott (FL)
Capito	Johnson	Scott (SC)
Cardin	Jones	Shaheen
Carper	Kaine	Sinema
Casey	King	Smith
Cassidy	Klobuchar	Stabenow
Collins	Leahy	Sullivan
Coons	Manchin	Tester
Cornyn	Markey	Thune
Cortez Masto	McConnell	Tillis
Cotton	McSally	Udall
Cramer	Menendez	Van Hollen
Crapo	Merkley	Warner
Duckworth	Moran	Warren
Durbin	Murphy	Whitehouse
Enzi	Murray	Wicker
Ernst	Paul	Wyden
Feinstein	Perdue	
Fischer	Peters	

NAYS—17

Barrasso	Hawley	Sanders
Blackburn	Inhofe	Sasse
Braun	Kennedy	Shelby
Cruz	Lankford	Toomey
Daines	Lee	Young
Grassley	Rubio	

NOT VOTING—1

Murkowski

The PRESIDING OFFICER. On this vote, the yeas are 82, the nays are 17.

The motion is agreed to.

The Senator from Wyoming.

Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the remaining votes in this series be 10 minutes in length.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. 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 senior assistant 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 Spencer Bachus III, of Alabama, to be a Member of the Board of Directors of the Export-Import Bank of the United States for a term expiring January 20, 2023.

Mitch McConnell, Lindsey Graham, Kevin Cramer, Mike Rounds, Roy Blunt, Richard Burr, Johnny Isakson, Mike Crapo, Tim Scott, Jerry Moran, John Hoeven, Pat Roberts, Lisa Murkowski, Roger F. Wicker, Lamar Alexander, Rob Portman.

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 Spencer Bachus III, of Alabama, to be a Member of the Board of Directors of the Export-Import Bank of the United States for a term expiring January 20, 2023, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

This is a 10-minute vote.

The senior assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senator is necessarily absent: the Senator from Alaska (Ms. MURKOWSKI).

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. BOOKER) is necessarily absent.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 74, nays 24, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 97 Ex.]

YEAS—74

Alexander	Cramer	King
Baldwin	Crapo	Leahy
Bennet	Duckworth	Manchin
Blumenthal	Durbin	McConnell
Blunt	Enzi	McSally
Boozman	Ernst	Menendez
Brown	Feinstein	Moran
Burr	Fischer	Murphy
Cantwell	Gardner	Murray
Capito	Graham	Perdue
Cardin	Hassan	Peters
Carper	Heinrich	Portman
Casey	Hirono	Reed
Cassidy	Hoeven	Risch
Collins	Hyde-Smith	Roberts
Coons	Isakson	Romney
Cornyn	Johnson	Rosen
Cortez Masto	Jones	Rounds
Cotton	Kaine	Schatz

Schumer	Stabenow	Van Hollen
Scott (FL)	Sullivan	Warner
Scott (SC)	Tester	Whitehouse
Shaheen	Thune	Wicker
Sinema	Tillis	Wyden
Smith	Udall	

NAYS—24

Barrasso	Hawley	Paul
Blackburn	Inhofe	Rubio
Braun	Kennedy	Sanders
Cruz	Klobuchar	Sasse
Daines	Lankford	Shelby
Gillibrand	Lee	Toomey
Grassley	Markey	Warren
Harris	Merkley	Young

NOT VOTING—2

Booker Murkowski

The PRESIDING OFFICER. On this vote, the yeas are 74, the nays are 24.

The motion is agreed to.

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 Judith DelZoppo Pryor, of Ohio, to be a Member of the Board of Directors of the Export-Import Bank of the United States for a term expiring January 20, 2021.

Mitch McConnell, Lindsey Graham, Kevin Cramer, Mike Rounds, Roy Blunt, Richard Burr, Johnny Isakson, Mike Crapo, Tim Scott, Jerry Moran, John Hoeven, Pat Roberts, Lisa Murkowski, Roger F. Wicker, Lamar Alexander, Rob Portman.

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 Judith DelZoppo Pryor, of Ohio, to be a Member of the Board of Directors of the Export-Import Bank of the United States for a term expiring January 20, 2021, 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 Alaska (Ms. MURKOWSKI).

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. BOOKER) is necessarily absent.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 79, nays 19, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 98 Ex.]

YEAS—79

Alexander	Burr	Collins
Baldwin	Cantwell	Coons
Bennet	Capito	Cornyn
Blumenthal	Cardin	Cortez Masto
Blunt	Carper	Cotton
Boozman	Casey	Cramer
Brown	Cassidy	Crapo

Duckworth	Klobuchar	Schatz
Durbin	Leahy	Schumer
Enzi	Manchin	Scott (FL)
Ernst	Markey	Scott (SC)
Feinstein	McConnell	Shaheen
Fischer	McSally	Sinema
Gardner	Menendez	Smith
Gillibrand	Merkley	Stabenow
Graham	Moran	Tester
Harris	Murphy	Thune
Hassan	Murray	Tillis
Heinrich	Perdue	Udall
Hirono	Peters	Van Hollen
Hoehn	Portman	Warner
Hyde-Smith	Reed	Warren
Isakson	Risch	Whitehouse
Johnson	Roberts	Wicker
Jones	Romney	Wyden
Kaine	Rosen	
King	Rounds	

NAYS—19

Barrasso	Inhofe	Sasse
Blackburn	Kennedy	Shelby
Braun	Lankford	Sullivan
Cruz	Lee	Toomey
Daines	Paul	Young
Grassley	Rubio	
Hawley	Sanders	

NOT VOTING—2

Booker	Murkowski
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The PRESIDING OFFICER. On this vote, the yeas are 79, and the nays are 19.

The motion is agreed to.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The senior assistant bill clerk read the nomination of Judith DeZoppo Pryor, of Ohio, to be a Member of the Board of Directors of the Export-Import Bank of the United States for a term expiring January 20, 2021.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Louisiana.

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to speak as in morning business.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

NATURAL GAS FLARING

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. President, I would like to take a few moments to speak on an issue that, as you know, is important to American families all across the country.

Hardworking Americans long for cheap and efficient sources of energy for their homes, for their businesses, and for their schools, and one of the answers—not the only answer, but one of the answers—to this dilemma is clean-burning natural gas.

Natural gas is an abundant energy source that, unfortunately, in some cases is being squandered. We can do a better job of getting the fuel to consumers. In fact, we waste too much of this useable fuel source through a process known as natural gas flaring. Natural gas flaring is a practice where the natural gas is intentionally burned off at a drill site.

What I can happily report, however, is that President Trump and his administration have begun to take the necessary steps to address the underlying causes for this inexcusable waste.

Just last month, President Trump signed a pair of executive orders to ex-

pedite the construction of pipelines that will allow oil and natural gas to be safely and economically transported from drill sites to end users.

The President took the courageous first step in addressing a problem that has been present for far, far too long, and I am talking, of course, about the lack of infrastructure. The lack of infrastructure not only chips away at the great economic benefits our country receives thanks to our drilling boom, but without pipelines and other means of transport, processing, and storage, the cheaper and cleaner burning natural gas is too often wasted—natural gas, mind you, that could be powering businesses, schools, and even tens of millions of homes across the United States.

I would also like to note that I would be remiss if I didn't mention the environmental benefits of natural gas. Simply put, natural gas is an environmentally friendly fuel source. This abundant fuel is not only incredibly efficient, with a 92-percent energy efficiency, but the use of natural gas reduces carbon emissions as well. When compared to other fossil fuel sources, burning natural gas results in far fewer pollutants such as carbon monoxide, nitrogen oxide, nonmethane organic gas, and carbon dioxide. In fact, depending on the pollutant, using natural gas can mean a reduction in carbon emissions of up to 90 percent—90 percent—in some cases.

As our drilling boom continues in America, by implementing greater direct use of natural gas, we can cut thousands and thousands of tons of carbon emissions from our atmosphere every year, and these are numbers that we should all be able to get behind.

Ever since the advent of hydraulic fracturing and horizontal drilling, we have been able to extract crude oil from deposits that we not only didn't think we could ever reach but from deposits we didn't even know existed until a few years ago.

American ingenuity is truly an amazing thing, and that American inventiveness and perseverance have led the United States in becoming the world's leader in oil production. Did you ever think America would lead the entire world in oil production?

Unfortunately, the infrastructure to support this boom has lagged. When drilling for oil, it is not an a la carte menu. Once the drill reaches the desired deposit and begins pumping the targeted crude oil to the surface, what is also brought to the surface alongside the crude oil is natural gas. You simply cannot drill for shale oil and not extract natural gas.

The problem, however, is while we should be looking at this phenomenon as a net positive—one drill extracting two sources of energy—far too often this natural gas byproduct is wasted because the infrastructure is simply not there to move the large quantity of natural gas to consumers. In one of our Nation's busiest oil fields—perhaps the

busiest, at least operating in America today—the Permian Basin in the great State of Texas and the great State of New Mexico, our shale drillers have long complained that they have no way to move natural gas to the market because there simply aren't enough natural gas pipelines. Adding to the dilemma is the fact that not only is there a severe lack of pipelines, there is a severe lack of alternative transportation options as well. When it comes to transporting oil and natural gas, we have four alternatives: pipeline, train, truck, and boat—pipeline, train, truck, and boat. Until President Trump signed his Executive orders last month—one requiring the Transportation Department to allow liquefied natural gas to be shipped via specialized rail and tanker trucks—too much of the natural gas extracted had no way of getting to open markets. In the Permian Basin alone—remember in Texas and New Mexico—about 3 percent of the natural gas that comes to the surface with the oil is flared. That means it is just burned off. It is wasted.

Now, 3 percent may not initially sound like a lot, but when you run the numbers, it becomes clear that we are wasting a vast amount of money and a huge source of energy. There is so much oil being extracted in the Permian Basin alone that over \$1 million worth of natural gas is burned away, flared, wasted every day; \$1 million worth of natural gas—a relatively clean source of energy, better for our environment—is burned away every single day. To put that in perspective, the entire daily energy needs of Montana or New Hampshire could be met with just the gas that is flared in 1 day in the Permian Basin. A further look at the numbers suggests that by the end of 2018 alone, so much natural gas was burned off in the Permian Basin that the entire residential energy needs of Texas for the year could have been met—the entire State of Texas.

The problem is likely only going to get worse. The Permian Basin is far from the only area in which flaring occurs today in our country. Just accounting for the month of October this past year in North Dakota, it was reported that the amount of gas flared or burned off or wasted was enough to heat 4.25 million homes. The amount of natural gas flared, burned, wasted for the month of October, just in North Dakota, would have heated 4.25 million homes. This has to change. We simply cannot continue to sit by as millions of dollars are literally burned off every day into the atmosphere.

I thank President Trump. He took some great initial steps in trying to solve the wastefulness inherent in flaring from speeding up the construction of much needed pipelines to ordering increased use of specifically designed trains and tanker trucks. The American people will have far more access to this abundant and ever-present fuel source for their homes, for their businesses, and for their schools. There is

still a long way to go—a long way to go. Additional miles of pipeline and specialized train cars are just the beginning. I believe we can do better—much better, in fact—than simply sitting idly by as we watch good fuel being burned off into the night sky.

(Ms. McSALLY assumed the Chair.)

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. KENNEDY. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to 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.

VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN ACT

Mrs. FEINSTEIN. Madam President, today I wish to speak in support of including provisions in any reauthorization of the Violence Against Women Act that would ensure Tribal governments can prosecute heinous crimes on their lands.

When Congress last reauthorized the Violence Against Women Act, also known as VAWA, in 2013, we made historic advancements to address domestic violence on Tribal lands. Those important steps must be preserved, but we must also fix gaps in the law that the last reauthorization left open. These gaps allow crimes against children, the elderly, and law enforcement to essentially go unpunished.

As I have mentioned before, I support H.R. 1585, the bill passed by the House to reauthorize VAWA. One of the reasons I support that bill is because it addresses those gaps. Tribes should be able to address violent crimes that happen on their lands and to their most vulnerable populations.

According to a 2016 Justice Department report, “more than four in five American Indian and Alaska Native women have experienced violence in their lifetime.” That is disturbing. The report also found that 56 percent have experienced sexual violence; 56 percent have experienced physical violence at the hands of an intimate partner; and 49 percent have been stalked.

For me, these numbers are even more upsetting because California has the largest Native American population in the United States. There are almost 700,000 Native Americans living in California, which has 107 federally recognized and 50 unrecognized Tribes.

We must continue to respect Tribal sovereignty, to advance the very core of what sovereignty means: the right of Tribes to exercise dominion and jurisdiction over appalling crimes that occur on Tribal land. For many years, Tribal governments were unable to prosecute crimes committed by non-Indians on Tribal lands. Thankfully, that changed when Congress reauthorized VAWA in 2013.

The 2013 reauthorization of VAWA allowed Tribes to exercise their sovereign powers to prosecute, convict, and sentence both Indians and non-Indians who assault Indian spouses or dating partners. In other words, Tribes were finally able to prosecute anyone who committed domestic violence against an Indian on Indian land. These measures were not only necessary; they worked.

In just 5 years, under these new laws, there were 142 arrests, 74 convictions, and 24 more cases pending. These charges were processed through Tribal courts that provided the requisite due process protections under our Constitution. In fact, not a single conviction was overturned because of a lack of due process. We must now build on that success.

The VAWA reauthorization the House passed is a strong bill. I would note that it passed on a significant bipartisan basis, with a vote of 263-158 and 33 Republicans supporting it. This was even in the face of an active opposition campaign conducted by the National Rifle Association.

But importantly, one of the reasons the House bill is a strong bill is because of its Tribal protections. For example, the House bill expands jurisdiction over non-Indians for crimes against children, elders, and law enforcement.

We have a duty to prevent child abuse and elder abuse wherever they occur. It is also only right that Tribes be able to prosecute attacks on law enforcement officers. The people who protect the public deserve protection as well.

These advancements ensure that Tribes are able to address acts of violence, while respecting Tribal sovereignty. We should welcome the opportunity to continue to build on our past successes. I look forward to working with my colleague Senator ERNST on these provisions and hope other Senators with significant stake in this area will join us.

There are several other provisions that I believe should be included in a VAWA reauthorization. Chief among those is keeping guns out of the hands of domestic abusers. I plan to speak about those provisions at a later date, but I mention them now because I believe that we must have a comprehensive approach to addressing domestic violence in this country.

Simply put, all of the different parts of VAWA are linked. For instance, ensuring Tribal governments can prosecute domestic violence committed on Tribal lands is important, but keeping guns out of the hands of domestic abusers will help protect victims on Tribal lands as well.

The bill passed by the House takes this sort of comprehensive approach by, for example, improving the law in the areas of housing, Tribal protections, and gun safety.

I believe the Senate must do the same. There is no simple way to stop

domestic violence, but we have a duty to do all that we can. Thank you.

NOMINATION OF JANET DHILLON

Mr. BOOKER. Madam President, today I wish to speak on the nomination of Janet Dhillon, who is nominated to be Chair of the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission. The EEOC plays an important role in protecting American workers. I am deeply concerned that Ms. Dhillon will put the interests of corporations over those of employees, which is antithetical to the mission of the EEOC.

The EEOC is charged with “enforcing federal laws that make it illegal to discriminate against a job applicant or an employee because of the person’s race, color, religion, sex (including pregnancy, gender identity, and sexual orientation), national origin, age (40 or older), disability or genetic information.” It also investigates claims of individuals who are retaliated against for complaining about discrimination. Needless to say, the EEOC plays a critical role in protecting American workers and ensuring that our Federal anti-discrimination laws are enforced and not disregarded by unscrupulous employers.

In choosing someone to sit on the Commission, it is critical that the administration select someone with a history of working to advance civil rights and workers’ rights. Ms. Dhillon clearly does not have that background.

Ms. Dhillon has spent the vast majority of her career working for and representing the interests of large corporations. Notably, while she was employed at JC Penney, the company was harshly criticized for its handling of a garment factory accident in Bangladesh that killed more than 1,000 people. She also worked at the Retail Litigation Center, an entity that works to limit employees’ and consumers’ access to justice. These experiences stand in direct opposition to the mission of the EEOC.

Additionally, during her confirmation hearing, she would not commit to maintaining the EEOC’s current position that title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 protects LGBT people from discrimination. As one of the main authors of the Equality Act in the Senate, which clarifies that existing civil rights law forbids discrimination of LGBT people, I am deeply concerned Ms. Dhillon would not make that commitment at her hearing.

If the United States is going to be a beacon of liberty and freedom, we must not allow discrimination of any kind to continue. The EEOC plays an essential role in fulfilling that promise of eradicating discrimination and creating a workplace that reflects the best of American values: hard work, ingenuity, decency, and respect.

It is clear to me that Ms. Dhillon is not the right person for the job, and I urge my colleagues to vote against her nomination.

ELECTRONIC HEALTH RECORDS

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:

ELECTRONIC HEALTH RECORDS

Mr. ALEXANDER. In 1991, the National Academies urged the adoption of electronic health records to improve patients' care. However, for many patients and for many doctors, electronic health records have made care more complicated.

No one knows this better than Dr. Kelly Aldrich, who is the Chief Clinical Transformation Officer at the Center for Medical Interoperability in Nashville and whose husband, Eric, experienced a life-threatening emergency that could have been prevented if his electronic health records had been interoperable.

Eric woke up one morning with a splitting headache and went to see his primary care doctor, who sent Eric to the hospital for a CT scan, the results of which prompted an MRI. Usually, the hospital's electronic medical records system sends the results of the MRI directly to Eric's primary care doctor.

But in this case the results were never sent, so 12 hours after the test, Eric's doctor called the hospital and learned that Eric had a tumor so large it was causing his brain to swell and shift, putting him at risk of seizures, permanent brain damage, and possibly death.

Eric, however, assuming no news was good news, was already 500 miles away, on his way to a fishing trip in Louisiana. Eric went to Tulane Medical Center, which had to do another MRI because they could not obtain Eric's original test results because the two hospitals used different electronic medical records systems. Eric flew back to Nashville, where he had to have yet another MRI before entering surgery. Eric later spent several weeks recovering in the ICU.

At multiple points during this traumatic experience, a lack of interoperability between electronic health records caused a life threatening delay of care, redundant tests, higher costs, and additional pain.

This is the second hearing on the proposed rules implementing the electronic health information provisions in the 21st Century Cures Act. Improving electronic health records is important to this committee.

In 2015, while working on Cures, we realized that our electronic health records system was in a ditch.

This committee held six bipartisan hearings on how to improve interoperability, and formed a working group that recommended provisions in Cures to ban information blocking—which is when some obstacle is in the way of a patient's information being sent from one doctor to another.

And this year, this committee is working on legislation to lower the cost of health care.

50 percent of what we spend on health care is unnecessary, according to Dr. Brent James of the National Academies. Electronic health records that are interoperable can prevent duplicative tests—like Eric's repeated MRIs—and reduce what doctors and hospitals spend on administrative tasks.

In March, the Office of the National Coordinator and the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services issued two rules to implement the electronic health records provisions in Cures:

First the rules define information blocking—so it is more precisely clear what we

mean when one system, hospital, doctor, vendor, or insurer is purposefully not sharing information with another;

Second, the rules require that by January 1, 2020, for the first time, insurers must share a patient's health care data with the patient so their health information follows them as they see different doctors; and

Third, all electronic health records must adopt publicly available standards for data elements, known as Application Programming Interfaces, or APIs, two years after these rules are completed.

Last month, we heard from those who use electronic health records, and here is what they have to say about the rules. First, I asked our witnesses if these were good rules—and all four said yes, the intent and the goal of the rules were correct.

Mary Grealy, president of the Healthcare Leadership Council said: "Interoperability is not simply desirable, it is absolutely necessary . . . These rules represent an important and perhaps groundbreaking first step for true national interoperability."

I also asked our witnesses what one change they would make to improve these rules. Mary cautioned about not rushing implementation, saying, "We don't want to prevent moving ahead, or progress, but I think we also have to be very cognizant of the challenges that providers and others are facing trying to do this complex work."

In 2015, I urged the Obama Administration to slow down Stage 3 of the Meaningful Use program, which incentivized doctors and hospitals to adopt electronic health records. The Obama Administration did not slow down implementation, and looking back, the results would have been better if they had.

The best way to get to where you want to go is not by going too far, too fast.

I want to make sure we learn lessons from implementing Meaningful Use Stage 3, which was, in the words of one major hospital, "terrifying."

I am especially interested in getting where we want to go with the involvement of doctors, hospitals, vendors, and insurers, with the fewest possible mistakes and the least confusion.

We don't need to set a record time to get there with an unrealistic timeline. Because these are complex rules, I asked CMS and ONC to extend the comment period, and I am glad to see they have done so and want to thank our witnesses for allowing more time for comment.

We also heard concerns about ensuring patient privacy. If the 21st Century Cures Act is successfully implemented, patients should be able to get their own health data more easily and send it to their health care providers.

Patients may also choose to send that data to third parties—like an exercise tracking app on their smart phone—but this raises new questions about privacy. Lucia Savage, Chief Privacy and Regulatory Officer at Omada Health said, "I think the committee . . . is rightfully concerned about privacy and security . . . None of this will matter if the consumers don't have confidence, and their doctors don't have confidence that the consumers have confidence."

Dr. Christopher Rehm, Chief Medical Informatics Officer at Lifepoint Health in Brentwood, Tennessee reminded us at the hearing that these rules are "not about the technology, it's about the patient, their care and their outcomes."

I am looking forward to hearing from the Administration today about how they plan to implement these rules.

WILD AND SCENIC RIVERS
POSTAGE STAMP

Mr. WYDEN. Madam President, on May 21, 2019, the U.S. Postal Service will release a series of postage stamps commemorating America's Wild and Scenic River system. These are America's remarkable rivers and streams unique for their free-flowing beauty, along with their contribution to recreation, fish and wildlife habitat, and countless other important benefits.

As we recognize the 50th anniversary of this landmark conservation law, I want to make a point that Oregon has always been a leader in protecting rivers and just this year added more than 250 miles of Wild and Scenic Rivers designations, increasing our miles of protected rivers from 1,916 to a grand total of over 2,170 miles. That gives Oregon the State with the most miles of Wild and Scenic River designations in the contiguous United States.

Three Oregon rivers are being recognized by the U.S. Postal Service in this commemorative stamp edition: the Deschutes, the Owyhee, and the Snake Rivers. Each is remarkable and unique in its own way, and together, these rivers embody Oregon's tradition of providing habitat for endangered salmon and steelhead, clean drinking water, and recreation opportunities for countless outdoor enthusiasts from all over the United States and the world.

One of these rivers, the Owyhee, carves its way through some of the harshest and most arid and remote landscape of Oregon's high desert in the easternmost parts of our State. The Owyhee River flows through a steep, eroded canyon with cliffs towering hundreds of feet above. Added to the Wild and Scenic Rivers system in 1984, this river is revered for its remarkable cultural, geologic, recreational, and scenic values. It is of particular historical significance to Tribes across Oregon, Idaho, and Nevada. Beyond its significance as a Wild and Scenic River, the Owyhee region is a critical lifeline to the rural economy of eastern Oregon and the local ranching community.

Moving westward to central Oregon, the Deschutes River is an oasis that winds through sandy, pumice-filled soils and sloping plateaus. A Wild and Scenic River since 1988, the Deschutes is world renowned for its fly fishing, rafting, and hiking opportunities. For centuries, Native Americans have honored the cultural and fishing uses of the river and venerated its historical value.

The final Oregon river honored in this series is back to the east in Oregon but north of the Owyhee: the mighty Snake River. It flows through Hells Canyon—the deepest gorge in North America—on the border between Idaho and Oregon. First designated a Wild and Scenic River in 1975, the Snake River holds significant cultural value for the people of the Shoshone and Nez

Perce Tribes. It also holds an important part of our State's history; emigrant pioneers risked their lives crossing the Snake in search of their future in Oregon. Pristine sections of this river and its stunning landscapes provide bountiful opportunities for salmon fishing, rafting, and exploration.

These Oregon rivers and others recognized by the U.S. Postal Service in these stamps contribute to the most stunning landscapes in the country and protect the very qualities that make America's and Oregon's natural treasures so incredible.

TRIBUTE TO COLONEL CAROLINE M. MILLER

Ms. ERNST. Madam President, today I wish to recognize Col. Caroline M. Miller, upon her departure as chief, Air Force legislative liaison to the U.S. Senate.

In this role, Colonel Miller managed Air Force senior leader strategic engagement with Senators and their staffs in support of Air Force programs and congressional oversight travel. She served as the Air Force's senior escort for staff and congressional delegation travel to more than 20 countries supporting leadership, Member, and committee offices. Prior to her current position, she served as the 633rd Air Base Wing commander at Joint Base Langley-Eustis, VA, providing installation support to 18,000 Air Force and Army personnel, including Headquarters Air Combat Command, U.S. Army Training and Doctrine Command, four operational wings, eight brigades, and more than 20 major associate units.

Colonel Miller received her commission in 1994 from Officer Training School, Maxwell Air Force Base, AL. During her illustrious career, she has served as a protocol officer, special actions officer, and executive officer for several senior Air Force leadership offices, as well as the Director of Manpower and Personnel for United States Strategic Command. Colonel Miller has commanded at the squadron, group, and wing levels, spending 1 year as the commander, 379th Expeditionary Mission Support Group, Al Udeid Air Base, Qatar, in support of Operations Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom. She was also hand-selected to participate in the elite Air Force Internship program, as well as competed to attend the Naval Command and Staff College and Air Force's Air War College.

Colonel Miller is married to Colonel (Retired) Rich Miller who, along with their son Ryan, have given her unwavering support throughout her career in the Air Force during multiple moves and combat deployments.

On behalf of the U.S. Congress and a grateful Nation, I extend our deepest appreciation to Col. Caroline M. Miller for her dedicated service to the Senate and to our Nation. We wish her the best on her promotion to brigadier general and her next role as chief of Air Force manpower at the Pentagon. There is no

question that the Air Force, Department of Defense, and the United States will continue to benefit greatly from Colonel Miller's leadership.

REMEMBERING DR. JAMES BILLINGTON

Mr. ALEXANDER. Madam President, Dr. James Billington was the 13th person to hold the position of Librarian of Congress since the Library was established in 1800. He was nominated by President Ronald Reagan and served under Presidents George H.W. Bush, Bill Clinton, George W. Bush, and Barack Obama.

As Librarian of Congress Dr. Billington managed the Library of Congress, which according to LOC, is the largest library in the world, containing millions of books, recordings, photographs, newspapers, maps, and manuscripts in its collections. It is the main research arm of the U.S. Congress.

Dr. Billington doubled the size of the Library's collections during his tenure from 85.5 million items in 1987 to more than 160 million items. He created the Library of Congress online, which helped bring the Library into the digital age.

In 2003, Dr. Billington testified before the Senate education committee at a hearing I chaired called "Putting the Teaching of American History and Civics Back in the Classroom."

In his testimony that day, Dr. Billington said: "During Alex Haley's 12 years researching his groundbreaking novel, *Roots*, he traveled the globe to uncover his family's story, even taking a slow Atlantic crossing to get some feel for what his ancestors went through on the Middle Passage. He also spent many hours in the reading rooms of the Library of Congress, poring over American Missionary Society files from our Manuscript Collection."

"For the first 190 years of the Library's existence, people could access our vast collections only by traveling to Washington, D.C., and by working in our beautiful reading rooms as Mr. Haley did, or by tapping into our rich holdings secondhand, through books that made use of our collections . . .

"The technology revolution of the past decade has made it possible for the Library to reach far beyond its buildings in Washington. We now deliver 8 million interesting and educational multimedia documents, maps, and images of American history and culture free of charge to stimulate curiosity and humanize the study of history."

"By exploiting the power of the internet and the incomparable resources of our collections, the Library of Congress has emerged as the leading provider of free noncommercial educational content on the Web. Millions of educators, librarians, students, and lifelong learners visit our Web sites daily for materials that once were available only through our reading rooms on Capitol Hill."

Dr. Billington's nearly three decades of distinguished service and his efforts to bring the Library of Congress into the digital age will help ensure that the Library will better preserve our Nation's history and enlighten its people for many generations to come. His legacy will be one of innovation and diligence.

After his passing in 2018, his successor at the Library of Congress, Carla Hayden, said "Dr. Billington has left an indelible legacy on the institution he led passionately for 28 years. With his vigor for philanthropy and tireless efforts to expand the reach and impact of the Library, he achieved so much to advance the Library of Congress as an enduring place for scholars and learners. He will be remembered as a visionary leader, distinguished academic and, most of all, a great American."

At a recent Senate committee hearing, I spoke with Ms. Hayden about Alex Haley and the importance of what he did: writing two bestselling books on the African-American experience, the autobiography of Malcolm X and his book, *Roots*, which tell the story of the African-American experience in America. As Dr. Billington said, Alex did a lot of his research at the Library of Congress, and he found the name and the date of the slave ship that actually brought that ancestor to Annapolis in the Library. I think Alex's example will help people understand how the Library of Congress can be so useful to people who are trying to tell the story of our country.

Ms. Hayden agreed saying, "many notable films and books have started with research at the Library of Congress. We want to emphasize the fact that Alex Haley did research here, and also have his quotes about what it felt like for him to be in that reading room."

Alex Haley used to say, we should "find the good and praise it." Dr. Billington's life's work will help countless Americans "find the good and praise it," when it comes to the history of our country.

REMEMBERING LIEUTENANT COLONEL RICHARD "DICK" COLE

Mr. INHOFE. Madam President, today I wish to honor Lieutenant Colonel Richard "Dick" Cole, of the United States Air Force, who was the last living link of the Doolittle Raiders and passed away on April 9 at the age of 103. The Doolittle Raiders were comprised of 80 heroic U.S. Army Air Forces airmen who flew 16 modified B-25 Mitchell bombers off the USS *Hornet* aircraft carrier on the first Allied retaliatory strike on the Japanese Home Islands, just a few months after Pearl Harbor.

In an age before midair refueling and GPS, the USS *Hornet* weighed less than a quarter of today's fortress-like aircraft carriers. With then-Lt. Cole as the copilot to then-Lt. Col. Jimmy

Doolittle, the B-25 Mitchell bomber #40-2344, would take off with only 467 feet of takeoff distance. This audacious and unprecedented raid was a one-way mission against enormous odds. What made the mission all the more challenging was a sighting by a Japanese patrol boat that prompted the task force commander, U.S. Navy Adm. William Halsey, to launch the mission more than 650 nautical miles from Japan, 10 hours early and 170 nautical miles farther than originally planned. Flying at wavetop level around 200 feet with their radios turned off, Cole and the Raiders avoided detection for as much of the distance as possible. In groups of two to four aircraft, the bombers targeted dry docks, armories, oil refineries, and aircraft factories in Yokohama, Nagoya, Osaka and Kobe, as well as Tokyo itself. The Japanese air defenses were so caught off guard by the Raiders that little anti-aircraft fire was volleyed and only one Japanese Zero followed in pursuit. With their bombs delivered, the Raiders flew towards safety in nonoccupied China, but had to bail out when their aircraft ran out of fuel.

The bombing mission sent a message that America was ready to fight back, and bolstered spirits on the home front. Lt. Col. Cole remained in the China-Burma-India Theater flying combat and transport missions from May 1942 to June 1943, followed by service with the 5th Fighter Group in Tulsa, OK, from June to October 1943. He retired from the Air Force on December 31, 1966, as a command pilot with more than 5,000 flight hours in 30 different aircraft, amassing more than 250 combat missions and more than 500 combat hours. His decorations include the Distinguished Flying Cross with two oakleaf clusters; Air Medal with oakleaf cluster; Bronze Star Medal; Air Force Commendation Medal; and Chinese Army, Navy, Air Corps Medal, Class A, First Grade. All Doolittle Raiders were also awarded the Congressional Gold Medal in May 2014.

In his final years, Lt. Col. Cole remained a familiar face at Air Force events in the San Antonio area and toured Air Force schoolhouses and installations to promote the spirit of service among new generations of airmen. On September 19, 2016, Lt. Col. Cole was present during the naming ceremony for the Northrop Grumman B-21 Raider, named in honor of the Doolittle Raiders. While he may have slipped the surly bonds of earth to reunite with his fellow Raiders, his legacy will forever live on in the hearts and minds of Americans.

On behalf of my colleagues in the U.S. Senate, I wish to offer our eternal thanks to Lt. Col. Cole and our condolences to his family. May we never forget the courage and honor of the Doolittle Raiders.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO MARK ALAGNA

• Mr. ISAKSON. Madam President, today, I am honored to recognize in the RECORD a gentleman from whom I have had the opportunity to learn and to work with through a great company located in my great home State of Georgia. Mark Alagna is the vice president of UPS global public affairs and has announced he will retire in June after having served the company for 35 years.

The world headquarters for United Parcel Service, called UPS, has been based in Georgia since 1991. It is the second-largest company in Georgia, and in 2018, UPS earned \$72 billion in revenue with locations worldwide. This company means a lot to my State.

In addition to that, UPS is a leader in delivering workforce training and mentorship programs that emphasize the development of professional skills, safety, and efficiency.

As the chairman of the Subcommittee on Employment and the Workplace, I am always looking out for Georgia companies and workers, especially the ones that set the bar high. Mark Alagna has been an important member of that company who has provided me and my staff with needed information and assistance for many years.

Mark's service to UPS is long and distinguished, rising through the ranks as a loyal employee serving a company that reciprocated that sense of loyalty and development for a good staff member. He has been with the company since 1984 when he was hired as a package car driver, delivering packages directly to customers who depended upon this service. For the last 24 years, he has worked in the company's public affairs department, looking out for the company's interests by working effectively with Members of Congress in Washington, with a particular policy focus on labor issues.

Mark also serves as liaison to the board of the National Coalition of Multiemployer Pension Plans, is vice chair of the Labor Policy Coalition, and sits on the labor and pension advisory committee. Prior to joining the global public affairs team, Mark also managed several staff and operational assignments in the mid-Atlantic area for UPS.

I will miss the opportunity to work with Mark, who has been a trusted associate, and his absence will be felt at UPS and by all those who have had the opportunity to work alongside him. We all wish Mark and his family the very best in a long and happy retirement.●

PRUDENTIAL SPIRIT AWARD

• Mr. KENNEDY. Madam President, today I wish to congratulate and honor two Louisiana students who have achieved national recognition for exemplary volunteer service in their

communities. Kate Walker of Ruston and Nikki Leali of New Orleans have been named State honorees in the 2019 Prudential Spirit of Community Awards program, an annual honor granted to one high school student and one middle school student in each State and the District of Columbia.

Ms. Walker, a sophomore at Cedar Creek School, is being recognized for raising more than \$70,000 to find a cure for a rare neuromuscular disease known as Friedreich's ataxia, FA. In addition to raising tens of thousands of dollars to bring awareness to FA, Kate used different kinds of media to spread awareness and educate the public about disabilities, including hosting a local screening of a documentary film about FA and starting a YouTube channel featuring weekly videos about the challenges facing people with disabilities. Kate's mission is to teach people the importance of treating people with disabilities the same as everyone else.

Ms. Leali, a seventh grader at Ursuline Academy, is being recognized for organizing a reading club that brings middle school students and younger children together. Nikki organized the club after conducting an annual book donation drive for several years that redistributed more than 55,000 books in her community. Nikki's club allows young children to build confidence in reading in a safe and fun environment, while also providing middle schoolers an opportunity to serve their community. Nikki has grown her club with a website and corporate sponsors, and she now has 15 to 30 children regularly attending her monthly meetings.

It is vital that we encourage and support the kind of selfless contributions these young people have made. People of all ages need to think about how we, as individual citizens, can work together at the local level to ensure the health and vitality of our towns and neighborhoods. Young volunteers like Ms. Walker and Ms. Leali are inspiring examples for all of us and are among our brightest hopes for a better tomorrow.

I also would like to salute other young people in my state who were named Distinguished Finalists by the Prudential Spirit of Community Awards for their outstanding volunteer service. They are Hailey Enamorado, 15, of Denham Springs, LA; Julianna Gouthiere, 12, of Shreveport, LA; Myracle Lewis, 17, of Baton Rouge, LA; and Grace Sun, 17, of Shreveport, LA.

All of these young people have demonstrated a level of commitment and accomplishment that is truly extraordinary in today's world and deserve our sincere admiration and respect. Their actions show that young Americans can and do play important roles in their communities, and that America's community spirit continues to hold tremendous promise for the future.●

INAUGURAL COSI SCIENCE FESTIVAL

• Mr. PORTMAN. Madam President, today I wish to acknowledge the inaugural COSI Science Festival that took place in Columbus during the first 4 days of May. COSI is a statewide science center that has been engaging, inspiring, and transforming Ohio's young citizens since 1964 and directly impacts over 1 million people annually. This festival event serves as a conduit to involve students, educators, policy-makers, and families in STEM. COSI hosted the culminating event, the Big Science Celebration, where thousands of individuals gathered to experience hands-on learning around critical industry sectors for Ohio, such as agriculture, aerospace, and advanced manufacturing.

COSI's Science Festival partnered with NASA, DOT, and several state agencies to provide hands-on learning opportunities. Local mayors from 10 partner-cities were also featured to demonstrate the value of STEM in our communities. Pioneers in STEM of all ages from central Ohio were appointed as STEM Stars to serve as liaisons between community and industry.

Visitors to the science festival experienced hands-on scientific demonstrations, interactive exhibits, workshops, and much more. Ohioans had the opportunity to take part in an event that will undoubtedly leave a lasting impact in the STEM field.

I am honored to recognize the COSI Science Festival on this important event highlighting the impact of STEM throughout our nation.

Congratulations to all who were involved in making it a success.●

TRIBUTE TO PAUL CLOUD

• Mr. RUBIO. Madam President, today I recognize Paul Vincent Cloud of Niceville, FL, who served his nation in the U.S. Army during World War II and will turn 100 years old on June 8, 2019.

Paul enlisted with the U.S. Army on March 1, 1941, in Huntington, WV. He was assigned as a supply clerk in Company D, 7th Infantry Regiment, 3rd Infantry Division, and trained at Fort Lewis, WA.

On October 24, 1942, Paul was deployed as part of Task Force 34 for Operation Torch, landing at Fedala in French Morocco as part of the Battle of Casablanca. After its surrender, Paul's unit was temporarily assigned in Rabat, French Morocco's capital city before moving to Algiers, Algeria. As a part of the 3rd Infantry Division, he was sent to reinforce the 1st Infantry Division at the Kasserine Pass, Tunisia.

In July 1943, Paul left Bizerte, Tunisia, and landed in Sicily near Gela, moving to Palermo and Messina as his division was ordered to Salerno and then Naples, Italy. In late spring 1944, Paul landed at Anzio and advanced with his unit to Rome to seize control of the city after the German retreat.

He was later selected to return to the United States due to his service points, leaving Naples on July 16, 1944. Paul was honorably discharged at Fort Meade, MD, and received the Good Conduct Medal, American Defense Service Medal, and European African Middle Eastern Service Ribbon.

After he was discharged, Paul married Dorothy Anderson in 1947 and graduated from Ben Franklin University in 1951. He worked for the Veterans Administration and the Internal Revenue Service, retiring in January 1976. Together they have two daughters and five grandchildren.

I extend my best wishes to Paul in celebration of his upcoming 100th birthday and for his service to our Nation. I hope the coming year brings him much happiness, joy, and good health.●

TRIBUTE TO SAMUEL LOMBARDO

• Mr. RUBIO. Madam President, today I recognize Samuel Lombardo of Fort Walton Beach, FL, who served his nation in the U.S. Army during World War II and the Korean war. He will turn 100 years old on July 13, 2019.

Born in Italy, Samuel immigrated as a young boy to the United States. He enlisted with the U.S. Army in November 1939 in Pennsylvania. He served as the battalion topographical sergeant in the 11th Infantry, 28th Infantry Division and graduated from officer candidate school at Fort Benning as an infantry officer in July 1942.

After serving as an infantry basic training Instructor at Camp Fannin, TX, he was deployed to Europe as a platoon leader and company executive officer in Company I, 394th Infantry Regiment, 99th Division during the Battle of the Bulge. Following the battle, he made an American Flag for his platoon to carry across the Danube River from red pillows, blue curtains, and white surrender cloths. He served in the U.S. Army occupation in Germany and was the building officer in charge of the Palace of Justice in Nuremberg and as the officer in charge of a POW camp in Hammelburg with 350 Political POWs.

Upon returning to the U.S., he attended school in Los Angeles, CA, becoming a Japanese linguist. He served as the operations officer, commanding officer, and assistant special agent-in-charge of the 441st CIC Aomori, Japan, and was a field operations intelligence officer in both South Korea and Japan after a tour as inspector general and deputy chief of staff at Fort Ord, CA. Samuel then served as an intelligence officer in Saigon, Republic of Vietnam, before the U.S. formally entered the conflict. He returned to Fort Ord after becoming ill with typhoid and retired as a lieutenant colonel in March 1, 1962.

After his service, Samuel wrote a book, "O'er the Land of the Free," about his World War II experiences. He has received several awards and decorations for his service to our country.

I extend my best wishes to Samuel in celebration of his upcoming 100th birthday and for his service to our Nation. It is my hope that the coming year is filled with good health and happiness.●

TRIBUTE TO CYNTHIA BARRINGTON

• Mr. RUBIO. Madam President, today I recognize Cynthia Barrington, the Jefferson County Teacher of the Year from Jefferson-Somerset Elementary School in Monticello, FL.

From a young age, Cynthia's grandmother instilled in her the importance of education. In the years that followed, Cynthia became passionate about being a part of the educational system. Cynthia's favorite aspect of teaching is working with students in order to have a better understanding of how to best teach them.

Cynthia began her career as a Jefferson County teacher and taught at Jefferson Elementary School for 27 years. When Somerset Charter took over the county's schools, she was included in the school transfer of teachers. She now teaches second grade at Jefferson-Somerset Elementary School.

I extend my sincere gratitude and best wishes to Cynthia for her dedication to teaching and look forward to learning of her continued success in the years ahead.●

TRIBUTE TO DAVID COCHRANE

• Mr. RUBIO. Madam President, today I honor David Cochrane, the Franklin County Teacher of the Year from Franklin County Middle and High School in Eastpoint, FL.

At his award ceremony, David addressed the crowd to thank his colleagues and students for supporting him. He is excited to help make the school the best it can be and holds high expectations and standards for his students.

David believes that all students deserve a quality education. He encourages his students to think about life after high school and emphasizes that they should work with all of their teachers.

David is a former U.S. Air Force Desert Storm veteran with 14 years of teaching experience. He joined the Franklin County Seahawks in 2015 and teaches algebra and physics. He also serves as the mathematics coach, department chair, and is the sponsor of the Mu Alpha Theta Club.

I offer my sincere gratitude to David for his service to our Nation and extend my best wishes on his continued success in the years to come.●

TRIBUTE TO SANDRA McMILLAN

• Mr. RUBIO. Madam President, today I recognize Sandra McMillan, the Gadsden County Teacher of the Year from Greensboro Elementary School in Quincy, FL.

Sandra considers this important recognition a new motivation for her and has inspired her to do more for her students. She describes her passion for teaching and learning as the key to developing a curriculum that sets the best example for students to take with them after they graduate.

Sandra provides her students with a template for hard work and dedication to success through her time teaching at the college level. Sandra's students describe her class as a great learning environment that inspires them to achieve success.

Sandra has been a teacher for 11 years, with the last 5 in the Gadsden County School District. She has taught exceptional students education at Greensboro Elementary School for the past 2 years and previously taught at the college level for 6 years.

I extend my sincere thanks and gratitude to Sandra for her dedication to teaching her students and look forward to hearing of her continued success in the years to come.●

RECOGNIZING RISING TIDE CAR WASH

● Mr. RUBIO. Madam President, this week the U.S. Senate Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship joins more than 30 million small businesses across our Nation in celebration of National Small Business Week. Small businesses drive our Nation's economic expansion, generate lasting job growth, and encourage community development. It is important that we recognize the vital contributions of small businesses. In celebration of National Small Business Week, it is my honor name Rising Tide Car Wash of Parkland and Margate, FL, as the Senate Small Business of the Week.

Founded in November 2012 by John D'Eri and his son, Tom, Rising Tide is a full-service car wash with the mission of employing adults with autism. Andrew D'Eri, John's other son, is autistic. As Andrew neared the end of his academic career, John brainstormed ways to help him find a dignified job. Noting his son's embrace of structure, process, and attention to detail, John landed on the idea of buying a car wash. Since purchasing the struggling car wash 9 years ago, John and Tom have grown the business to include a second location, going from washing 35,000 cars per year to more than 150,000 annually.

Today, Rising Tide is one of the largest employers of individuals with autism in the United States. In fact, Rising Tide views autism as their competitive advantage, giving dignified work, structure, and hope to 90 individuals with autism. Their work has not stopped there. Rising Tide is also a leading advocate for autism awareness. In an effort to aid other entrepreneurs looking to build an autism social enterprise, Tom and John created Rising Tide U, an online course offered in partnership with the University of

Miami-Nova Southeastern University Center for Autism and Related Disabilities. Tom and John's innovative approach to advocacy has not only allowed for their business to grow, but has also allowed more small firms to hire individuals with autism.

Rising Tide's mission has sparked national attention. Tom has appeared before the United Nations on World Autism Awareness day, was selected to serve on the Young Entrepreneur Council, and was included in Forbes 30 Under 30 for social entrepreneurship. Additionally, Rising Tide and the D'Eri family have been featured on The Hero Effect, The Today Show, NBC News, TED Talks, Forbes, and People Magazine. Rising Tide has also been named Small Business of the Year by South Florida Business Connection and Employer of the Year by the Autism Society.

Rising Tide is more than just a successful business; they are an inspiration. John and Tom have combined the principles of entrepreneurship and social engagement to create a revolutionary program. Running a successful small business is difficult enough; yet John and Tom D'Eri have found a way to simultaneously engage and encourage truly deserving individuals. Their employees have found a community, friends, and gained valuable experience that will serve them for the rest of their lives.

Starting out with a simple mission of helping a family member find an engaging job, John and Tom have grown Rising Tide into a business that provides both a valuable community service and dignified work. I am honored to recognize the D'Eri family and the entire team at Rising Tide Car Wash as the Senate Small Business of the Week. You make Florida proud, and I look forward to watching your continued growth and success.●

RECOGNIZING VETFRIENDS

● Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina. Madam President, as a member of the Senate Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship, it is my privilege to honor a South Carolina small business during the U.S. Small Business Administration's National Small Business Week. In my State, small business owners work hard to contribute to our local economy and serve South Carolina communities. Today, it is my honor to recognize VetFriends of Mount Pleasant, SC, as the Senate Small Business of the Day.

Dale Sutcliffe, a U.S. Marine Corps veteran of Desert Storm, founded VetFriends nearly 20 years ago with the mission of reuniting veterans. Following his service, Dale realized the benefit that a national registry of veterans could have and quickly set up a platform where veterans can reconnect with their fellow servicemembers during their time serving our country. The VetFriends platform has over 2.5 million members and has brought together

thousands of veterans with their former associates. In the process, the platform has helped veterans share stories and photos, as well as stay informed about upcoming reunions and events. Currently, the business employs over 25 South Carolinians, and almost all have a close relative or partner who is enlisted or has served.

The team at VetFriends has a longstanding tradition of supporting the veteran community and are regularly seen volunteering at the Ralph H. Johnson VA Medical Center. Additionally, the business has taken an active role working with the Wounded Warrior Project and the Patriots Point Naval and Maritime Museum in Charleston. It is clear that VetFriends' values and goals not only enhance their business plan but also improve the community that they belong to.

As we highlight the role that small businesses play throughout this week, it is my pleasure to honor the hard work that VetFriends is doing in the great State of South Carolina. They are a tremendous example of the way small businesses create innovative solutions, as well as give back to the community; I wish them nothing but success in their future endeavors.●

MEASURES PLACED ON THE CALENDAR

The following bills were read the second time, and placed on the calendar:

S. 1332. A bill to set forth the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2020 and setting forth the appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2021 through 2029.

H.R. 9. An act to direct the President to develop a plan for the United States to meet its nationally determined contribution under the Paris Agreement, and for other purposes.

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-1176. A communication from the Chief of Staff, Media Bureau, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Streamlined Reauthorization Procedures for Assigned or Transferred Television Satellite Stations; Modernization of Media Regulation Initiative" (FCC 19-17) (MB Docket Nos. 18-63 and 17-105)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 15, 2019; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-1177. A communication from the Chief of Staff, Media Bureau, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Channel Lineup Requirements - Sections 76.1705 and 76.1700(a) (4); Modernization of Media Regulation Initiative" (FCC 19-33) (MB Docket Nos. 18-92 and 17-105)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 29, 2019; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-1178. A communication from the Chief of Staff, Media Bureau, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting, pursuant to

law, the report of a rule entitled “Television Broadcasting Services; Bridgeport and Stamford, Connecticut” ((DA 19-264) (MB Docket No. 18-126)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 29, 2019; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-1179. A communication from the Chief of Staff, Media Bureau, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Use of Spectrum Bands Above 24 GHz for Mobile Radio Services” ((FCC 19-30) (GN Docket No. 14-177)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 29, 2019; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-1180. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Safety Zone; Sabine River, Orange, TX” ((RIN1625-AA00) (Docket No. USCG-2019-0160)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 24, 2019; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-1181. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Safety Zone; Mississippi Sound, Biloxi, MS” ((RIN1625-AA00) (Docket No. USCG-2019-0222)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 24, 2019; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-1182. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Safety Zone; Xterra Swim, Intracoastal Waterway; Myrtle Beach, SC” ((RIN1625-AA00) (Docket No. USCG-2019-0024)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 24, 2019; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-1183. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Safety Zone; Lake of the Ozarks, Osage Beach, MO” ((RIN1625-AA00) (Docket No. USCG-2019-0113)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 1, 2019; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-1184. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Safety Zone; Sail Grand Prix 2019 Practice Days Safety Zone for Sailing Vessels; San Francisco, CA” ((RIN1625-AA00) (Docket No. USCG-2019-0101)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 1, 2019; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-1185. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Security Zone; Cumberland River, Nashville, TN” ((RIN1625-AA87) (Docket No. USCG-2019-0152)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 24, 2019; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-1186. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Security Zones; Corpus Christi Ship Channel, Corpus Christi, TX” ((RIN1625-AA87) (Docket No. USCG-2019-0206)) received during ad-

journment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 24, 2019; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-1187. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Security Zones; Corpus Christi Ship Channel, Corpus Christi, TX” ((RIN1625-AA87) (Docket No. USCG-2019-0217)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 22, 2019; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-1188. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Special Local Regulation; Choptank River, Cambridge, MD” ((RIN1625-AA08) (Docket No. USCG-2019-0051)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 22, 2019; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-1189. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Special Local Regulation; Ohio River, Louisville, KY” ((RIN1625-AA08) (Docket No. USCG-2019-0163)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 22, 2019; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-1190. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Special Local Regulation; Lake of Ozarks, Village of Four Seasons, MO” ((RIN1625-AA08) (Docket No. USCG-2019-0205)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 24, 2019; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-1191. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Special Local Regulation; Bush River and Otter Point Creek, Harford County, MD” ((RIN1625-AA08) (Docket No. USCG-2019-0083)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 24, 2019; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-1192. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Special Local Regulation; Lake Pontchartrain, New Orleans, LA” ((RIN1625-AA08) (Docket No. USCG-2019-0058)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 1, 2019; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-1193. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Drawbridge Operation Regulation; Youngs Bay and Lewis and Clark River, Astoria, OR” ((RIN1625-AA09) (Docket No. USCG-2018-0131)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 1, 2019; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-1194. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Anchorage Grounds; Baltimore Harbor, Baltimore, MD” ((RIN1625-AA01) (Docket No. USCG-2017-0181)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 1, 2019; to the

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-1195. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Airworthiness Directives; Airbus Helicopters Deutschland GmbH Helicopters” ((RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2016-9395)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 3, 2019; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-1196. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Airworthiness Directives; Airbus Helicopters Deutschland GmbH Helicopters” ((RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2017-1085)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 24, 2019; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-1197. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Airworthiness Directives; Airbus Helicopters Deutschland GmbH Helicopters” ((RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2017-1085)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 24, 2019; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-1198. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Airworthiness Directives; Airbus SAS Airplanes” ((RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2018-0704)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 24, 2019; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-1199. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Airworthiness Directives; Airbus SAS Airplanes” ((RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2018-0903)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 3, 2019; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-1200. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Airworthiness Directives; Airbus SAS Airplanes” ((RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2018-1009)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 24, 2019; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-1201. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Airworthiness Directives; Airbus SAS Airplanes” ((RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2018-1063)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 24, 2019; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-1202. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Airworthiness Directives; Airbus SAS Airplanes”

EC-1225. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives: Pratt & Whitney Division

(PW) Turbopfan Engines” ((RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2018-0924)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 24, 2019; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-1226. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Airworthiness Directives; Robinson Helicopter Company Helicopters” ((RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2017-1236)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 24, 2019; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-1227. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Airworthiness Directives; Rolls-Royce PLC Turbopfan Engines” ((RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2018-0611)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 3, 2019; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-1228. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Airworthiness Directives; Vulcanair S.p.A. Airplanes” ((RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2019-0210)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 24, 2019; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-1229. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Airworthiness Directives; Zodiac Seats France Cabin Attendant Seats” ((RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2017-0839)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 24, 2019; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-1230. A communication from the Acting Secretary of Defense, transmitting a report on the approved retirement of General Thomas D. Waldhauser, United States Marine Corps, and his advancement to the grade of general on the retired list; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-1231. A communication from the Alternate Federal Register Liaison Officer, Office of the Secretary, Department of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Foreign Criminal and Civil Jurisdiction” (RIN0790-AI89) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 6, 2019; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-1232. A communication from the Management Analyst, Department of the Army, Department of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Regulations Affecting Military Reservations” (RIN0790-AA95) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 6, 2019; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-1233. A communication from the Regulations Coordinator, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Medicare Program; Changes to the Medicare Claims and Medicare Prescription Drug Coverage Determination Appeals Procedures” (RIN0938-AT27) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 6, 2019; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-1234. A communication from the Regulations Coordinator, Centers for Medicare

and Medicaid Services, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Medicaid Program; Reassignment of Medicaid Provider Claims” (RIN0938-AT61) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 6, 2019; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-1235. A communication from the Deputy Assistant Attorney General, Office of Legal Policy, Department of Justice, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Civil Monetary Penalties Inflation Adjustment” (Docket No. OAG 148) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 3, 2019; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-1236. A communication from the Chief of the Fiscal and Contract Law Unit, Federal Bureau of Investigation, Department of Justice, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Federal Bureau of Investigation’s National Policy Act Regulations” (RIN1110-AA32) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 2, 2019; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

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 Ms. WARREN (for herself and Mr. WARNER):

S. 1336. A bill to create an Office of Cybersecurity at the Federal Trade Commission for supervision of data security at consumer reporting agencies, to require the promulgation of regulations establishing standards for effective cybersecurity at consumer reporting agencies, to impose penalties on credit reporting agencies for cybersecurity breaches that put sensitive consumer data at risk, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. SCHATZ (for himself, Mr. DURBIN, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, and Mr. BENNET):

S. 1337. A bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to establish an Office of Correctional Education, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. SCHATZ (for himself, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. MARKEY, Ms. WARREN, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. MERKLEY, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, Mr. MURPHY, Ms. HARRIS, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. BROWN, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Ms. BALDWIN, and Mr. SANDERS):

S. 1338. A bill to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to direct the Secretary of Education to issue guidance and recommendations for institutions of higher education on removing criminal and juvenile justice questions from their application for admissions process; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Ms. ERNST (for herself and Ms. SINEMA):

S. 1339. A bill to require greater transparency for Federal regulatory decisions that impact small businesses; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. MENENDEZ:

S. 1340. A bill to authorize activities to combat the Ebola outbreak in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. WICKER (for himself and Mr. BLUMENTHAL):

S. 1341. A bill to adopt a certain California flammability standard as a Federal flammability standard to protect against the risk of upholstered furniture flammability, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. PETERS (for himself and Mr. YOUNG):

S. 1342. A bill to require the Under Secretary for Oceans and Atmosphere to update periodically the environmental sensitivity index products of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration for each coastal area of the Great Lakes, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. BOOKER (for himself, Ms. BALDWIN, Ms. WARREN, Ms. HARRIS, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, and Ms. HIRONO):

S. 1343. A bill to amend title XIX and XXI of the Social Security Act to improve Medicaid and the Children’s Health Insurance Program for low-income mothers; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. BOOKER (for himself, Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina, Mr. YOUNG, and Ms. HASSAN):

S. 1344. A bill to require the Secretary of the Treasury to collect data and issue a report on the opportunity zone tax incentives enacted by the 2017 tax reform legislation, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. HEINRICH (for himself, Ms. SINEMA, Ms. MCSALLY, and Mr. ALEXANDER):

S. 1345. A bill to amend and reauthorize the Morris K. Udall and Stewart L. Udall Foundation Act; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mr. BOOKER (for himself, Mr. MERKLEY, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, and Mrs. GILLIBRAND):

S. 1346. A bill to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to require the Secretary to provide for the use of data from the second preceding tax year to carry out the simplification of applications for the estimation and determination of financial aid eligibility, to increase the income threshold to qualify for a student aid index equal to or less than zero, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. RUBIO:

S. 1347. A bill to require the United States Postal Service to designate a single, unique ZIP code for particular communities; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. SASSE (for himself, Mr. KING, Mr. ROUNDS, and Mrs. GILLIBRAND):

S. 1348. A bill to require the Secretary of Defense to conduct a study on cyberexploitation of members of the Armed Forces and their families, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. THUNE (for himself and Mr. PETERS):

S. 1349. A bill to expand enrollment in TSA PreCheck to expedite commercial travel screening and improve airport security; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. CASSIDY (for himself, Mr. KING, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. WICKER, Ms. MURKOWSKI, and Mr. MANCHIN):

S. 1350. A bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to limit the liability of health care professionals who volunteer to provide health care services in response to a disaster; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Ms. KLOBUCHAR (for herself, Ms. SMITH, Ms. HIRONO, and Mrs. FEINSTEIN):

S. 1351. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide an income tax credit for eldercare expenses; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. CASEY (for himself, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, and Ms. HARRIS):

S. 1352. A bill to establish a Federal Advisory Council to Support Victims of Gun Violence; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. CASEY:

S. 1353. A bill to amend the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act to require mandatory reporting of incidents of child abuse or neglect, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. DURBIN (for himself, Mr. REED, and Ms. WARREN):

S. 1354. A bill to require certain protections for student loan borrowers, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. BENNET (for himself, Mr. ISAKSON, Mr. BLUNT, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. COONS, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. PORTMAN, Mrs. SHAHEEN, and Mr. WICKER):

S. 1355. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide an exclusion from gross income for AmeriCorps educational awards; to the Committee on Finance.

By Ms. KLOBUCHAR (for herself, Mr. GRAHAM, and Mr. WARNER):

S. 1356. A bill to enhance transparency and accountability for online political advertisements by requiring those who purchase and publish such ads to disclose information about the advertisements to the public, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Rules and Administration.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

The following concurrent resolutions and Senate resolutions were read, and referred (or acted upon), as indicated:

By Mr. MCCONNELL (for himself and Mr. SCHUMER):

S. Res. 192. A resolution to authorize testimony and representation in State of Nevada v. Lacamera; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. WYDEN (for himself, Mr. ALEXANDER, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. PORTMAN, Ms. HIRONO, and Mr. HEINRICH):

S. Res. 193. A resolution designating May 18, 2019, as "Kids to Parks Day"; considered and agreed to.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 27

At the request of Mr. MANCHIN, the name of the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 27, a bill to amend the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act of 1977 to transfer certain funds to the 1974 United Mine Workers of America Pension Plan, and for other purposes.

S. 91

At the request of Mr. GARDNER, the name of the Senator from New Hampshire (Mrs. SHAHEEN) was added as a cosponsor 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. 151

At the request of Mr. THUNE, the name of the Senator from Vermont (Mr. LEAHY) was added as a cosponsor 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. 225

At the request of Mr. ISAKSON, the name of the Senator from West Virginia (Mrs. CAPITO) 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. 284

At the request of Mr. ISAKSON, the name of the Senator from Indiana (Mr. BRAUN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 284, a bill to provide for a biennial budget process and a biennial appropriations process and to enhance oversight and the performance of the Federal Government.

S. 362

At the request of Mr. WYDEN, the name of the Senator from Indiana (Mr. YOUNG) was added as a cosponsor of S. 362, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to reform taxation of alcoholic beverages.

S. 373

At the request of Mrs. GILLIBRAND, the name of the Senator from New Hampshire (Mrs. SHAHEEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 373, a bill to provide for the retention and service of transgender individuals in the Armed Forces.

S. 386

At the request of Mr. LEE, the name of the Senator from Indiana (Mr. YOUNG) was added as a cosponsor of S. 386, a bill to amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to eliminate the per-country numerical limitation for employment-based immigrants, to increase the per-country numerical limitation for family-sponsored immigrants, and for other purposes.

S. 457

At the request of Mr. CORNYN, the name of the Senator from Kansas (Mr. ROBERTS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 457, a bill to require that \$1 coins issued during 2019 honor President George H.W. Bush and to direct the Secretary of the Treasury to issue bullion coins during 2019 in honor of Barbara Bush.

S. 479

At the request of Mr. TOOMEY, the names of the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. MARKEY) and the Senator from Maine (Mr. KING) were added as cosponsors of S. 479, a bill to revise section 48 of title 18, United States Code, and for other purposes.

S. 546

At the request of Mrs. GILLIBRAND, the name of the Senator from Hawaii

(Mr. SCHATZ) 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. 559

At the request of Mr. TESTER, the name of the Senator from Michigan (Ms. STABENOW) was added as a cosponsor of S. 559, a bill to amend the Family and Medical Leave Act of 1993 to provide leave because of the death of a son or daughter.

S. 577

At the request of Mr. LANKFORD, the name of the Senator from Colorado (Mr. GARDNER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 577, a bill to require the establishment of a process for excluding articles imported from the People's Republic of China from certain duties imposed under section 301 of the Trade Act of 1974, and for other purposes.

S. 599

At the request of Mr. COTTON, the name of the Senator from Missouri (Mr. HAWLEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 599, a bill to amend the Immigration and Nationality Act with respect to aliens associated with criminal gangs, and for other purposes.

S. 606

At the request of Mr. BLUMENTHAL, the name of the Senator from Colorado (Mr. GARDNER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 606, a bill to improve oversight and evaluation of the mental health and suicide prevention media outreach campaigns of the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes.

S. 622

At the request of Mr. JONES, the name of the Senator from Virginia (Mr. WARNER) was added as a cosponsor 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. 803

At the request of Mr. TOOMEY, the names of the Senator from Indiana (Mr. YOUNG), the Senator from Colorado (Mr. GARDNER) and the Senator from Texas (Mr. CRUZ) 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. 839

At the request of Mr. KAINE, the name of the Senator from New Hampshire (Mrs. SHAHEEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 839, a bill to extend Federal Pell Grant eligibility of certain short-term programs.

At the request of Mr. PORTMAN, the name of the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MORAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 839, *supra*.

S. 849

At the request of Mr. CRAMER, the names of the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. HOEVEN), the Senator from Alabama (Mr. JONES), the Senator from

Montana (Mr. DAINES), the Senator from Kansas (Mr. ROBERTS), the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. MENENDEZ), the Senator from Indiana (Mr. BRAUN), the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR), the Senator from West Virginia (Mrs. CAPITO), the Senator from Montana (Mr. TESTER) and the Senator from New Hampshire (Mrs. SHAHEEN) were added as cosponsors of S. 849, a bill to provide for the inclusion on the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Wall of the names of the lost crew members of the U.S.S. Frank E. Evans killed on June 3, 1969.

S. 867

At the request of Ms. HASSAN, the name of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. BOOKER) was added as a cosponsor 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. 878

At the request of Mr. COTTON, the name of the Senator from Alaska (Mr. SULLIVAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 878, a bill to foster security in Taiwan, and for other purposes.

S. 879

At the request of Mr. VAN HOLLEN, the name of the Senator from Massachusetts (Ms. WARREN) was added as a cosponsor 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. 901

At the request of Ms. COLLINS, the names of the Senator from Michigan (Ms. STABENOW), the Senator from Arizona (Ms. SINEMA) and the Senator from Missouri (Mr. BLUNT) 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. 948

At the request of Ms. KLOBUCHAR, the name of the Senator from Iowa (Ms. ERNST) was added as a cosponsor of S. 948, a bill to provide incentives to physicians to practice in rural and medically underserved communities, and for other purposes.

S. 1006

At the request of Mr. WHITEHOUSE, the name of the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1006, a bill to amend the Truth in Lending Act to empower the States to set the maximum annual percentage rates applicable to consumer credit transactions, and for other purposes.

S. 1037

At the request of Mr. BARRASSO, the name of the Senator from Tennessee (Mrs. BLACKBURN) was added as a co-

sponsor of S. 1037, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to modernize provisions relating to rural health clinics under Medicare.

S. 1039

At the request of Mr. UDALL, the name of the Senator from Delaware (Mr. CARPER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1039, a bill to limit the use of funds for kinetic military operations in or against Iran.

S. 1067

At the request of Ms. HARRIS, the name of the Senator from Delaware (Mr. COONS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1067, a bill to provide for research to better understand the causes and consequences of sexual harassment affecting individuals in the scientific, technical, engineering, and mathematics workforce and to examine policies to reduce the prevalence and negative impact of such harassment, and for other purposes.

S. 1081

At the request of Mr. MANCHIN, the names of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. MENENDEZ), the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. CASEY), the Senator from Nevada (Ms. ROSEN) and the Senator from Virginia (Mr. KAINE) were added as cosponsors of S. 1081, a bill to amend title 54, United States Code, to provide permanent, dedicated funding for the Land and Water Conservation Fund, and for other purposes.

S. 1100

At the request of Mr. BOOKER, the names of the Senator from New Hampshire (Ms. HASSAN) and the Senator from Indiana (Mr. YOUNG) were withdrawn as cosponsors of S. 1100, a bill to institute a program for the disclosure of taxpayer information for third-party income verification through the Internet.

At the request of Mr. BOOKER, the name of the Senator from Idaho (Mr. CRAPO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1100, *supra*.

S. 1103

At the request of Mr. COTTON, the name of the Senator from Tennessee (Mrs. BLACKBURN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1103, a bill to amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to establish a skills-based immigration points system, to focus on family-sponsored immigration on spouses and minor children, to eliminate the Diversity Visa Program, to set a limit on the number of refugees admitted annually to the United States, and for other purposes.

S. 1125

At the request of Mr. TILLIS, the names of the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. BOOZMAN) and the Senator from Nebraska (Mrs. FISCHER) were added as cosponsors of S. 1125, a bill to amend the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act.

S. 1140

At the request of Ms. SMITH, the name of the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. CRAMER) was added as a co-

sponsor of S. 1140, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act with respect to the treatment under section 351(k)(7) of such Act (relating to exclusivity for reference products) of certain products deemed to have a biological product license pursuant to section 7002 of the Biologics Price Competition and Innovation Act of 2009.

S. 1148

At the request of Mr. HOEVEN, the name of the Senator from Arizona (Ms. SINEMA) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1148, a bill to amend title 49, United States Code, to require the Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration to give preferential consideration to individuals who have successfully completed air traffic controller training and veterans when hiring air traffic control specialists.

S. 1169

At the request of Mr. GARDNER, the name of the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. CRAMER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1169, a bill to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act with respect to citizen petitions.

S. 1195

At the request of Mrs. GILLIBRAND, the name of the Senator from Alaska (Mr. SULLIVAN) was added as a cosponsor 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. 1203

At the request of Mrs. GILLIBRAND, the name of the Senator from Michigan (Ms. STABENOW) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1203, a bill to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 in order to improve the public service loan forgiveness program, and for other purposes.

S. 1208

At the request of Mr. GRASSLEY, the name of the Senator from Montana (Mr. TESTER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1208, a bill to amend the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 with respect to payments to certain public safety officers who have become permanently and totally disabled as a result of personal injuries sustained in the line of duty, and for other purposes.

S. 1218

At the request of Mr. VAN HOLLEN, the names of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. BOOKER), the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. WICKER), the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. SMITH), the Senator from New York (Mr. SCHUMER) and the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. ROUNDS) 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. 1229

At the request of Ms. WARREN, the name of the Senator from Michigan

(Mr. PETERS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1229, a bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to improve the provision of military housing to members of the Armed Forces and their families through private entities, and for other purposes.

S. 1241

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the name of the Senator from Maryland (Mr. CARDIN) was added as a cosponsor of 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.

S. 1263

At the request of Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, the name of the Senator from Montana (Mr. TESTER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1263, a bill to require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to establish an interagency task force on the use of public lands to provide medical treatment and therapy to veterans through outdoor recreation.

S. 1286

At the request of Mr. HEINRICH, the name of the Senator from Colorado (Mr. BENNET) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1286, a bill to amend the Energy Policy Act of 2005 to facilitate the commercialization of energy and related technologies developed at Department of Energy facilities with promising commercial potential.

S. 1300

At the request of Mr. BLUNT, the names of the Senator from Maryland (Mr. VAN HOLLEN) and the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. BLUMENTHAL) were added as cosponsors of S. 1300, a bill to require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint a coin in commemoration of the opening of the National Law Enforcement Museum in the District of Columbia, and for other purposes.

S. 1301

At the request of Mr. MERKLEY, the name of the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. WHITEHOUSE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1301, a bill to prohibit the use of the poisons sodium fluoroacetate (known as "Compound 1080") and sodium cyanide for predator control.

S. 1333

At the request of Mr. CARPER, the name of the Senator from Florida (Mr. RUBIO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1333, a bill to amend the Improper Payments Elimination and Recovery Improvement Act of 2012, including making changes to the Do Not Pay Initiative, for improved detection, prevention, and recovery of improper payments to deceased individuals, and for other purposes.

S. CON. RES. 5

At the request of Mr. BARRASSO, the name of the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. INHOFE) was added as a cosponsor of S. Con. Res. 5, a concurrent resolution supporting the Local Radio Freedom Act.

S. CON. RES. 10

At the request of Mr. GARDNER, the name of the Senator from Texas (Mr.

CRUZ) was added as a cosponsor of S. Con. Res. 10, a concurrent resolution recognizing that Chinese telecommunications companies such as Huawei and ZTE pose serious threats to the national security of the United States and its allies.

S. RES. 96

At the request of Mr. RISCH, the name of the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. INHOFE) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 96, a resolution commending the Government of Canada for upholding the rule of law and expressing concern over actions by the Government of the People's Republic of China in response to a request from the United States Government to the Government of Canada for the extradition of a Huawei Technologies Co., Ltd. executive.

S. RES. 120

At the request of Mr. CARDIN, the names of the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. INHOFE) and the Senator from Indiana (Mr. YOUNG) 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. 143

At the request of Mr. CRAMER, the names of the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. COTTON) and the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. BOOZMAN) were added as cosponsors 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. 184

At the request of Mr. RISCH, the name of the Senator from Colorado (Mr. GARDNER) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 184, a resolution condemning the Easter Sunday terrorist attacks in Sri Lanka, offering sincere condolences to the victims, to their families and friends, and to the people and nation of Sri Lanka, and expressing solidarity and support for Sri Lanka.

S. RES. 188

At the request of Mr. CRUZ, the name of the Senator from Wisconsin (Ms. BALDWIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 188, a resolution encouraging a swift transfer of power by the military to a civilian-led political authority in the Republic of the Sudan, and for other purposes.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. THUNE (for himself and Mr. PETERS):

S. 1349. A bill to expand enrollment in TSA PreCheck to expedite commercial travel screening and improve airport security; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

Mr. THUNE. 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. 1349

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 "Secure Traveler Act".

SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) **PUBLIC AGENCY.**—The term "public agency" means the Federal Government, a State government, a unit of local government, any combination of such government entities, or any department, agency, or instrumentality of any such government entity.

(2) **SPONSORING AGENCY.**—The term "sponsoring agency" means a government agency for which a security clearance is obtained, as determined by the Director of the National Background Investigations Bureau of the Office of Personnel Management.

(3) **PUBLIC SAFETY OFFICER.**—the term "public safety officer" means a person serving as a law enforcement officer, as determined by the Attorney General

SEC. 3. TSA PRECHECK ENROLLMENT FOR INDIVIDUALS WITH ACTIVE SECURITY CLEARANCE.

(a) **PROCESS.**—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Administrator of the Transportation Security Administration, in consultation with the Director of the National Background Investigations Bureau of the Office of Personnel Management and other appropriate departments and agencies of the Federal Government, shall establish a process to permit the verification of an active security clearance to enable enrollment in TSA PreCheck.

(b) **COMPONENTS.**—In establishing the process required under subsection (a), the Administrator shall ensure that—

(1) eligible applicants for TSA PreCheck provide verification of active clearance through coordination with their sponsoring agency;

(2) active clearance is required at the time an application is submitted and at the time of its approval;

(3) interim security clearance is not accepted for purposes of paragraphs (1) and (2); and

(4) approved applicants are assigned a trusted traveler number.

(c) **ELIGIBLE LEVELS OF CLEARANCE.**—An individual holding any of the following security clearances shall be eligible to participate in TSA PreCheck under the process established under subsection (a):

(1) Secret.

(2) Top Secret, including Sensitive Compartmented Information.

(3) L Clearance.

(4) Q Clearance.

(5) Yankee White, all categories.

(d) **FEES.**—Any individual who enrolls in TSA PreCheck through the process established under subsection (a) shall submit any fee required to cover the costs of participation in such program. Notwithstanding section 3302 of title 31, United States Code, such fee shall be retained and used by the Transportation Security Administration.

(e) **TERMINATION; RENEWAL.**—

(1) **TERM.**—If an individual remains eligible for membership in TSA PreCheck under the requirements established by the Transportation Security Administration, his or her participation in TSA PreCheck will terminate on the date that is 5 years after the date on which such enrollment is approved

unless it is renewed in accordance with applicable law.

(2) **REVOCATION.**—

(A) **IN GENERAL.**—An individual's participation in TSA PreCheck that was initiated through the process established under subsection (a) shall be terminated if the underlying security clearance is revoked, as determined by the sponsoring agency.

(B) **EXCEPTIONS.**—Except as provided in subparagraph (A), an individual's participation in TSA PreCheck that was initiated through the process established under subsection (a) may be revoked, at the discretion of the Administrator, if—

- (i) the individual is determined to pose a threat to aviation or national security; and
- (ii) the underlying security clearance is inactivated as a result of a change of the individual's employment or the end of an individual's appointment in a particular position.

SEC. 4. TSA PRECHECK ENROLLMENT FOR LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS.

(a) **PROCESS.**—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Administrator of the Transportation Security Administration, in consultation with the Attorney General, shall establish a process to permit the enrollment of certain law enforcement officers in TSA PreCheck.

(b) **COMPONENTS.**—In establishing the process required under subsection (a), the Attorney General and the Administrator shall ensure that—

(1) eligible applicants for TSA PreCheck provide verification of active employment through coordination with their sponsoring agency;

(2) active employment in good standing is required—

(A) at the time an application is submitted; and

(B) at the time an application is approved;

(3) interim disciplinary status is not accepted for purposes of paragraphs (1) and (2); and

(4) approved applicants are assigned a trusted traveler number.

(c) **ELIGIBLE LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS.**—An individual shall be eligible to participate in TSA PreCheck under the process established under subsection (a) if he or she—

(1) is a public safety officer for a public agency (including a court system) that receives Federal financial assistance;

(2) is a law enforcement officer for a public agency; or

(3) occupies another position, as deemed appropriate by the Attorney General and the Administrator.

(d) **FEES.**—Any individual who enrolls in TSA PreCheck through the process established under subsection (a) shall submit any fee required to cover the costs of participation in such program. Notwithstanding section 3302 of title 31, United States Code, such fee shall be retained and used by the Transportation Security Administration.

(e) **TERMINATION; RENEWAL.**—

(1) **TERM.**—If an individual remains eligible for membership in TSA PreCheck under the requirements established by the Transportation Security Administration, his or her participation in TSA PreCheck shall terminate on the date that is 5 years after the date on which such enrollment is approved unless such enrollment is renewed in accordance with applicable law.

(2) **REVOCATION.**—An individual's participation in TSA PreCheck that was initiated through the process established under subsection (a)—

(A) shall be revoked if the underlying employment is terminated or suspended, as determined by the sponsoring agency; and

(B) may be revoked, at the discretion of the Attorney General and the Administrator,

based on the termination of the underlying employment if such termination is a result of—

(i) a voluntary change of the individual's employment; or

(ii) the expiration of the term of service in a particular position to which an individual was appointed.

SEC. 5. REPORT ON EXPANDED ENROLLMENT FOR TRUSTED TRAVELER PROGRAMS.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Not later than 270 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Commissioner of U.S. Customs and Border Protection and the Administrator of the Transportation Security Administration, in consultation with the Attorney General, the Director of the National Background Investigations Bureau of the Office of Personnel Management, and other appropriate departments and agencies of the Federal Government, shall submit a report to Congress on the feasibility of expanding the enrollment processes established under sections 3 and 4 to the Trusted Traveler Programs listed in subsection (b).

(b) **TRUSTED TRAVELER PROGRAMS.**—The programs listed in this subsection are—

(1) Global Entry;

(2) SENTRI;

(3) NEXUS; and

(4) any travel facilitation program that is similar to any of the programs listed in paragraphs (1) through (3) and has been designated by the Secretary of Homeland Security to be included in the report required under subsection (a).

By Mr. DURBIN (for himself, Mr. REED, and Ms. WARREN):

S. 1354. A bill to require certain protections for student loan borrowers, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

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. 1354

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 “Student Loan Borrower Bill of Rights”.

SEC. 2. HIGHER EDUCATION ACT OF 1965 AMENDMENTS.

(a) **STUDENT LOAN INFORMATION BY ELIGIBLE LENDERS.**—Section 433 of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1083) is amended—

(1) in subsection (b)—

(A) in paragraph (12), by striking “and” after the semicolon;

(B) in paragraph (13), by striking the period at the end and inserting “; and”; and

(C) by adding at the end the following:

“(14) a statement that—

“(A) the borrower may be entitled to servicemember and veteran benefits under the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act (50 U.S.C. App. 501 et seq.) and other Federal or State laws; and

“(B) a Servicemember and Veterans Liaison designated under section 128(e)(16)(K)(i) of the Truth in Lending Act (15 U.S.C. 1638(e)(16)(K)(i)) is available to answer inquiries about servicemember and veteran benefits, including the toll-free telephone number to contact the Liaison pursuant to such section.”; and

(2) in subsection (e)—

(A) in paragraph (2), by adding at the end the following:

“(D) A statement that—

“(i) the borrower may be entitled to servicemember and veteran benefits under the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act (50 U.S.C. App. 501 et seq.) and other Federal or State laws; and

“(ii) a Servicemember and Veterans Liaison designated under section 128(e)(16)(K)(i) of the Truth in Lending Act (15 U.S.C. 1638(e)(16)(K)(i)) is available to answer inquiries about servicemember and veteran benefits, including the toll-free telephone number to contact the Liaison pursuant to such section.

“(E) A statement that a repayment specialist office or unit designated under section 128(e)(16)(J)(i) of the Truth in Lending Act (15 U.S.C. 1638(e)(16)(J)(i)) is available to answer inquiries related to alternative repayment options, including the toll-free telephone number to contact the specialist pursuant to section 128(e)(16)(J)(iii) of such Act.”; and

(B) in paragraph (3), by adding at the end the following:

“(F) A statement that—

“(i) the borrower may be entitled to servicemember and veteran benefits under the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act (50 U.S.C. App. 501 et seq.) and other Federal or State laws; and

“(ii) a Servicemember and Veterans Liaison designated under section 128(e)(16)(K)(i) of the Truth in Lending Act (15 U.S.C. 1638(e)(16)(K)(i)) is available to answer inquiries about servicemember and veteran benefits, including the toll-free telephone number to contact the Liaison pursuant to such section.

“(G) A statement that a repayment specialist office or unit designated under section 128(e)(16)(J)(i) of the Truth in Lending Act (15 U.S.C. 1638(e)(16)(J)(i)) is available to answer inquiries related to alternative repayment options, including the toll-free telephone number to contact the specialist pursuant to section 128(e)(16)(J)(iii) of such Act.”.

(b) **TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF LOANS.**—Section 455 of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1087e) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(r) **PREPAYMENT AND PAYMENT APPLICATION.**—

“(1) **IN GENERAL.**—A borrower may prepay all or part of a loan made under this part at any time without penalty.

“(2) **PREPAYMENT.**—

“(A) **IN GENERAL.**—If a borrower pays any amount in excess of the amount due for a loan made under this part, the excess amount shall be a prepayment.

“(B) **APPLICATION OF PREPAYMENT.**—If a prepayment equals or exceeds the monthly repayment amount under the borrower's repayment plan with respect to a loan made under this part, the Secretary shall—

“(i) apply the prepaid amount according to the terms of the promissory note signed by the borrower; and

“(ii) upon request of the borrower, advance the due date of the next payment and notify the borrower of any revised due date for the next payment.”.

(c) **CONTRACTS.**—Section 456 of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1087f) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a), by striking paragraph (3) and inserting the following:

“(3) **RULES OF CONSTRUCTION.**—

“(A) **CONSORTIA.**—Nothing in this section shall be construed as a limitation of the authority of any State agency to enter into an agreement for the purposes of this section as a member of a consortium of State agencies.

“(B) COMPLIANCE WITH STATE AND FEDERAL LAWS.—Nothing in this section shall be construed as altering, limiting, or affecting any obligation by an entity with which the Secretary enters into a contract under this section to comply with any applicable Federal or State law, including any Federal consumer financial law, as defined in section 1002(14) of the Consumer Financial Protection Act of 2010 (12 U.S.C. 5481(14)).

“(C) AUTHORITIES.—Nothing in this section shall be construed as altering, limiting, or affecting the authority of a State attorney general or any other State regulatory or enforcement agency or authority to bring an action or other regulatory proceeding arising solely under the law of such State.”; and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

“(d) APPLICABILITY OF PROVISIONS UNDER THE CONSUMER FINANCIAL PROTECTION ACT OF 2010.—

“(1) CONSUMER FINANCIAL PRODUCT OR SERVICE.—A consumer financial product or service offered by an entity with which the Secretary enters into a contract under this section for origination, servicing, or collection described in subsection (b), as part of such contract, shall have the meaning given the term in section 1002 of the Consumer Financial Protection Act of 2010 (12 U.S.C. 5481).

“(2) COVERED PERSON.—Any entity with which the Secretary enters into a contract under this section for origination, servicing, or collection described in subsection (b) shall be considered a ‘covered person’ (as defined in section 1002 of the Consumer Financial Protection Act of 2010 (12 U.S.C. 5481)) and subject to the provisions of the Consumer Financial Protection Act of 2010 (12 U.S.C. 5481 et seq.).

“(3) POSTSECONDARY EDUCATIONAL LENDER OR SERVICER.—Any entity with which the Secretary enters into a contract under this section for origination, servicing, or collection, as described in subsection (b), and is engaged in the provision of, or offering, servicing shall be considered a ‘postsecondary educational lender or servicer’ (as defined in section 128(e) of the Truth in Lending Act (15 U.S.C. 1638(e)), and subject to the provisions of section 128(e) of the Truth in Lending Act (12 U.S.C. 1638(e)).

“(e) COMPLAINTS FROM STUDENT LOAN BORROWERS.—In awarding any contract under this section for origination, servicing, or collection described in subsection (b), the Secretary shall require, as part of such contract, any entity receiving such an award—

“(1) to respond to consumer complaints submitted to any Federal, State, or local agency that accepts complaints from student loan borrowers, including the Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection, by borrowers who owe loans made under this part; and

“(2) to share information about consumer complaints with the Secretary, the Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection, the Federal Trade Commission, the Department of Veterans Affairs, any State attorney general, or any other Federal or State regulatory or enforcement agency that compiles information about such complaints.

“(f) LIMITATIONS ON CONTRACTS.—Any entity with which the Secretary enters into a contract under this section shall be prohibited, as part of such contract, from marketing to the borrower of a loan made, insured, or guaranteed under this title a financial product or service—

“(1) using data obtained as a result of the contract or the relationship with the borrower stemming from the contract;

“(2) during any outreach or contact with the borrower resulting from the contract or the relationship with the borrower stemming from the contract; or

“(3) on any platform or through any method resulting from the contract or the rela-

tionship with the borrower stemming from the contract.

“(g) STUDENT LOAN SERVICING INTERAGENCY WORKING GROUP.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 30 days after the date of enactment of the Student Loan Borrower Bill of Rights, the Secretary shall establish a student loan servicing interagency working group co-chaired by the Secretary and the Director of the Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection and including the Chief Operating Officer of the Office of Federal Student Aid, the Director of the Office of Management and Budget, the Secretary of the Treasury, and the heads of any other relevant Federal departments or agencies.

“(2) ADVISORY REPORT ON RULEMAKING.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 120 days after the date the working group under paragraph (1) is established, the working group shall publish an advisory report making recommendations to the Director of the Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection related to the promulgation of regulations under section 128(e)(17)(A) of the Truth in Lending Act (15 U.S.C. 1638(e)(17)(A)) with respect to entities with which the Secretary has entered into a contract under this section.

“(B) PUBLIC FEEDBACK.—Following the publication of the advisory report required under subparagraph (A), the Secretary shall accept, for not less than 60 days, from the public specific feedback on the recommendations included in the report.

“(3) PUBLICATION OF FINAL RECOMMENDATIONS.—Not later than 30 days following the conclusion of the public feedback process described in paragraph (2)(B), the Secretary shall publish final recommendations for the Director of the Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection related to the promulgation of regulations under section 128(e)(17)(A) of the Truth in Lending Act (15 U.S.C. 1638(e)(17)(A)).

“(4) POLICY DIRECTION TO FEDERAL STUDENT AID.—The working group shall develop policy direction for the Office of Federal Student Aid to incorporate, into contracts awarded under this section, applicable requirements and standards promulgated under section 128(e)(17)(A) of the Truth in Lending Act (15 U.S.C. 1638(e)(17)(A)) or described in section 128(e)(17)(B)(i)(II) of such Act.

“(5) MEETINGS.—After the Secretary publishes final recommendations under paragraph (3), the working group shall meet not less often than once per year including to—

“(A) evaluate the application of regulations promulgated under section 128(e)(17)(A) of the Truth in Lending Act (15 U.S.C. 1638(e)(17)(A)) on entities with which the Secretary has entered into a contract under this section;

“(B) evaluate the Office of Federal Student Aid’s implementation of policy direction developed pursuant to paragraph (4);

“(C) develop and implement an oversight plan to ensure compliance by entities with which the Secretary has entered into a contract under this section with policy direction developed under paragraph (4) and regulations promulgated under section 128(e)(17)(A) of the Truth in Lending Act (15 U.S.C. 1638(e)(17)(A)) or described in section 128(e)(17)(B)(i)(II) of such Act; and

“(D) undertake other activities to improve coordination among the members of the working group as it relates to the Secretary’s administration of the Federal Direct Loan Program.

“(6) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this subsection shall be considered to alter, limit, or restrict the Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection’s obligations under chapter 5 of title 5, United States Code (commonly known as the ‘Administrative Procedures Act’), including the Director’s obliga-

tion to provide notice, solicit public comment, and respond to such comment when issuing regulations.”.

SEC. 3. TRUTH IN LENDING ACT AMENDMENTS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Truth in Lending Act (15 U.S.C. 1601 et seq.) is amended—

(1) in section 128 (15 U.S.C. 1638)—

(A) in subsection (e)—

(i) in the subsection heading, by striking “PRIVATE”;

(ii) in paragraph (1)(O), by striking “paragraph (6)” and inserting “paragraph (10)”;

(iii) in paragraph (2)(L), by striking “paragraph (6)” and inserting “paragraph (10)”;

(iv) in paragraph (4)(C), by striking “paragraph (7)” and inserting “paragraph (11)”;

(v) by redesignating paragraphs (5) through (11) as paragraphs (9) through (15), respectively;

(vi) by inserting after paragraph (4) the following:

“(5) DISCLOSURES BEFORE FIRST FULLY AMORTIZED PAYMENT.—Not fewer than 30 days and not more than 150 days before the first fully amortized payment on a postsecondary education loan is due from the borrower, the postsecondary educational lender or servicer shall disclose to the borrower, clearly and conspicuously—

“(A) the information described in—

“(i) paragraph (2)(A) (adjusted, as necessary, for the rate of interest in effect on the date the first fully amortized payment on a postsecondary education loan is due);

“(ii) subparagraphs (B) through (G) of paragraph (2);

“(iii) paragraph (2)(H) (adjusted, as necessary, for the rate of interest in effect on the date the first fully amortized payment on a postsecondary education loan is due);

“(iv) paragraph (2)(K); and

“(v) subparagraphs (O) and (P) of paragraph (2);

“(B) the scheduled date upon which the first fully amortized payment is due;

“(C) the name of the postsecondary educational lender and servicer, and the address to which communications and payments should be sent including a telephone number and website where the borrower may obtain additional information;

“(D) a description of alternative repayment options, including Federal Direct Consolidation Loans under part D of title IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1087a et seq.), as applicable, and servicemember or veteran benefits under the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act (50 U.S.C. App. 501 et seq.) or other Federal or State law related to postsecondary education loans; and

“(E) a statement that a Servicemember and Veterans Liaison designated under paragraph (16)(K) is available to answer inquiries about servicemember and veteran benefits related to postsecondary education loans, including the toll-free telephone number to contact the Liaison pursuant to paragraph (16)(K).

“(6) DISCLOSURES WHEN BORROWER IS AT-RISK.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—Not more than 5 days after a postsecondary educational lender or servicer determines that a borrower meets the criteria established in paragraph (16)(J)(i), the postsecondary educational lender or servicer shall disclose to the borrower, in writing, clearly and conspicuously that a repayment specialist office or unit is available to discuss alternative repayment options and answer borrower inquiries related to their postsecondary educational loan, including the toll-free number to contact the office or unit pursuant to paragraph (16)(J)(iii).

“(B) OUTREACH TO AT-RISK BORROWERS.—The Director, in accordance with paragraph

(17)(A), shall promulgate rules to establish a timeline for additional live outreach by the repayment specialist office or unit to at-risk borrowers.

“(7) ACTIONS WHEN BORROWER IS 30 DAYS DELINQUENT.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—Not more than 5 days after a borrower becomes 30 days delinquent on a postsecondary education loan, the repayment specialist office or unit designated under paragraph (16)(J) shall—

“(i) make a good faith effort to establish live contact with the borrower to discuss alternative repayment options and other options available to avoid default; and

“(ii) disclose to the borrower, in writing, clearly and conspicuously—

“(I) the minimum payment that the borrower must make to bring the loan current;

“(II) a statement, related to potential charge off (as defined in paragraph (16)(A)) or assignment to collections as appropriate, to include—

“(aa) the date on which the loan will be charged-off or assigned to collections if no payment or the minimum payment required to be disclosed pursuant to item (bb) is not made;

“(bb) the minimum payment that must be made to avoid the loan being charged off or assigned to collection; and

“(cc) the consequences to the borrower of charge off or assignment to collections;

“(III) a statement that a Servicemember and Veterans Liaison designated under paragraph (16)(K) is available to answer inquiries about servicemember and veteran benefits related to postsecondary education loans, including the toll-free telephone number to contact the Liaison pursuant to paragraph (16)(K); and

“(IV) a statement that a repayment specialist office or unit designated under paragraph (16)(J) is available to answer inquiries related to alternative repayment options, including the toll-free telephone number to contact the specialist pursuant to paragraph (16)(J)(iii).

“(B) MODIFICATIONS.—The disclosures described in subparagraph (A)(ii) may be modified subject to regulations promulgated by the Director, based on consumer testing and in accordance with paragraph (17)(A).

“(8) ACTIONS WHEN BORROWER IS HAVING DIFFICULTY MAKING PAYMENT OR IS 60 DAYS DELINQUENT.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—Not more than 5 days after a borrower notifies a postsecondary educational lender or servicer that the borrower is having difficulty making payment or a borrower becomes 60 days delinquent on a postsecondary education loan, the repayment specialist office or unit designated under paragraph (16)(J) shall—

“(i) complete a full review of the borrower's postsecondary education loan and make a reasonable effort to obtain the information necessary to determine—

“(I) if the borrower is eligible for an alternative repayment option, including Federal Direct Consolidation Loans under part D of title IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1087a et seq.), as applicable;

“(II) if the borrower is eligible for servicemember or veteran benefits under the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act (50 U.S.C. App. 501 et seq.) or other Federal or State law related to postsecondary education loans; and

“(III) if the postsecondary education loan is eligible for discharge by the Secretary;

“(ii) make a good faith effort to establish live contact with the borrower to provide the borrower information about alternative repayment options and benefits for which the borrower is eligible, including all terms, conditions, and fees or costs associated with

such repayment plan, pursuant to paragraph (9)(D);

“(iii) provide to the borrower in writing, in simple and understandable terms, such information required by clause (ii);

“(iv) allow the borrower not less than 30 days to apply for an alternative repayment option or benefits, if eligible;

“(v) notify the borrower that a Servicemember and Veterans Liaison designated under paragraph (16)(K) is available to answer inquiries about servicemember and veteran benefits related to postsecondary education loans, including the toll-free telephone number to contact the Liaison pursuant to paragraph (16)(K); and

“(vi) notify the borrower that a repayment specialist office or unit designated under paragraph (16)(J) is available to answer inquiries related to alternative repayment options, including the toll-free telephone number to contact the specialist pursuant to paragraph (16)(J)(iii).

“(B) FORBEARANCE OR DEFERMENT.—If, after receiving information about alternative repayment options from the repayment specialist, a borrower notifies the postsecondary educational lender or servicer that a long-term alternative repayment option is not appropriate, the postsecondary educational lender or servicer may comply with this paragraph by providing the borrower, in writing, in simple and understandable terms, information about short-term options to address an anticipated short-term difficulty in making payments, such as forbearance or deferment options, including all terms, conditions, and fees or costs associated with such options pursuant to paragraph (9)(D).

“(C) NOTIFICATION PROCESS.—

“(i) IN GENERAL.—Each postsecondary educational lender or servicer shall establish a process, in accordance with subparagraph (A), for a borrower to notify the lender that—

“(I) the borrower is having difficulty making payments on a postsecondary education loan; and

“(II) a long-term alternative repayment option is not appropriate.

“(ii) CONSUMER FINANCIAL PROTECTION BUREAU REQUIREMENTS.—The Director shall, based on consumer testing, and in accordance with paragraph (17)(A), promulgate rules establishing minimum standards for postsecondary educational lender or servicers in carrying out the requirements of this paragraph and a model form for borrowers to notify postsecondary educational lender or servicers of the information under this paragraph.”;

(vii) in paragraph (9), as redesignated by clause (v), by adding at the end the following:

“(D) MODEL DISCLOSURE FORM FOR ALTERNATIVE REPAYMENT OPTIONS, FORBEARANCE, AND DEFERMENT OPTIONS.—Not later than 2 years after the date of enactment of the Student Loan Borrower Bill of Rights, the Director shall, based on consumer testing and through regulations promulgated in accordance with paragraph (17)(A), develop and issue model forms to allow borrowers to compare alternative repayment options, forbearance, and deferment options with the borrower's existing repayment plan with respect to a postsecondary education loan. In developing such forms, the Director shall consider and evaluate the following for inclusion:

“(i) The total amount to be paid over the life of the loan.

“(ii) The total amount in interest to be paid over the life of the loan.

“(iii) The monthly payment amount.

“(iv) The expected pay-off date.

“(v) Other related fees and costs, as applicable.

“(vi) Eligibility requirements, and how the borrower can apply for an alternative repayment option, forbearance, or deferment option.

“(vii) Any relevant consequences due to action or inaction, such as default, including any actions that would result in the loss of eligibility for alternative repayment options, forbearance, or deferment options.”;

(viii) in paragraph (12), as redesignated by clause (v), by striking “paragraph (7)” and inserting “paragraph (11)”;

(ix) by striking paragraph (14), as redesignated by clause (v), and inserting the following:

“(14) DEFINITIONS.—In this subsection—

“(A) the terms ‘covered educational institution’, ‘private educational lender’, and ‘private education loan’ have the same meanings as in section 140;

“(B) the term ‘postsecondary education loan’ means—

“(i) a private education loan; or

“(ii) a loan made, insured, or guaranteed under part B, D, or E of title IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1071 et seq., 1087a et seq., and 1087aa et seq.);

“(C) the term ‘postsecondary educational lender or servicer’ means—

“(i) an eligible lender of a loan made, insured, or guaranteed under part B of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1071 et seq.);

“(ii) any entity with which the Secretary enters into a contract under section 456 of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1087f) for origination, servicing, or collection described in subsection (b) of such section 456 and is engaged in the provision of, or offering, servicing, as defined in paragraph (16)(A)(iv), or collections regardless of whether the Secretary identifies the entity as a ‘servicer’ in such contract;

“(iii) a private education lender;

“(iv) any other person or entity engaged in the business of securing, making, or extending postsecondary education loans on behalf of a person or entity described in clause (i) or (iii); or

“(v) any other holder of a postsecondary education loan other than the Secretary;

“(D) the term ‘Director’ means the Director of the Bureau; and

“(E) the term ‘Secretary’ means the Secretary of Education.”;

(x) in paragraph (15), as redesignated by clause (v), by striking “paragraph (5)” and inserting “paragraph (9)”;

(xi) by adding at the end the following:

“(16) STUDENT LOAN BORROWER BILL OF RIGHTS.—

“(A) DEFINITIONS.—In this paragraph:

“(i) BORROWER.—The term ‘borrower’ means the person to whom a postsecondary education loan is extended.

“(ii) CHARGE OFF.—The term ‘charge off’ means charge to profit and loss, or subject to any similar action.

“(iii) QUALIFIED WRITTEN REQUEST.—

“(I) IN GENERAL.—The term ‘qualified written request’ means a written correspondence of a borrower (other than notice on a payment medium supplied by the postsecondary educational lender or servicer) transmitted by mail, facsimile, or electronically through an email address or website designated by the postsecondary educational lender or servicer to receive communications from borrowers that—

“(aa) includes, or otherwise enables the postsecondary educational lender or servicer to identify, the name and account of the borrower; and

“(bb) includes, to the extent applicable—

“(AA) sufficient detail regarding the information sought by the borrower; or

“(BB) a statement of the reasons for the belief of the borrower that there is an error regarding the account of the borrower.

“(II) CORRESPONDENCE DELIVERED TO OTHER ADDRESSES.—

“(aa) IN GENERAL.—A written correspondence of a borrower is a qualified written request if the written correspondence is transmitted to and received by a postsecondary educational lender or servicer at a mailing address, facsimile number, email address, or website address other than the address or number designated by that postsecondary educational lender or servicer to receive communications from borrowers but the written correspondence meets the requirements under items (aa) and (bb) of subclause (I).

“(bb) DUTY TO TRANSFER.—A postsecondary educational lender or servicer shall, within a reasonable period of time, transfer a written correspondence of a borrower received by the postsecondary educational lender or servicer at a mailing address, facsimile number, email address, or website address other than the address or number designated by that postsecondary educational lender or servicer to receive communications from borrowers to the correct address or appropriate office or other unit of the postsecondary educational lender or servicer.

“(cc) DATE OF RECEIPT.—A written correspondence of a borrower transferred in accordance with item (bb) shall be deemed to be received by the postsecondary educational lender or servicer on the date on which the written correspondence is transferred to the correct address or appropriate office or other unit of the postsecondary educational lender or servicer.

“(iv) SERVICING.—The term ‘servicing’ means 1 or more of the following:

“(I) Receiving any scheduled periodic payments from a borrower or notification of such payments pursuant to the terms of a postsecondary education loan or contract governing the servicing.

“(II) Applying payments to the borrower's account pursuant to the terms of the postsecondary education loan or the contract governing the servicing.

“(III) Maintaining account records for a postsecondary education loan.

“(IV) Communicating with a borrower regarding a postsecondary education loan on behalf of the postsecondary educational lender or servicer.

“(V) Interactions with a borrower, including activities to help prevent default on obligations arising from postsecondary education loans, conducted to facilitate the activities described in subclause (I) or (II).

“(B) SALE, TRANSFER, OR ASSIGNMENT.—If the sale, other transfer, assignment, or transfer of servicing obligations of a postsecondary education loan results in a change in the identity of the party to whom the borrower must send subsequent payments or direct any communications concerning the loan—

“(i) the transferor shall—

“(I) notify the borrower, in writing, in simple and understandable terms, not fewer than 45 days before transferring a legally enforceable right to receive payment from the borrower on such loan, of—

“(aa) the sale or other transfer, assignment, or transfer of servicing obligations;

“(bb) the identity of the transferee;

“(cc) the name and address of the party to whom subsequent payments or communications must be sent;

“(dd) the telephone numbers and websites of both the transferor and the transferee;

“(ee) the effective date of the sale, transfer, or assignment;

“(ff) the date on which the transferor will stop accepting payment; and

“(gg) the date on which the transferee will begin accepting payment; and

“(II) forward any payment from a borrower with respect to such postsecondary education loan to the transferee, immediately upon receiving such payment, during the 60-day period beginning on the date on which the transferor stops accepting payment of such postsecondary education loan;

“(III) provide to the transferee all borrower information and complete payment history information for any such postsecondary education loans; and

“(ii) the transferee shall—

“(I) notify the borrower, in writing, in simple and understandable terms, not fewer than 45 days before acquiring a legally enforceable right to receive payment from the borrower on such loan, of—

“(aa) the sale or other transfer, assignment, or transfer of servicing obligations;

“(bb) the identity of the transferor;

“(cc) the name and address of the party to whom subsequent payments or communications must be sent;

“(dd) the telephone numbers and websites of both the transferor and the transferee;

“(ee) the effective date of the sale, transfer, assignment, or transfer of servicing obligations;

“(ff) the date on which the transferor will stop accepting payment; and

“(gg) the date on which the transferee will begin accepting payment;

“(II) accept as on-time and may not impose any late fee or finance charge for any payment from a borrower with respect to such postsecondary education loan that is forwarded from the transferor during the 90-day period beginning on the date on which the transferor stops accepting payment, if the transferor receives such payment on or before the applicable due date, including any grace period;

“(III) provide borrowers a simple, online process for transferring existing electronic fund transfer authority; and

“(IV) honor any promotion or benefit available or granted to the borrower or advertised by the previous owner or transferor of such postsecondary education loan.

“(C) MATERIAL CHANGE IN MAILING ADDRESS OR PROCEDURE FOR HANDLING PAYMENTS.—

“(i) IN GENERAL.—If a postsecondary educational lender or servicer makes a change in the mailing address, office, or procedures for handling payments with respect to any postsecondary education loan, the postsecondary educational lender or servicer shall notify the borrower in writing and through the borrower's preferred or designated method of communication not less than 45 calendar days in advance of such change.

“(ii) BORROWER PROTECTION WINDOW.—If a change described in clause (i) causes a delay in the crediting of the account of the borrower made during the 90-day period following the date on which such change took effect, the postsecondary educational lender or servicer may not impose on the borrower any negative consequences, including negative credit reporting, lost eligibility in borrower benefits, late fees, interest capitalization, or other financial injury.

“(D) INTEREST RATE AND TERM CHANGES FOR CERTAIN POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION LOANS.—

“(i) NOTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS.—

“(I) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in clause (iii), a postsecondary educational lender or servicer shall provide written notice to a borrower of any material change in the terms of the postsecondary education loan, including an increase in the interest rate, not later than 45 days before the effective date of the change or increase.

“(II) MATERIAL CHANGES IN TERMS.—The Director shall, by regulation, establish guide-

lines for determining which changes in terms are material under subclause (I).

“(ii) LIMITS ON INTEREST RATE AND FEE INCREASES APPLICABLE TO OUTSTANDING BALANCE.—Except as provided in clause (iii), a postsecondary educational lender or servicer may not increase the interest rate or other fee applicable to an outstanding balance on a postsecondary education loan.

“(iii) EXCEPTIONS.—The requirements under clauses (i) and (ii) shall not apply to—

“(I) an increase based on an applicable variable interest rate incorporated in the terms of a postsecondary education loan that provides for changes in the interest rate according to operation of an index that is not under the control of the postsecondary educational lender or servicer and is published for viewing by the general public;

“(II) an increase in interest rate due to the completion of a workout or temporary hardship arrangement by the borrower or the failure of the borrower to comply with the terms of a workout or temporary hardship arrangement if—

“(aa) the interest rate applicable to a category of transactions following any such increase does not exceed the rate or fee that applied to that category of transactions prior to commencement of the arrangement; and

“(bb) the postsecondary educational lender or servicer has provided the borrower, prior to the commencement of such arrangement, with clear and conspicuous disclosure of the terms of the arrangement (including any increases due to such completion or failure); and

“(III) an increase in interest rate due to a provision included within the terms of a postsecondary education loan that provides for a lower interest rate based on the borrower's agreement to a prearranged plan that authorizes recurring electronic funds transfers if—

“(aa) the borrower withdraws the borrower's authorization of the prearranged recurring electronic funds transfer plan; and

“(bb) after withdrawal of the borrower's authorization and prior to increasing the interest rate, the postsecondary educational lender or servicer has provided the borrower with clear and conspicuous disclosure of the impending change in borrower's interest rate and a reasonable opportunity to reauthorize the prearranged electronic funds transfers plan.

“(E) PAYMENT INFORMATION.—

“(i) STATEMENT REQUIRED WITH EACH BILLING CYCLE.—A postsecondary educational lender or servicer for each borrower's account that is being serviced by the postsecondary educational lender or servicer and that includes a postsecondary education loan shall transmit to the borrower, for each billing cycle during which there is an outstanding balance in that account, a statement that includes—

“(I) the interest rate, principal balance, minimum monthly payment, and payment due date for each loan;

“(II) the outstanding balance in the account and each loan at the beginning of the billing cycle;

“(III) the total amount credited to the account and each loan during the billing cycle;

“(IV) the total amount of unpaid interest for the account and each loan;

“(V) the amount of any fee added to the account during the billing cycle, itemized to show each individual fee amount and reason for each fee;

“(VI) the address and phone number of the postsecondary educational lender or servicer to which the borrower may direct billing inquiries;

“(VII) the amount of any payments or other credits during the billing cycle that

was applied respectively to the principal and to interest for each loan;

“(VIII) the manner, pursuant to subparagraph (G), in which payments will be allocated among multiple loans if the borrower does not provide specific payment instructions;

“(IX) whether each loan is in deferment or forbearance;

“(X) information on how to file a complaint with the Bureau and with the ombudsman designated pursuant to section 1035 of the Consumer Financial Protection Act of 2010 (12 U.S.C. 5535) and the Department of Education;

“(XI) for any borrower considered to be at-risk, as described in subparagraph (J)(i), a statement that a repayment specialist office or unit designated under subparagraph (J) is available to answer inquiries related to alternative repayment options, including the toll-free telephone number to contact the specialist pursuant to subparagraph (J)(iii); and

“(XII) any other information determined appropriate by the Director through regulations promulgated, based on consumer testing and in accordance with paragraph (17)(A).

“(ii) DISCLOSURE OF PAYMENT DEADLINES.—In the case of a postsecondary education loan account under which a late fee or charge may be imposed due to the failure of the borrower to make payment on or before the due date for such payment, the billing statement required under clause (i) with respect to the account shall include, in a conspicuous location on the billing statement, the date on which the payment is due or, if different, the date on which a late fee will be charged, together with the amount of the late fee to be imposed if payment is made after that date.

“(F) APPLICATION OF PAYMENTS.—

“(i) APPLY PAYMENT ON DATE RECEIVED.—Unless otherwise directed by the borrower, a postsecondary educational lender or servicer shall apply payments to a borrower's account on the date the payment is received.

“(ii) PROMULGATION OF RULES.—The Director, in accordance with paragraph (17)(A), may promulgate rules for the application of postsecondary education loan payments that—

“(I) implements the requirements in this section;

“(II) minimizes the amount of fees and interest incurred by the borrower and the total loan amount paid by the borrower;

“(III) minimizes delinquencies, assignments to collection, and charge-offs;

“(IV) requires postsecondary educational lenders or servicers to apply payments on the date received; and

“(V) allows the borrower to instruct the postsecondary educational lender or servicer to apply payments in a manner preferred by the borrower.

“(iii) METHOD THAT BEST BENEFITS BORROWER.—In promulgating the rules under clause (ii), the Director shall choose the allocation method that best benefits the borrower and is compatible with existing repayment options.

“(G) ALLOCATION OF PAYMENTS AMONG MULTIPLE LOANS.—

“(i) ALLOCATION OF UNDERPAYMENTS.—Unless otherwise directed by the borrower, upon receipt of a payment that does not satisfy the full amount due for each postsecondary education loan, the postsecondary educational lender or servicer shall allocate amounts in a manner that minimizes negative consequences, including negative credit reporting and late fees, and, where multiple loans share an equal stage of delinquency, the postsecondary educational lender or servicer shall first allocate payment to the postsecondary education loan with the

smallest monthly payment, and then, after satisfying that monthly payment, to each successive loan bearing the next highest monthly payment, until the payment is exhausted. A borrower may instruct or expressly authorize a postsecondary educational lender or servicer to allocate payments in a different manner.

“(ii) ALLOCATION OF EXCESS AMOUNTS.—Unless otherwise directed by the borrower, upon receipt of a payment exceeding the total amount due among all the borrower's postsecondary education loans, the postsecondary educational lender or servicer shall satisfy the amounts due for each loan, and then allocate amounts in excess of the minimum payment amount first to the postsecondary education loan balance bearing the highest annual percentage rate, and then, once that loan is repaid, to each successive postsecondary education loan bearing the next highest annual percentage rate, until the payment is exhausted. A borrower may instruct or expressly authorize a postsecondary educational lender or servicer to allocate such excess payments in a different manner.

“(iii) ALLOCATION OF EXACT PAYMENTS.—Unless otherwise directed by the borrower upon receipt of a payment that exactly satisfies the monthly payments for each loan, the postsecondary educational lender or servicer shall allocate payments to satisfy each monthly payment.

“(iv) PROMULGATION OF RULES.—The Director, in accordance with paragraph (17)(A), may promulgate rules for the allocation of payments among multiple postsecondary education loans that—

“(I) implements the requirements in this section;

“(II) minimizes the amount of fees and interest incurred by the borrower and the total loan amount paid by the borrower;

“(III) minimizes delinquencies, assignments to collection, and charge-offs;

“(IV) requires postsecondary educational lenders or servicers to apply payments on the date received; and

“(V) allows the borrower to instruct postsecondary educational lenders or servicers to apply payments in a manner preferred by the borrower, including excess payments.

“(v) METHOD THAT BEST BENEFITS BORROWER.—In promulgating the rules under clause (iv), the Director shall choose the allocation method that best benefits the borrower and is compatible with existing repayment options.

“(H) LATE FEES.—

“(i) IN GENERAL.—A late fee may not be charged to a borrower for a postsecondary education loan under any of the following circumstances, either individually or in combination:

“(I) On a per-loan basis when a borrower has multiple postsecondary education loans.

“(II) In an amount greater than 4 percent of the amount of the payment past due.

“(III) Before the end of the 15-day period beginning on the date the payment is due.

“(IV) More than once with respect to a single late payment.

“(V) The borrower fails to make a singular, non-successive regularly-scheduled payment on the postsecondary education loan.

“(ii) COORDINATION WITH SUBSEQUENT LATE FEES.—No late fee may be charged to a borrower for a postsecondary education loan relating to an insufficient payment if the payment is made on or before the due date of the payment, or within any applicable grace period for the payment, if the insufficiency is attributable only to a late fee relating to an earlier payment, and the payment is otherwise a full payment for the applicable period.

“(iii) PAYMENTS AT LOCAL BRANCHES.—If the loan holder, in the case of a postsec-

ondary education loan account referred to in subparagraph (A), is a financial institution that maintains a branch or office at which payments on any such account are accepted from the borrower in person, the date on which the borrower makes a payment on the account at such branch or office shall be considered to be the date on which the payment is made for purposes of determining whether a late fee may be imposed due to the failure of the borrower to make payment on or before the due date for such payment.

“(I) BORROWER INQUIRIES.—

“(i) DUTY OF POSTSECONDARY EDUCATIONAL LENDERS OR SERVICERS TO RESPOND TO BORROWER INQUIRIES.—

“(I) NOTICE OF RECEIPT OF REQUEST.—If a borrower submits a qualified written request to the postsecondary educational lender or servicer for information relating to the servicing of the postsecondary education loan, the postsecondary educational lender or servicer shall provide a written response acknowledging receipt of the qualified written request within 5 business days unless any action requested by the borrower is taken within such period.

“(II) ACTION WITH RESPECT TO INQUIRY.—Not later than 30 business days after the receipt from a borrower of a qualified written request under subclause (I) and, if applicable, before taking any action with respect to the qualified written request of the borrower, the postsecondary educational lender or servicer shall—

“(aa) make appropriate corrections in the account of the borrower, including the crediting of any late fees, and transmit to the borrower a written notification of such correction (which shall include the name and toll-free or collect-call telephone number of a representative of the postsecondary educational lender or servicer who can provide assistance to the borrower);

“(bb) after conducting an investigation, provide the borrower with a written explanation or clarification that includes—

“(AA) to the extent applicable, a statement of the reasons for which the postsecondary educational lender or servicer believes the account of the borrower is correct as determined by the postsecondary educational lender or servicer; and

“(BB) the name and toll-free or collect-call telephone number of an individual employed by, or the office or department of, the postsecondary educational lender or servicer who can provide assistance to the borrower; or

“(cc) after conducting an investigation, provide the borrower with a written explanation or clarification that includes—

“(AA) information requested by the borrower or explanation of why the information requested is unavailable or cannot be obtained by the postsecondary educational lender or servicer; and

“(BB) the name and toll-free or collect-call telephone number of an individual employed by, or the office or department of, the postsecondary educational lender or servicer who can provide assistance to the borrower.

“(III) LIMITED EXTENSION OF RESPONSE TIME.—

“(aa) IN GENERAL.—There may be 1 extension of the 30-day period described in subclause (II) of not more than 15 days if, before the end of such 30-day period, the postsecondary educational lender or servicer notifies the borrower of the extension and the reasons for the delay in responding.

“(bb) REPORTS TO BUREAU.—Each postsecondary educational lender or servicer shall, on an annual basis, report to the Bureau the aggregate number of extensions sought by the such postsecondary educational lender or servicer under item (aa).

“(ii) PROTECTION AGAINST NEGATIVE CONSEQUENCES.—During the 60-day period beginning on the date on which a postsecondary educational lender or servicer receives a qualified written request from a borrower relating to a dispute regarding payments by the borrower, a postsecondary educational lender or servicer may not impose any negative consequences on the borrower relating to the subject of the qualified written request or to such period including—

“(I) providing negative credit information to any consumer reporting agency (as defined in section 603 of the Fair Credit Reporting Act (15 U.S.C. 1681a));

“(II) lost eligibility for a borrower benefit;

“(III) late fees;

“(IV) interest capitalization; or

“(V) other financial injury.

“(J) REPAYMENT SPECIALISTS FOR AT-RISK BORROWERS.—

“(i) AT-RISK BORROWERS.—A postsecondary educational lender or servicer shall designate an office or other unit to act as a repayment specialist regarding postsecondary education loans for—

“(I) any borrower who—

“(aa) becomes 30 calendar days or more delinquent under the postsecondary education loan; or

“(bb) notifies the postsecondary educational lender or servicer pursuant to paragraph (8)(C) that the borrower is having difficulty making payment;

“(II) any borrower who requests information related to options to reduce or suspend the borrower's monthly payment, or otherwise indicates that the borrower is experiencing or is about to experience financial hardship or distress;

“(III) any borrower who has not completed the program of study for which the borrower received the loans;

“(IV) any borrower who is enrolled in discretionary forbearance for more than 9 of the previous 12 months;

“(V) any borrower who has rehabilitated or consolidated 1 or more postsecondary education loans out of default within the prior 24 months;

“(VI) a borrower who seeks information regarding, seeks to enter an agreement for, or seeks to resolve an issue under a repayment option that requires subsequent submission of supporting documentation;

“(VII) a borrower who seeks to modify the terms of the repayment of the postsecondary education loan because of hardship; and

“(VIII) any borrower or segment of borrowers determined by the Director or the Secretary to be at-risk.

“(ii) TRAINING.—Staff of the repayment specialist office or unit designated under clause (i) shall—

“(I) receive rigorous, ongoing training related to available repayment plans, loan forgiveness, and cancellation and discharge options; and

“(II) be trained to—

“(aa) assess the borrower's long-term and short-term financial situation in discussing alternative repayment options with borrowers;

“(bb) inform borrowers, when there is sufficient information to determine that a borrower may be eligible, about closed-school discharge, discharge under defense to repayment, or total and permanent disability discharge prior to informing the borrower about any other options for repayment; and

“(cc) inform borrowers about alternative repayment options, prior to discussing forbearance and deferment.

“(iii) TOLL-FREE TELEPHONE NUMBER.—Each postsecondary educational lender or servicer shall maintain a toll-free telephone number that shall—

“(I) connect directly to the repayment specialist office or unit designated under clause (i);

“(II) be made available on the primary internet website of the postsecondary educational lender or servicer, on monthly billing statements, and any disclosures required by paragraph (6); and

“(III) not subject borrowers to unreasonable call wait times.

“(iv) COMPENSATION.—Staff of the repayment specialist office or unit designated under clause (i) shall not be compensated on the basis of the volume of calls or accounts handled, dollar amounts collected, brevity of calls, or in any other manner that may encourage undue haste and lack of diligence or quality customer service.

“(K) SERVICEMEMBERS, VETERANS, AND POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION LOANS.—

“(i) SERVICEMEMBER AND VETERANS LIAISON.—Each postsecondary educational lender or servicer shall designate an employee to act as the servicemember and veterans liaison who is responsible for answering inquiries from servicemembers and veterans, and is specially trained on servicemember and veteran benefits under the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act (50 U.S.C. App. 501 et seq.) and other Federal or State laws related to postsecondary education loans.

“(ii) TOLL-FREE TELEPHONE NUMBER.—Each postsecondary educational lender or servicer shall maintain a toll-free telephone number that shall—

“(I) connect directly to the servicemember and veterans liaison designated under clause (i);

“(II) be made available on the primary internet website of postsecondary educational lender or servicer and on monthly billing statements; and

“(III) not subject borrowers to unreasonable call wait times.

“(iii) PROHIBITION ON CHARGE OFFS AND DEFAULT.—A postsecondary educational lender or servicer may not charge off or report a postsecondary education loan as delinquent, assigned to collection (internally or by referral to a third party), in default, or charged-off to a credit reporting agency if the borrower is on active duty in the Armed Forces (as defined in section 101(d)(1) of title 10, United States Code) serving in a combat zone (as designated by the President under section 112(c) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986).

“(iv) ADDITIONAL LIAISONS.—The Director, in consultation with the Secretary, shall determine additional entities with whom borrowers interact, including guaranty agencies, that shall designate an employee to act as the servicemember and veterans liaison who is responsible for answering inquiries from servicemembers and veterans and is specially trained on servicemembers and veteran benefits and option under the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act (50 U.S.C. App. 501 et seq.).

“(L) BORROWER'S LOAN HISTORY.—

“(i) IN GENERAL.—A postsecondary educational lender or servicer shall make available in a secure electronic form usable by borrowers, or in writing upon request, the loan history of each borrower for each postsecondary education loan, separately designating—

“(I) payment history, including repayment plan and payments—

“(aa) made on such loan to previous postsecondary educational lenders or servicers; and

“(bb) qualifying toward a loan forgiveness program and designating such program;

“(II) loan history, including any forbearances, deferrals, delinquencies, assignment to collection, and charge offs;

“(III) annual percentage rate history;

“(IV) key loan terms, including application of payments to interest, principal, and fees, origination date, principal, capitalized interest, annual percentage rate, including any cap, loan term, and any contractual incentives;

“(V) amount due to pay off the outstanding balance; and

“(VI) any other items determined by the Director through regulations promulgated in accordance with paragraph (17)(A).

“(ii) ORIGINAL DOCUMENTATION.—A postsecondary educational lender or servicer shall make available to the borrower, if requested, at no charge, copies of the original loan documents and the promissory note for each postsecondary education loan.

“(M) ERROR RESOLUTION.—The Director, in consultation with the Secretary, shall promulgate rules requiring postsecondary educational lenders or servicers to establish error resolution procedures to allow borrowers to inquire about errors related to their postsecondary education loans and obtain timely resolution of such errors.

“(N) ADDITIONAL SERVICING STANDARDS.—

“(i) PROHIBITIONS.—A postsecondary educational lender or servicer may not—

“(I) charge a fee for responding to a qualified written request under this paragraph;

“(II) fail to take timely action to respond to a qualified written request from a borrower to correct an error relating to an allocation of payment or the payoff amount of the postsecondary education loan;

“(III) fail to take reasonable steps to avail the borrower of all possible alternative repayment arrangements to avoid default;

“(IV) fail to perform the obligations required under title IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1070 et seq.);

“(V) fail to respond within 10 business days to a request from a borrower to provide the name, address, and other relevant contact information of the loan holder of the borrower's postsecondary education loan or, for a Federal Direct Loan or a Federal Perkins Loan, the Secretary of Education, or the institution of higher education who made the loan, respectively;

“(VI) fail to comply with any applicable requirement of the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act (50 U.S.C. App. 501 et seq.);

“(VII) charge a convenience, processing, or any other fee for payments made electronically or by telephone;

“(VIII) fail to comply with any other obligation that the Bureau, by regulation, has determined to be appropriate to carry out the consumer protection purposes of this paragraph; or

“(IX) fail to perform other standard servicing duties and functions.

“(ii) BUSINESS HOURS.—Postsecondary educational lenders or servicers shall be open for borrower inquiries and outreach during and after normal business hours, including availability after 5:00 pm in all continental United States time zones and some weekend hours.

“(iii) ADDITIONAL STANDARDS.—The Director may promulgate regulations, in accordance with paragraph (17)(A), establishing additional servicing standards to reduce delinquencies, assignment to collections, defaults, and charge-offs, and to ensure borrowers understand their rights and obligations related to their postsecondary education loans.

“(O) PROHIBITION ON LIMITING BORROWER LEGAL ACTION BY POSTSECONDARY EDUCATIONAL LENDERS AND SERVICERS.—

“(i) WAIVER OF RIGHTS AND REMEDIES.—Any rights and remedies available to borrowers against postsecondary educational lenders or

servicers may not be waived by any agreement, policy, or form, including by a mandatory predispute arbitration agreement or class action waiver.

“(ii) **PREDISPUTE ARBITRATION AGREEMENTS.**—No limitation or restriction on the ability of a borrower to pursue a claim in court with respect to a postsecondary education loan, including mandatory predispute arbitration agreements and class action waivers, shall be valid or enforceable by a postsecondary educational lender or servicer, including as a third-party beneficiary or by estoppel.

“(P) **PREEMPTION.**—Nothing in this paragraph may be construed to preempt any provision of State law regarding postsecondary education loans where the State law provides stronger consumer protections.

“(Q) **CIVIL LIABILITY.**—A postsecondary educational lender or servicer that fails to comply with any requirement imposed under this paragraph shall be deemed a creditor that has failed to comply with a requirement under this chapter for purposes of liability under section 130 and such postsecondary educational lender or servicer shall be subject to the liability provisions under such section, including the provisions under paragraphs (1), (2)(A)(i), (2)(B), and (3) of section 130(a).

“(R) **ELIGIBILITY FOR DISCHARGE.**—The Director, in accordance with paragraph (17)(A), shall promulgate rules requiring postsecondary educational lenders and servicers to—

“(i) identify and contact borrowers who may be eligible for student loan discharge by the Secretary, including under section 437 of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1087); and

“(ii) provide the borrower, in writing, in simple and understandable terms, information about obtaining such discharge.

“(17) **CONSUMER FINANCIAL PROTECTION BUREAU REQUIREMENTS.**—

“(A) **RULEMAKING.**—The Director shall, based on consumer testing (as appropriate) and upon consideration of any final recommendations published by the Secretary under section 456(g)(3) of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1087f(g)(3)), promulgate regulations in consultation with the Secretary, to carry out the requirements of this subsection.

“(B) **COMPLIANCE FOR CERTAIN ENTITIES.**—

“(i) **IN GENERAL.**—The Director may promulgate regulations under subparagraph (A) to require an entity or class of entities with which the Secretary has entered into a contract under section 456 of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1087f) to comply with an alternative requirement or standard promulgated by the Director in lieu of compliance with any requirement or standard under this subsection if the Director determines that—

“(I) such entity or class of entities are not required by the Secretary pursuant to the contract to perform a servicing function governed by the requirement or standard, and where such function is required by the Secretary, to be performed by another entity or class of entities; or

“(II) the Secretary, in consultation with the Chief Operating Officer of Federal Student Aid, has promulgated regulations to establish an alternative requirement or standard with respect to such entity or class of entities that better benefits or protects borrowers and the Director incorporates such requirement or standard that better benefits or protects borrowers into regulations promulgated under subparagraph (A).

“(ii) **REPORTS.**—The Director shall report to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs of the Senate, the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions of

the Senate, the Committee on Financial Services of the House of Representatives, and the Committee on Education and Labor of the House of Representatives on any regulations promulgated under clause (i).

“(18) **POSTSECONDARY EDUCATIONAL LENDERS OR SERVICERS AND CONTRACTS OR SUBCONTRACTS.**—

“(A) **IN GENERAL.**—Any person or entity that enters into a contract or subcontract with a postsecondary educational lender or servicer to perform the servicing of a postsecondary educational loan may fulfill the obligations of the postsecondary educational lender or servicer under this subsection.

“(B) **JOINT AND SEVERAL LIABILITY FOR SERVICE PROVIDERS.**—Any entity or person described in subparagraph (A) shall be jointly and severally liable for the actions of the entity or person in fulfilling the obligations of the postsecondary educational lender or servicer under this subsection.”; and

(B) by adding at the end the following:

“(g) **INFORMATION TO BE AVAILABLE AT NO CHARGE.**—The information required to be disclosed under this section shall be made available at no charge to the borrower.”; and

(2) in section 130(a)—

(A) in paragraph (3), by striking “128(e)(7)” and inserting “128(e)(11)”;

(B) in the flush matter at the end, by striking “or paragraph (4)(C), (6), (7), or (8) of section 128(e),” and inserting “or paragraph (4)(C), (10), (11), or (12) of section 128(e),”.

(b) **EFFECTIVE DATE.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—The amendments made under subsection (a) shall be effective 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act.

(2) **DELAY.**—The Director of the Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection shall delay the effective date of the amendments made under subsection (a) for not more than 1 additional year with respect to entities engaged in servicing pursuant to a contract awarded under section 456 of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1087f) pending the Secretary of Education’s final recommendations required under section 456(g) of such Act related to the promulgation of regulations by the Director under section 128(e)(17) of the Truth in Lending Act (15 U.S.C. 1638(e)(17)).

SEC. 4. REHABILITATION OF PRIVATE EDUCATION LOANS.

Section 623(a)(1)(E) of the Fair Credit Reporting Act (15 U.S.C. 1681s-2(a)(1)(E)) is amended to read as follows:

“(E) **REHABILITATION OF PRIVATE EDUCATION LOANS.**—

“(i) **IN GENERAL.**—If a borrower of a private education loan rehabilitates such loan in accordance with section 128(e)(23) of the Truth in Lending Act (15 U.S.C. 1638(e)(23)), the private educational lender or entity engaged in servicing such loan shall request that any consumer reporting agency to which the charge-off was reported remove the delinquency that led to the charge-off and the charge-off from the borrower’s credit history.

“(ii) **BANKING AGENCIES.**—

“(I) **IN GENERAL.**—If a private educational lender is supervised by a Federal banking agency, the private educational lender shall seek written approval from the Federal banking agency that the terms and conditions of the loan rehabilitation program of the lender meet the requirements of section 128(e)(23) of the Truth in Lending Act (15 U.S.C. 1638(e)(23)).

“(II) **FEEDBACK.**—An appropriate Federal banking agency shall provide feedback to a private educational lender within 120 days of a request for approval under subclause (I).

“(iii) **DEFINITIONS.**—For purposes of this subparagraph—

“(I) the term ‘appropriate Federal banking agency’ has the meaning given the term in

section 3 of the Federal Deposit Insurance Act (12 U.S.C. 1813); and

“(II) the term ‘private education loan’ has the meaning given the term in section 140(a) of the Truth in Lending Act (15 U.S.C. 1650(a)).”.

SEC. 5. IMPROVED CONSUMER PROTECTIONS FOR PRIVATE EDUCATION LOANS.

Section 128(e) of the Truth in Lending Act (15 U.S.C. 1638(e)), as amended by section 3, is further amended—

(1) by adding at the end the following:

“(19) **DISCHARGE OF PRIVATE EDUCATION LOANS IN THE EVENT OF DEATH OR DISABILITY OF THE BORROWER.**—Each private education loan shall include terms that provide that the liability to repay the loan shall be cancelled—

“(A) upon the death of the borrower;

“(B) if the borrower becomes permanently and totally disabled, as determined under section 437(a)(1) of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1087(a)(1)) and the regulations promulgated by the Secretary under that section; or

“(C) if the Secretary of Veterans Affairs or the Secretary of Defense determines that the borrower is unemployable due to a service-connected condition or disability, in accordance with the requirements of section 437(a)(2) of such Act and the regulations promulgated by the Secretary under that section.

“(20) **TERMS FOR CO-BORROWERS.**—Each private education loan shall include terms that clearly define the requirements to release a co-borrower from the obligation.

“(21) **PROHIBITION OF ACCELERATION OF PAYMENTS ON PRIVATE EDUCATION LOANS.**—

“(A) **IN GENERAL.**—Except as provided in subparagraph (B), a private education loan executed after the date of enactment of this paragraph may not include a provision that permits the private educational lender, loan holder, or entity engaged in servicing such loan to accelerate, in whole or in part, payments on the private education loan.

“(B) **ACCELERATION CAUSED BY A PAYMENT DEFAULT.**—A private education loan may include a provision that permits acceleration of the loan in cases of payment default.

“(22) **PROHIBITION ON DENIAL OF CREDIT DUE TO ELIGIBILITY FOR PROTECTION UNDER SERVICEMEMBERS CIVIL RELIEF ACT.**—A private educational lender may not deny or refuse credit to an individual who is entitled to any right or protection provided under the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act (50 U.S.C. App. 501 et seq.) or subject, solely by reason of such entitlement, such individual to any other action described in paragraphs (1) through (6) of section 108 of such Act.

“(23) **REHABILITATION OF PRIVATE EDUCATION LOANS.**—

“(A) **IN GENERAL.**—If a borrower of a private education loan successfully and voluntarily makes 9 payments within 20 days of the due date during 10 consecutive months of amounts owed on the private education loan, or otherwise brings the private education loan current after the loan is charged-off, the loan shall be considered rehabilitated, and the lender or entity engaged in servicing such loan shall request that any consumer reporting agency to which the charge-off was reported remove the delinquency that led to the charge-off and the charge-off from the borrower’s credit history.

“(B) **TERMS.**—No private educational lender shall offer a borrower rehabilitation of loans where the payment required to rehabilitate a defaulted private education loan is less than the monthly payment amount required upon completion of rehabilitation.”;

(2) in paragraph (1)—

(A) by striking subparagraph (D) and inserting the following:

“(D) requirements for a co-borrower, including—

“(i) any changes in the applicable interest rates without a co-borrower; and

“(ii) any conditions the borrower is required meet in order to release a co-borrower from the private education loan obligation;”;

(B) by redesignating subparagraphs (O), (P), (Q), and (R) as subparagraphs (P), (Q), (R), and (S), respectively; and

(C) by inserting after subparagraph (N) the following:

“(O) in the case of a refinancing of education loans that include a Federal student loan made, insured, or guaranteed under title IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1070 et seq.)—

“(i) a list containing each loan to be refinanced, which shall identify whether the loan is a private education loan or a Federal student loan made, insured, or guaranteed under title IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1070 et seq.); and

“(ii) benefits that the borrower may be forfeiting, including income-driven repayment options, opportunities for loan forgiveness, forbearance or deferment options, interest subsidies, and tax benefits;”;

(3) in paragraph (2)—

(A) by redesignating subparagraphs (O) and (P) as subparagraphs (P) and (Q), respectively; and

(B) by inserting after subparagraph (N) the following:

“(O) in the case of a refinancing of education loans that include a Federal student loan made, insured, or guaranteed under title IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1070 et seq.)—

“(i) a list containing each loan to be refinanced, which shall identify whether the loan is a private education loan or a Federal student loan made, insured, or guaranteed under title IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1070 et seq.); and

“(ii) benefits that the borrower may be forfeiting, including income-driven repayment options, opportunities for loan forgiveness, forbearance or deferment options, interest subsidies, and tax benefits;”.

SEC. 6. KNOW BEFORE YOU OWE.

(a) AMENDMENTS TO THE TRUTH IN LENDING ACT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Section 128(e) of the Truth in Lending Act (15 U.S.C. 1638(e)), as amended by sections 3 and 5, is further amended—

(A) by striking paragraph (3) and inserting the following:

“(3) INSTITUTIONAL CERTIFICATION REQUIRED.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in subparagraph (B), before a creditor may issue any funds with respect to an extension of credit described in this subsection, the creditor shall obtain from the relevant institution of higher education where such loan is to be used for a student, such institution's certification of—

“(i) the enrollment status of the student;

“(ii) the student's cost of attendance at the institution as determined by the institution under part F of title IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1087kk et seq.); and

“(iii) the difference between—

“(I) such cost of attendance; and

“(II) the student's estimated financial assistance, including such assistance received under title IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1070 et seq.) (except for Federal Direct PLUS Loans made on behalf of the student) and other financial assistance known to the institution, as applicable (except for loans made under the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 201 et seq.)).

“(B) EXCEPTION.—Notwithstanding subparagraph (A), a creditor may issue funds,

not to exceed the amount described in subparagraph (A)(iii), with respect to an extension of credit described in this subsection without obtaining from the relevant institution of higher education such institution's certification if such institution fails to provide within 15 business days of the creditor's request for such certification—

“(i) notification of the institution's refusal to certify the request; or

“(ii) notification that the institution has received the request for certification and will need additional time to comply with the certification request.

“(C) LOANS DISBURSED WITHOUT CERTIFICATION.—If a creditor issues funds without obtaining a certification, as described in subparagraph (B), such creditor shall report the issuance of such funds in a manner determined by the Director.”; and

(B) by adding at the end the following:

“(24) PROVISION OF INFORMATION.—

“(A) PROVISION OF INFORMATION TO STUDENTS.—

“(i) LOAN STATEMENT.—A creditor that issues any funds with respect to an extension of credit described in this subsection shall send loan statements, where such loan is to be used for a student, to borrowers of such funds not less than once every 3 months during the time that such student is enrolled at an institution of higher education.

“(ii) CONTENTS OF LOAN STATEMENT.—Each statement described in clause (i) shall—

“(I) report the borrower's total remaining debt to the creditor, including accrued but unpaid interest and capitalized interest;

“(II) report any debt increases since the last statement; and

“(III) list the current interest rate for each loan.

“(B) NOTIFICATION OF LOANS DISBURSED WITHOUT CERTIFICATION.—On or before the date a creditor issues any funds with respect to an extension of credit described in this subsection, the creditor shall notify the relevant institution of higher education, in writing, of the amount of the extension of credit and the student on whose behalf credit is extended. The form of such written notification shall be subject to the regulations of the Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection.

“(C) ANNUAL REPORT.—A creditor that issues funds with respect to an extension of credit described in this subsection shall prepare and submit an annual report to the Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection containing the required information about private student loans to be determined by the Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection, in consultation with the Secretary.”.

(2) DEFINITION OF PRIVATE EDUCATION LOAN.—Section 140(a)(8)(A) of the Truth in Lending Act (15 U.S.C. 1650(a)(8)(A)) is amended—

(A) by redesignating clause (ii) as clause (iii);

(B) in clause (i), by striking “and” after the semicolon; and

(C) by adding after clause (i) the following:

“(ii) is not made, insured, or guaranteed under title VII or title VIII of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 292 et seq. and 296 et seq.); and”.

(3) REGULATIONS.—Not later than 365 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Director of the Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection shall issue regulations in final form to implement paragraphs (3) and (23) of section 128(e) of the Truth in Lending Act (15 U.S.C. 1638(e)), as amended by paragraph (1). Such regulations shall become effective not later than 6 months after their date of issuance.

(b) AMENDMENTS TO THE HIGHER EDUCATION ACT OF 1965.—

(1) PROGRAM PARTICIPATION AGREEMENTS.—Section 487(a) of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1094(a)) is amended by striking paragraph (28) and inserting the following:

“(28)(A) Upon the request of a private educational lender, acting in connection with an application initiated by a borrower for a private education loan in accordance with section 128(e)(3) of the Truth in Lending Act (15 U.S.C. 1638(e)(3)), the institution shall within 15 days of receipt of a certification request—

“(i) provide such certification to such private educational lender—

“(I) that the student who initiated the application for the private education loan, or on whose behalf the application was initiated, is enrolled or is scheduled to enroll at the institution;

“(II) of such student's cost of attendance at the institution as determined under part F of this title; and

“(III) of the difference between—

“(aa) the cost of attendance at the institution; and

“(bb) the student's estimated financial assistance received under this title (except for Federal Direct PLUS Loans made on behalf of the student) and other assistance known to the institution, as applicable (except for loans made under the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 201 et seq.));

“(ii) notify the creditor that the institution has received the request for certification and will need additional time to comply with the certification request; or

“(iii) provide notice to the private educational lender of the institution's refusal to certify the private education loan under subparagraph (D).

“(B) With respect to a certification request described in subparagraph (A), and prior to providing such certification under subparagraph (A)(i) or providing notice of the refusal to provide certification under subparagraph (A)(iii), the institution shall—

“(i) determine whether the student who initiated the application for the private education loan, or on whose behalf the application was initiated, has applied for and exhausted the Federal financial assistance available to such student under this title and inform the student accordingly; and

“(ii) provide the borrower whose loan application has prompted the certification request by a private educational lender, as described in subparagraph (A)(i), with the following information and disclosures:

“(I) The availability of, and the borrower's potential eligibility for, Federal financial assistance under this title, including disclosing the terms, conditions, interest rates, and repayment options and programs of Federal student loans.

“(II) The borrower's ability to select a private educational lender of the borrower's choice.

“(III) The impact of a proposed private education loan on the borrower's potential eligibility for other financial assistance, including Federal financial assistance under this title.

“(IV) The borrower's right to accept or reject a private education loan within the 30-day period following a private educational lender's approval of a borrower's application and about a borrower's 3-day right to cancel period.

“(C) For purposes of this paragraph, the terms ‘private educational lender’ and ‘private education loan’ have the meanings given such terms in section 140 of the Truth in Lending Act (15 U.S.C. 1650).

“(D)(i) An institution shall not provide a certification with respect to a private education loan under this paragraph unless the private education loan includes terms that provide—

“(I) the borrower alternative repayment options, including loan consolidation or refinancing; and

“(II) for the discharge of the borrower and co-borrower’s, if applicable, liability to repay the loan pursuant to paragraphs (19) and (20) of section 128(e) of the Truth in Lending Act (15 U.S.C. 1638(e)).

“(ii) In this paragraph, the term ‘disability’ means a permanent and total disability, as determined in accordance with the regulations of the Secretary of Education, or a determination by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs that the borrower is unemployable due to a service connected-disability.”.

(2) **EFFECTIVE DATE.**—The amendment made by paragraph (1) shall take effect on the effective date of the regulations described in subsection (a)(3).

(3) **PREFERRED LENDER ARRANGEMENT.**—Section 151(8)(A)(ii) of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1019(8)(A)(ii)) is amended by inserting “certifying,” after “promoting.”.

(c) **REPORT.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Not later than 24 months after the issuance of regulations under subsection (a)(3), the Director of the Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection and the Secretary of Education shall jointly submit to Congress a report on the compliance of—

(A) private educational lenders with section 128(e)(3) of the Truth in Lending Act (15 U.S.C. 1638(e)), as amended by subsection (a); and

(B) institutions of higher education with section 487(a)(28) of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1094(a)), as amended by subsection (b).

(2) **CONTENTS.**—The report under paragraph (1) shall include information about the degree to which specific institutions utilize certifications in effectively—

(A) encouraging the exhaustion of Federal student loan eligibility by borrowers prior to taking on private education loan debt; and

(B) lowering student private education loan debt by borrowers.

SEC. 7. CENTRALIZED POINT OF ACCESS.

Part G of title IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1088 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“SEC. 493E. CENTRALIZED POINT OF ACCESS.

“Not later than 2 years after the date of enactment of the Student Loan Borrower Bill of Rights, the Secretary shall establish a centralized point of access for all borrowers of loans that are made, insured, or guaranteed under this title that are in repayment, including a central location for account information and payment processing for such loan servicing, regardless of the specific entity engaged in servicing.”.

SEC. 8. EDUCATION LOAN OMBUDSMAN.

Section 1035 of the Consumer Financial Protection Act of 2010 (12 U.S.C. 5535) is amended—

(1) in the section heading, by striking “PRIVATE”;

(2) in subsection (a)—

(A) by striking “a Private” and inserting “an”; and

(B) by striking “private”;

(3) in subsection (b), by striking “private education student loan” and inserting “postsecondary education loan”;

(4) in subsection (c)—

(A) in the matter preceding paragraph (1), by striking “subsection” and inserting “section”;

(B) in paragraph (1), by striking “private”;

(C) by striking paragraph (2) and inserting the following:

“(2) coordinate with the unit of the Bureau established under section 1013(b)(3), in order to monitor complaints by borrowers and re-

sponses to those complaints by the Bureau or other appropriate Federal or State agency.”; and

(D) in paragraph (3), by striking “private”;

(5) in subsection (d)—

(A) in paragraph (2)—

(i) by striking “on the same day annually”; and

(ii) by inserting “and be made available to the public” after “Representatives”; and

(B) by adding at the end the following:

“(3) **CONTENTS.**—The report required under paragraph (1) shall include information on the number, nature, and resolution of complaints received, disaggregated by postsecondary educational lender or servicer, region, State, and institution of higher education.”; and

(6) by striking subsection (e) and inserting the following:

“(e) **DEFINITIONS.**—In this section:

“(1) **BORROWER.**—The term ‘borrower’ means a borrower of a postsecondary education loan.

“(2) **INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION.**—The term ‘institution of higher education’ has the meaning given the term in section 140 of the Truth in Lending Act (15 U.S.C. 1650).

“(3) **POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION LOAN.**—The term ‘postsecondary education loan’ means—

“(A) a private education loan, as defined in section 140 of the Truth in Lending Act (15 U.S.C. 1650); or

“(B) a loan made, insured, or guaranteed under part B, D, or E of title IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1071 et seq., 1087a et seq., and 1087aa et seq.).”.

SEC. 9. REPORT ON PRIVATE EDUCATION LOANS AND PRIVATE EDUCATIONAL LENDERS.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Not later than 2 years after the date of enactment of this Act, the Director of the Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection and the Secretary of Education, in consultation with the Commissioners of the Federal Trade Commission and the Attorney General of the United States, shall submit a report to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs of the Senate, the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions of the Senate, the Committee on Financial Services of the House of Representatives, and the Committee on Education and Labor of the House of Representatives on private education loans (as that term is defined in section 140 of the Truth in Lending Act (15 U.S.C. 1650)) and private educational lenders (as that term is defined in such section).

(b) **CONTENTS.**—The report required by this section shall examine, at a minimum—

(1) the growth and changes of the private education loan market in the United States;

(2) factors influencing such growth and changes;

(3) the extent to which students and parents of students rely on private education loans to finance postsecondary education and the private education loan indebtedness of borrowers;

(4) the characteristics of private education loan borrowers, including—

(A) the types of institutions of higher education that they attend;

(B) socioeconomic characteristics (including income and education levels, racial characteristics, geographical background, age, and gender);

(C) what other forms of financing borrowers use to pay for education;

(D) whether they exhaust their Federal loan options before taking out a private education loan;

(E) whether such borrowers are dependent or independent students (as determined under part F of title IV of the Higher Edu-

cation Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1087kk et seq.)) or parents of such students;

(F) whether such borrowers are students enrolled in a program leading to a certificate, license, or credential other than a degree, an associates degree, a baccalaureate degree, or a graduate or professional degree; and

(G) if practicable, employment and repayment behaviors;

(5) the characteristics of private educational lenders, including whether such creditors are for-profit, non-profit, or institutions of higher education;

(6) the underwriting criteria used by private educational lenders, including the use of cohort default rate (as such term is defined in section 435(m) of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1085(m)));

(7) the terms, conditions, and pricing of private education loans;

(8) the consumer protections available to private education loan borrowers, including the effectiveness of existing disclosures and requirements and borrowers’ awareness and understanding about terms and conditions of various financial products;

(9) whether Federal regulators and the public have access to information sufficient to provide them with assurances that private education loans are provided in accord with the Nation’s fair lending laws and that allows public officials to determine lender compliance with fair lending laws; and

(10) any statutory or legislative recommendations necessary to improve consumer protections for private education loan borrowers and to better enable Federal regulators and the public to ascertain private educational lender compliance with fair lending laws.

SEC. 10. REPORT ON POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION LOAN SERVICING.

Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Director of the Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection and the Secretary of Education shall submit a joint report to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs of the Senate, the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions of the Senate, the Committee on Financial Services of the House of Representatives, and the Committee on Education and Labor of the House of Representatives on servicing of postsecondary education loans, including—

(1) any legislative recommendations to improve servicing standards; and

(2) information on proactive early intervention methods by postsecondary educational lenders or servicers to help distressed postsecondary education loan borrowers enroll in any eligible repayment plans.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 192—TO AUTHORIZE TESTIMONY AND REPRESENTATION IN STATE OF NEVADA V. LACAMERA

Mr. MCCONNELL (for himself and Mr. SCHUMER) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 192

Whereas, in the case of *State of Nevada v. Lacamera*, Case No. 19FN0945X, pending in the North Las Vegas Justice Court in Nevada, the prosecution has requested the production of testimony from Ariana Morales, an employee of the office of Senator Catherine Cortez Masto;

Whereas, pursuant to sections 703(a) and 704(a)(2) of the Ethics in Government Act of 1978, 2 U.S.C. §§288b(a) and 288c(a)(2), the Senate may direct its counsel to represent current and former Members and employees of the Senate with respect to any subpoena, order, or request for testimony relating to their official responsibilities;

Whereas, by the privileges of the Senate of the United States and Rule XI of the Standing Rules of the Senate, no evidence under the control or in the possession of the Senate may, by the judicial or administrative process, be taken from such control or possession but by permission of the Senate; and

Whereas, when it appears that evidence under the control or in the possession of the Senate may promote the administration of justice, the Senate will take such action as will promote the ends of justice consistent with the privileges of the Senate: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That Ariana Morales, an employee of the Office of Senator Catherine Cortez Masto, and any other current or former employee of the Senator's office from whom relevant evidence may be necessary, are authorized to testify in the case of *State of Nevada v. Lacamera*, except concerning matters for which a privilege should be asserted.

SEC. 2. The Senate Legal Counsel is authorized to represent Senator Cortez Masto and any current or former employees of the Senator's office in connection with the production of evidence authorized in section one of this resolution.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, on behalf of myself and the distinguished Democratic leader, Mr. SCHUMER, I send to the desk a resolution authorizing the production of testimony and representation by the Senate Legal Counsel, and ask for its immediate consideration.

Mr. President, this resolution concerns a request for evidence in a criminal action pending in Nevada State court. In this action the defendant is charged with threatening or attempting to intimidate public officials in voicemails he left with the Las Vegas office of Senator CORTEZ MASTO. A preliminary hearing is scheduled for May 8, 2019.

The prosecution is seeking testimony from one of the Senator's staff assistants who listened to the voicemails at issue. Senator CORTEZ MASTO would like to cooperate with this request by providing relevant employee testimony from her office.

The enclosed resolution would authorize that staffer, and any other current or former employee of the Senator's office from whom relevant testimony may be needed, to testify in this criminal action, with representation by the Senate Legal Counsel.

SENATE RESOLUTION 193—DESIGNATING MAY 18, 2019, AS “KIDS TO PARKS DAY”

Mr. WYDEN (for himself, Mr. ALEXANDER, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. PORTMAN, Ms. HIRONO, and Mr. HEINRICH) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 193

Whereas the 9th annual Kids to Parks Day will be celebrated on May 18, 2019;

Whereas the goals of Kids to Parks Day are—

- (1) to promote healthy outdoor recreation and environmental stewardship;
- (2) to empower young people; and
- (3) to encourage families to get outdoors and visit the parks and public land of the United States;

Whereas, on Kids to Parks Day, individuals from rural and urban areas of the United States can be reintroduced to the splendid national, State, and neighborhood parks located in their communities;

Whereas communities across the United States offer a variety of natural resources and public land, often with free access, to individuals seeking outdoor recreation;

Whereas the people of the United States, young and old, should be encouraged to lead more healthy and active lifestyles;

Whereas Kids to Parks Day is an opportunity for families to take a break from their busy lives and come together for a day of active, wholesome fun; and

Whereas Kids to Parks Day will—

- (1) broaden an appreciation for nature and the outdoors in young people;
 - (2) foster a safe setting for independent play and healthy adventure in neighborhood parks; and
 - (3) facilitate self-reliance while strengthening communities: Now, therefore, be it
- Resolved*, That the Senate—
- (1) designates May 18, 2019, as “Kids to Parks Day”;
 - (2) recognizes the importance of outdoor recreation and the preservation of open spaces to the health and education of the young people of the United States; and
 - (3) encourages the people of the United States to observe Kids to Parks Day with appropriate programs, ceremonies, and activities.

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

Mr. CRAPO. Mr. President, I have 5 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 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, May 7, 2019, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing entitled “Privacy rights and data collection in a digital economy.”

COMMITTEE HEALTH, EDUCATION, LABOR, AND PENSIONS

The Committee Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, May 7, 2019, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing entitled “Making electronic health information available to patients and providers.”

COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

The Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, May 7, 2019, at 2:30 p.m., to conduct a hearing on the

following nominations: Dale Cabaniss, of Virginia, to be Director of the Office of Personnel Management, and Michael Eric Wooten, of Virginia, to be Administrator for Federal Procurement Policy.

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

The Committee on the Judiciary is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, May 7, 2019, at 10 a.m., to conduct a business meeting and hearing entitled “Intellectual property and the price of prescription drugs.”

SUBCOMMITTEE ON REGULATORY AFFAIRS AND FEDERAL MANAGEMENT

The Subcommittee on Regulatory Affairs and Federal Management of the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, May 7, 2019, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing.

APPOINTMENTS

THE PRESIDING OFFICER. The Chair, on behalf of the Vice President, pursuant to Public Law 94-304, as amended by Public Law 99-7, appoints the following Senators as members of the Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe (Helsinki) during the 116th Congress: the Honorable BENJAMIN L. CARDIN of Maryland; the Honorable SHELDON WHITEHOUSE of Rhode Island; the Honorable TOM UDALL of New Mexico; the Honorable JEANNE SHAHEEN of New Hampshire.

The Chair, on behalf of the President of the Senate, pursuant to Public Law 106-286, appoints the following Members to serve on the Congressional-Executive Commission on the People's Republic of China: the Honorable DIANNE FEINSTEIN of California; the Honorable JEFF MERKLEY of Oregon; the Honorable GARY C. PETERS of Michigan; the Honorable ANGUS S. KING Jr. of Maine.

AUTHORIZING TESTIMONY AND REPRESENTATION IN STATE OF NEVADA V. LACAMERA

Mr. KENNEDY. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 192, submitted earlier today.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 192) to authorize testimony and representation in the State of Nevada v. Lacamera.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. KENNEDY. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolution (S. Res. 192) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

(The resolution, with its preamble, is printed in today's RECORD under "Submitted Resolutions.")

KIDS TO PARKS DAY

Mr. KENNEDY. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of S. Res. 193, submitted earlier today.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 193) designating May 18, 2019, as "Kids to Parks Day".

The PRESIDING OFFICER. There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. KENNEDY. I further ask that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolution (S. Res. 193) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

(The resolution, with its preamble, is printed in today's RECORD under "Submitted Resolutions.")

COMMENDING THE GOVERNMENT OF CANADA

Mr. KENNEDY. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of Calendar No. 61, S. Res. 96.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 96) commending the Government of Canada for upholding the rule of law and expressing concern over actions by the Government of the People's Republic of China in response to a request from the United States Government to the Government of Canada for the extradition of a Huawei Technologies Co., Ltd. executive.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. KENNEDY. I ask unanimous consent that the 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 resolution (S. Res. 96) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

(The resolution, with its preamble, is printed in the RECORD of March 6, 2019, under "Submitted Resolutions.")

ORDERS FOR WEDNESDAY, MAY 8, 2019

Mr. KENNEDY. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it adjourn until 9:30 a.m., Wednesday, May 8; 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 Bianco nomination under the previous order.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

ORDER FOR ADJOURNMENT

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. President, 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 MENENDEZ and WHITEHOUSE.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from New Jersey.

Mr. MENENDEZ. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent to speak for up to 20 minutes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

MUELLER REPORT

Mr. MENENDEZ. Madam President, I come to the floor to once again discuss U.S. policy toward the Russian Federation. I fear this body is in the grips of a paralysis that has rendered us flat-footed in the face of a multitude of threats from Russia. This is not a paralysis due to a lack of knowledge, lack of facts, or lack of intelligence. It is a paralysis of our politics, a paralysis born out of a lack of political will to do what is necessary in the absence of Presidential leadership, a lack of will to stand up for our national security, a lack of will to defend our Democratic institutions, a lack of will to fulfill the oath that every single Member of this Chamber swore to uphold.

The inaction from this body since the beginning of the year on Russia has been astounding. It gives me no pleasure to think that political considerations could be compromising the Republican majority's willingness to respond robustly to the Russia threat, but how else can I explain why the party of Reagan has gone missing? What force, other than politics, can explain our failure to demand the administration robustly respond to Russia's seizure of Ukrainian ships in the Kerch Strait in the high seas in international waters? What force other than politics can explain our feeble response to Russia's chemical attack in the United Kingdom? What force other than poli-

tics can explain our failure to thwart Russia's hand in Syria and allow Putin to sit back and enjoy the political instability spawned in Europe by the resulting migration crisis? What force other than politics can have us playing right into Putin's hands? What force other than politics can explain the remarks made earlier today by Majority Leader McCONNELL in which he suggested that Democratic efforts to assess the full and unredacted Mueller report are impeding the ability of this body to shore up our election security?

Well, that is really rich. I might remind the American people that it was the majority leader who, when presented by top intelligence officials in the Obama administration with Russian efforts to help President Trump's candidacy, blocked efforts to inform the public?

Look, I am not here today to talk about conspiracy or obstruction or President Trump. Make no mistake, those issues are deeply concerning, and contrary to the majority leader's words, the case is not closed. The case is not closed. However, there will be other opportunities to address these issues, and when it comes to shoring up our defenses, we are running out of time.

So as the ranking member on the Foreign Relation Committee, I am here to flash a red warning light about what the Mueller report means for our national security, what it means for America's geopolitical standing with respect to Russia, what it means for our credibility on the world stage as Democratic institutions are attacked.

I am worried that in the face of Russian aggression, we are getting lost, not in the fog of war but in the fog of politics, and our inaction today will have consequences that outlast any Presidency, haunting us for years or even decades to come.

Let's review what we know about the Russian threat and how long we have known about it. It was over 2 years ago, in January of 2017, when the Director of National Intelligence determined that Russia interfered in the 2016 election. Our intelligence community released that assessment that concluded Russia's efforts to influence the 2016 Presidential election "demonstrated a significant escalation in directness, level of activity, and scope of effort compared to previous operations."

They concluded that this attack was ordered by President Putin himself and that "Putin and the Russian Government developed a clear preference for President-elect Trump."

They concluded Russia's efforts "[B]lend[ed] covert intelligence operations—such as cyber activity—with overt efforts by Russian Government agencies, state-funded media, third-party intermediaries, and paid social media users or 'trolls' to undermine our 2016 elections."

In addition, our intelligence community warned that "Moscow will apply lessons learned from its Putin-ordered

campaign aimed at the U.S. Presidential election to influence future efforts worldwide, including against U.S. allies and their election processes.”

That was more than 2 years ago. Today, thanks to the work of Special Counsel Robert Mueller, we now have a more thorough understanding of Russia’s interference in 2016. While much remains redacted, the special counsel’s report describes in painstaking detail the scope of Russia’s interference and the sophistication of their tactics.

Here is what we know.

First, Russian officials interfered in the U.S. Presidential election in support of Putin’s preferred candidate and attempted to make inroads with his campaign.

Second, the Russian Government and individuals with strong ties to the Kremlin carried out what Mueller concluded was a “sweeping and systematic” campaign to influence and sway the support of U.S. voters.

Third, the St. Petersburg-based Internet Research Agency, or known by its acronym IRA, sought to use social media and embedded employees to influence U.S. voters in an effort that was funded in large part by an oligarch with known links to Putin. The IRA’s malign social media influence campaign was nothing short of, in his words, “information warfare.”

The Internet Research Agency employees created fake social media personas and posed as American citizens on sites like Facebook and Twitter. These Russian operatives were keenly aware of the politics of division. They capitalized on sensitive social and political issues, from immigration policy to police brutality, in an effort to divide Americans against each other.

They targeted voters in key swing States in an effort to dissuade certain demographics from turning out on election day. They staged real political rallies by masquerading as activists, and they destroyed evidence in an attempt to avoid detection and impede U.S. investigations.

Fourth, the Mueller report confirms that Russian military intelligence deployed “multiple” units to engage in “large-scale cyber operations to interfere with the 2016 U.S. presidential election.”

Officers with the GRU, Russia’s intelligence agency, hacked into Democratic campaign networks and individual email accounts in order to steal emails and other sensitive information. Armed with those stolen emails, GRU officers timed the release of damaging information in order to maximize their impact. Subsequent releases were conspicuously timed in an apparent effort to help their preferred candidate.

Russian hackers also conducted cyber surveillance of at least 20 State election systems, and the Kremlin intended to use this information to cast doubt on the legitimacy of a Clinton victory.

This revelation should shake us to the core because, clearly, President

Putin understands that for our democracy to work, the American people must have faith in the results of our elections. Chip away at that faith, and you chip away at our democracy itself.

Russian intelligence operatives, GRU operatives, also targeted employees of a voting technology company and successfully installed malware on their computer networks.

In a handful of States, they gained the capacity to actually manipulate and even delete voter registration data. To top it all off, Russian hackers successfully infiltrated the network of at least one county government in Florida.

Finally, following the election, Putin unleashed handpicked oligarchs to push back against anticipated U.S. sanctions. Let’s remember who these Russian oligarchs are. They are billionaires handpicked by Putin who solidified his grip on power not only by oppressing the Russian people but also by systematically seizing their assets and transferring them to a select group of cronies and allies through business dealings, real estate transactions, shares of companies, shell corporations, money laundering, and more.

These oligarchs act as an extension of Putin’s power. They advance Russia’s economic influence and do Putin’s bidding around the world. According to the Mueller report, that is exactly what they did after the 2016 election.

They reached out to the President’s inner circle and members of his transition team to begin laying the groundwork for what Putin wanted in return for his help during the campaign—most prominently, protection from further sanctions and relaxation of those sanctions imposed for Russia’s illegal invasion of Ukraine.

This short summary of the Mueller report’s findings should be offensive to any American elected official. This short summary should spur anyone to action to shore up the security of our elections at home and counter Russian aggression abroad.

Indeed, just last week, FBI Director Wray warned that Russia continues to pose a very significant counterintelligence threat. He also said that 2018 was a dress rehearsal for the big show in 2020.

This report cries out for action. It screams for legislation, and it demands preparation in advance of 2020.

We are in trouble, people. We can argue with each other, we can score political points against each other, but the United States of America remains in Russia’s crosshairs, and we must act. Putin has set his sights on us again in 2020.

The Russian Government continues to pursue the eroding of democracy as we speak across Europe. It has partnered with dictators and war criminals in the Middle East. In Venezuela, Putin clearly sees an advantage in prolonging a destabilizing conflict in our hemisphere. He and his cronies are selling arms, striking oil deals, and

robbing the Venezuelan people of future prosperity all to prop up Maduro’s criminal regime.

So while President Trump may claim that “Putin is not looking to get involved” in Venezuela, we already know he is.

The Mueller report is the wake-up call of the century. It is a clarion call to action. We must treat it as a preview of what is to come.

We already know some of the actions that are worth taking. Senator GRAHAM and I have a bipartisan bill called the Defending American Security from Kremlin Aggression Act or DASKA. I have come to this floor to talk about it again and again, but in the wake of the Mueller report, I wonder, where is our sense of urgency? Where is our outrage? Where is our sense of collective responsibility? If my colleagues take nothing else from the Mueller report, they should at least be willing and eager to respond to what Russia did to us 2 years ago and what FBI Director Wray tells us they will continue to do.

The Defending American Security from Kremlin Aggression Act will ensure our diplomats have the tools to advance our interests and stand up to the bully in the Kremlin. The bill includes new sanctions but also provisions designed to harden our democratic institutions and make us less vulnerable to attack.

Our bill would improve our ability to coordinate with Europe on the Russia challenge. It would invest in Democratic institutions in countries most vulnerable to Kremlin aggression because we must remember that Russia’s attack in 2016 did not occur in a vacuum. It is part of Putin’s larger mission to disrupt democracies around the world from his support for dictators from Syria and Venezuela to Russian meddling in the political affairs of our European allies.

DASKA would also increase transparency with respect to real estate sales in the United States that we know is a go-to strategy for Russian oligarchs looking to launder money.

I know many of my colleagues have no interest in learning more about the President’s own business dealings with these unsavory figures and whether those relationships influence his decision making about U.S. foreign policy, but we should agree, at least, that we must do more to prevent Russia from getting American businesses and leaders financially entangled in Russia’s tentacles like the NRA.

DASKA would also protect our NATO alliance. Senator GRAHAM and I have included an important provision that would prevent any President from pulling the United States out of NATO without Senate approval. To pull our Nation out of a military alliance so vital to America’s security when we could have stopped it from happening would be a tragedy fit for the ages. A Senate vote was required to get us into the North Atlantic treaty, it should be required in any attempt to get us out.

This is critical to providing a sense of security and stability to our allies in NATO.

Finally, DASKA also includes new sanctions pressure on Moscow, including on Russian oligarchs complicit in the spread of Russia's malign actions. In addition, it includes increased sanctions on Russia's energy and financial sectors.

The bill has specific sanctions on the Russian shipbuilding sector to the extent that Russia continues to interfere with the freedom of navigation in the Kerch Strait or anywhere else and was complicit in the November attack.

In the final analysis, we have a few peaceful tools of diplomacy to address malign actors around the world: the court of international public opinion, insofar as a government or a leader in question cares about such things; our trade and aid as an inducement to behavior change; then there is the denial of trade or aid or access to our financial institutions, which we call sanctions.

President Putin is willing to use his military as a means of first resort to advance his interests. We are not. Therefore, sanctions are our tool of peaceful diplomacy. They are how we send the message and how we seek to defend ourselves.

Now I must state that growing up in New Jersey, I learned that if you didn't confront the bully in the schoolyard, his reign of terror would never end. He would create a climate of fear. He would create a climate of intimidation until you whacked him in the head with a 2 by 4, until you said enough is enough, until you made clear that you and your fellow students wouldn't accept that kind of behavior. If you didn't stand up for yourself, the bully would press ahead.

Ladies and gentlemen, that is what we have in Vladimir Putin. He will continue to push and push until he meets resistance, until he meets a 2 by 4. That is what we have in DASKA.

We have a responsibility in this body, a responsibility shared by all 100 Senators, to protect our national security and the integrity of our democracy. It is our most solemn responsibility. Some may not care. Some may think we have done enough to deal with the Russian threat, but our intelligence experts disagree, Bob Mueller disagrees, FBI Director Wray disagrees, and clearly those living under the threat of Kremlin aggression in Eastern Europe disagree.

This body has come together before. I have seen it. We came together in 2017 to pass the Countering America's Adversaries Through Sanctions Act, or CAATSA, but since then we have struggled to get this administration to fully implement the law. Are we supposed to just throw up our hands and say, "Oh, well," and hope they will see the light or are we supposed to demand nothing less than rigorous enforcement and take legislative action if needed?

I stand firmly for the latter, and I hope a majority of my colleagues will

stand with me. It is long past time we send another message to the world and, most importantly, to the Kremlin that the Senate is prepared to defend American interests. We will not tolerate intrusions by a hostile foreign power. We will not leave our democratic institutions vulnerable to further interference. We will not allow any foreign adversary to meddle in our democracy.

The breadth of Russian interference laid out by the Mueller report demands the kind of comprehensive foreign policy response put forward in DASKA. The American people deserve a markup and a full vote in the Senate to make that happen.

I will just say, as the elected leaders of this country, we owe Americans action. We owe them fulfillment of our oath. We owe them a robust and unflinching defense of our democracy and our values. Enough with the delays. Enough with the excuses. Enough with the politics.

We have legislation ready to bolster our defenses. We have strong bipartisan support for it. Let's mark up the bill now. Let's send a clear and unequivocal message to Putin that we will not tolerate a repeat performance in 2020.

I would just say that this is not about President Trump. It is not about the last election other than that they attempted to influence it and that we should recognize and want to deal with it. But it is about preserving our national security, our democracy, and our interest in the world.

Putin is unbridled. This institution, Republicans and Democrats, have always joined together to meet Russia's challenge when Russia posed a challenge. The party of Reagan is absent. The party of Reagan is absent on this. If this had been going on during the Obama administration, I would have been peeling people off of the Capitol ceiling.

Let's get to work. Let's defend our interests. Let's stand up together. Let's send Putin a message. Let's defend our democracy.

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. WHITEHOUSE. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Before I begin, let me say how nice it was to be with the Presiding Officer in her home State at the McCain Institute this weekend.

CLIMATE CHANGE

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Madam President, pick up the paper these days, and it is hard to miss the headlines about corporate America getting serious about reducing carbon emissions. Companies are purchasing renewable power. They are moving into carbon-neutral

office buildings. They are purchasing electric vehicle fleets. They are developing new technologies and products for the transition to a carbon economy. Many are forcing some degree of sustainability out of their supply chains. All of this is important work and the companies that are leading in these areas deserve real applause.

But—you know there was going to be a "but," and here it is—corporations alone reducing their own carbon emissions or designing new low-carbon technologies will not win the fight against climate change. If you want to fail on climate change while looking good, that will work, but if you actually want to win—if you want to keep us between 1.5 and 2 degrees in temperature increase—you will fail.

A new report, "The Blind Spot," from the Environmental Defense Fund, makes crystal clear that individual corporate efforts to reduce their own carbon emissions will not be enough. Here is what it says: "While voluntary actions by companies to reduce greenhouse gas emissions are important, only public policy can deliver the pace and scale of reductions necessary to avoid the worst impacts of climate change."

"Public policy"—that is us. That is Congress.

EDF is not alone. Report after report has shown that we will fail without government action. But as engaged as so much of corporate America is in greening its own operations, they are almost totally absent from the halls of Congress when it comes to climate change—AWOL, no place.

So government sits, stalled by the fossil fuel industry, and does nothing serious. As a Senator, I am an inhabitant of this political ecosystem. I observe how this works. Consider this the field report of the biologist who lives in the jungle.

The sad reality of our political ecosystem is that post-Citizens United, the power of big industries seeking influence in Congress has exploded. Where previously, big special interests had muskets, Citizens United gave them artillery. On climate change, one industry, the fossil fuel industry, is deploying its artillery of big money and big threats here in Washington like nobody else.

It is no surprise. They are defending a \$700 billion per year fossil fuel subsidy just in the United States, according to the International Monetary Fund. They have a huge interest—a multihundred billion dollar interest—in preventing legislation that would reduce consumption of their fossil fuels.

So they spend hundreds of millions of dollars on lobbying and elections. They fund dozens of phony front groups and trade associations to engage in all sorts of climate denial and obstruction. They hide their influence in dark-money channels. They pollute the public sphere as badly as they pollute the atmosphere.

In our political ecosystem, they are a big and dangerous predator. Ask

former Congressman Bob Inglis. Ask former Senate candidate Katie McGinty. The fossil fuel industry is a multitentacled, well-camouflaged, and deadly political beast.

And, then, there is the rest of the business community: retail, food and beverage, financial services, tech, consumer goods, and manufacturing. Most are taking steps to reduce their own emissions, but when it comes to doing something about climate change here in Congress, they just don't show up, and the result is entirely predictable.

In an institution like Congress, whose currencies are money and influence, if one industry spends on lobbies like a beast and there is no counterweight, that industry likely carries the day. That is simple political hydraulics. It is true in sports, and it is true in battles: If one side doesn't show up, the other side owns the field. And so the fossil fuel industry owns the Republican Party.

That is why it is imperative that the rest of corporate America start showing up on climate. Many of them are here. They do lobby. They just care about other things, and their silence about climate change is deafening. The good guys are just not on the field. They are scared of retaliation. They have other priorities. They don't want to be yelled at by the Chamber of Commerce. They are getting what they want and don't want to upset the applecart. There are lots of reasons, but it doesn't change the outcome. It is not just the EDF report.

I got today the New America report "Prospects for Climate Change Policy Reform." They point out that in the past, business and government usually worked together to solve environmental problems. I quote them here: "A cross-partisan model of environmental-business engagement held sway for decades on other issues; however, companies have been less willing to provide leadership on climate policy."

No kidding. But the fossil fuel industry is here, and it exerts a relentless barrage of lobbying, electioneering, and propaganda pressure on Congress. And it owns the field. This statement from the EDF report is really its central message: "The most powerful tool companies have to fight climate change is their political influence."

So when they don't show up, it makes a difference. This is the message that corporate America needs to take to heart. Republicans are not going to break this artificial, fossil-fuel-funded, climate logjam here in Congress until corporate America—the corporate America they listen to—starts to demand climate action, not on a website, not in their purchasing standards but here in Congress.

In this political ecosystem, the inhabitants know when something is real, and they know when it is corporate greenwashing, or well-intentioned peripheral stuff they can ignore. Members know who is serious.

The fossil fuel industry is deadly serious. The EDF report says that any

evaluation of corporate climate policy must include an analysis of its lobbying and political spending as it relates to climate. EDF is right. Corporate America needs to be accountable for the results that it pays for, and that includes whether or not companies fund anti-climate trade associations.

This is another dirty Washington secret. Many companies subcontract lobbying and electioneering activity to trade associations. Two of the biggest trade associations—the National Association of Manufacturers and the very biggest, the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, the proverbial 800-pound gorilla—have spent decades denying that climate change was even occurring and obstructing any effort to reduce carbon pollution—decades of denial and obstruction.

Too many companies with good climate policies support them with the result that those companies' functional climate presence in Washington is opposite to what they say their policy is and opposite to what they say on their website.

The group InfluenceMap looks at corporate lobbying and ranks corporations and trade associations by their influence on climate policy. Of the 50 most influential trade associations around the world, InfluenceMap shows the Chamber and the National Association of Manufacturers to be the two worst—the two most opposed when it comes to reducing carbon pollution. Here they are, the U.S. Chamber of Commerce and the National Association of Manufacturers, right at the bottom—the very worst.

Look at those companies that are greening their own operations but are supporting the Chamber and the National Association of Manufacturers. Look at the companies that don't show up in Congress to lobby for climate action and, instead, lobby through these two who lobby against the climate action those companies claim to support. Those companies' net lobbying presence in Congress is against climate action, whatever they may claim to support. Their net lobbying presence in Congress is against climate action—directly opposed to the policies they claim to support.

There is an accountability moment that needs to come for those companies, unless they honestly believe that climate change is a hoax, that it is not real, we don't need to worry about it, and obstruction is OK. If that is their position, they are getting proper representation from the National Association of Manufacturers and the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, but if they are telling the world—and their shareholders and their customers—that they take climate change seriously, they have a little explaining to do about supporting these two enemies of climate progress, particularly, if they are not showing up in Congress to counter the denial and obstruction they are paying for.

For years, companies that go out and brag to consumers and investors about how green they are simultaneously fund climate denial and obstruction via those two trade associations. That has to stop. In fact, more and more consumers and investors are beginning to call on companies to stop this corporate doublespeak. You can't have a good climate website and fund these two organizations and face your shareholders and say you are serious.

Consumers who buy a Coke or a Pepsi don't want to be supporting the Chamber's decades-long campaign against climate action. Investors in Coca-Cola and Pepsico don't want these companies to put their reputations at risk by funding anti-climate groups. Investors don't want these companies to ignore climate change when climate change may upend their water-dependent businesses.

Coca-Cola features a powerful statement about its commitment to climate action on its website. "Climate change is a profound challenge," it says, "and we are partnering with other businesses, civil society organizations, and governments to support cooperative action on this critical issue. . . . We also recognize climate change may have long-term direct and indirect implications for our business and supply chain."

In 2018, Coca-Cola disclosed that it gave the chamber at least \$85,000—probably a good deal more.

PepsiCo is even more explicit about the need for climate action. I quote them:

Implementing solutions to address climate change is important to the future of our company, customers, consumers and our shared world. . . . We believe industry and governments should commit to science-based action to keep global temperature increases to 2 Celsius above pre-industrial levels."

In 2018, PepsiCo disclosed that it gave the chamber at least half a million dollars.

Coke and Pepsi's own trade association, the American Beverage Association, also gives money to the chamber.

So here are these two consumer-facing, climate-supporting companies, and both of them contribute directly to the Chamber of Commerce, and they run money through their own trade association, the American Beverage Association, into the Chamber of Commerce. And there it lies as the worst of the pair of lobbying organizations blocking climate action.

What is the net effect of all of that? The net effect is that, for all their good work reducing their own carbon emissions and reducing their supply chain's carbon emissions, here in Congress, Coke and Pepsi are net opposed to climate action.

Thankfully, some companies are beginning to realize that they can't just sit on the sidelines here in Washington and let the fossil fuel industry own Congress. Little Patagonia, the outdoor clothing manufacturer, has led the way. Bravo, Patagonia. Danone,

Mars, Nestle, and Unilever have announced a sustainable food policy alliance to pursue a price on carbon in Congress. Separately, Microsoft recently announced that it was going to lobby Congress for a price on carbon. But the fact that those companies are the exceptions I can name shows how bad the presence of corporate America is on this issue here in Congress.

I will give Microsoft some extra credit. Microsoft also stood up in Washington State to support a ballot initiative to put a price on carbon emissions. Starbucks, Amazon, Costco, and Boeing—big, supposedly green corporations in Washington State—stood by and let themselves get rolled by Big Oil, led by BP—“Beyond Petroleum,” ha—when Big Oil spent \$30 million to defeat the measure.

By the way, it is the oil CEOs who have been saying: Oh, we know our product causes climate change. We are serious about doing something about it, and what we are going to do to be serious about it is to support a price on carbon.

That is what they say. What do they do? Look at BP. Look at the oil spending in Washington. They go right in and spend their money to fight the very policy they say they support.

I know of no path to success on climate that does not include pricing carbon. It is also the right thing to do because failing to price carbon is bad economics. It is a market failure. So if you are a true free market person, you ought to get behind a price on carbon. If you are just a fossil fuel person, then OK, but admit it. There really is no path to success on climate change that does not include pricing carbon. That may be an unpleasant fact for some, but it is a fact.

Staying between 1.5 and 2 degrees Centigrade world temperature increase is another fact. We can't miss that target, but we will. We will miss that target if this corporate doublespeak doesn't change.

Work like this new report from EDF, and InfluenceMap's analysis of how these trade associations like the U.S. Chamber of Commerce and the National Association of Manufacturers obstruct climate action, may help convince corporate America that it is time to step up, get on the field, and demand that Congress take real action to limit carbon pollution.

Corporate America needs to go to its trade associations and say: Knock it off. No more U.S. chamber of carbon. No more national association of manufactured facts.

Corporate America is paying for this nonsense, and corporate America can stop it. The two-faced game of having a good climate website but having your presence in Congress be against climate action has got to stop.

Corporate America—the political force Republicans listen to—has the responsibility and the power to break the fossil fuel-funded logjam in this body. They could do it tomorrow if they wanted to. You take the leaders of corporate America in the sectors that I listed and you march them right down to the leader's office, and they say to him “We are done with you, we are done with your candidates, and we are done with your party until you knock off the obstruction,” and we would be out on the floor debating climate change within a week.

When corporate America takes up its responsibility and uses its power to break the fossil fuel-funded logjam in this body, change on this issue will come swiftly, and we will see bipartisan support for climate action emerge.

I was here in 2007, in 2008, and in 2009. In all of those years, there was constant bipartisan activity on climate. The pages would have been awfully young back then. It is nearly 10 years ago now. They would not recognize what is going on. I think there were five different bipartisan climate bills

in the Senate—serious ones—that would have really done something significant to head off the climate crisis. All of that stopped dead in January of 2010. It was like a heart attack and a flat line on the EKG—stopped dead because the Supreme Court decided *Citizens United*. That opened the floodgates of political money into our politics. The fossil fuel money jumped on to that immediately. I think they saw and predicted that decision. I know they asked for it, and they were ready at the starting gun. From that moment when the fossil fuel industry dropped in on the Republican Party and said, “Nobody is going to cross us on this any longer. You are all going to have to line up on climate denial. We will take out Republicans who cross us. We will do it to Bob Inglis, and we will do it to others. You are done with bipartisanship on this issue,” that is when it stopped.

If the fossil fuel industry would knock it off or if these front groups like the chamber and the National Association of Manufacturers would knock it off or if the rest of corporate America would simply get in here and push back, show up, outpressure them, we could go back and we could be bipartisan in a week. We are not there yet. Most of corporate America is still avoiding this issue in Congress, but they could really make a big difference. That makes it very much still time to wake up.

I yield the floor.

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 9:30 A.M.
TOMORROW

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate stands adjourned until 9:30 a.m. tomorrow.

Thereupon, the Senate, at 6:41 p.m., adjourned until Wednesday, May 8, 2019, at 9:30 a.m.

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

RECOGNIZING THE LEGACY OF REVEREND BISHOP MELVIN E. CLARK, SR.

HON. KAREN BASS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 7, 2019

Ms. BASS. Madam Speaker, Bishop Clark born in Norfolk, VA, came to Aliquippa in 1959 from Stanton, Va., where he was pastor of a Church of God in Christ. He took over the then-First Church of God in Christ in Aliquippa, PA and led the effort to build the landmark Church in the Round, which was finished in 1970. Before the term Mega church was coined, The Church in the Round boasted attendance and membership exceeding 3,500.

Over the ensuing decades, Clark created groundbreaking community outreach initiatives, Evangelistic Conferences, Pastoral Leadership Symposiums, Holy Ghost Conferences, Church Planning and Church Planting across the nation. His visionary interdisciplinary—community development initiatives include: Multi-unit housing, Prison Reform / Ministries, Financial Literacy Classes, Bethesda Home, a group home for troubled boys, the Family Life Center, scholarship funds, food initiatives, recreation programs, and medical- and health-awareness endeavors and more.

The Very Reverend Bishop Clark spread the gospel to millions via his widespread multi state radio ministry, "Across the Pastor's Desk," which lasted three decades and drew people to his church, and to Christ. The message: "May I Present Jesus to YOU!!"

Bishop Melvin E. Clark, Sr., the founding visionary of the Family Life Center, was appointed to the Pastorate of the First Church of God in Christ, Inc. and subsequently its successor, the legendary Church in the Round in 1960. He oversees a church legacy that spans 97-years, making the enterprise one of the oldest institutions in the Beaver County region. Bishop Clark's achievements as a pastor, and community leader resulted in his consecration to the Bishopric and Jurisdictional Prelate of the Second Ecclesiastical Jurisdiction of the national Churches of God in Christ. His leadership abilities and deep concern for people has brought him before many national and international leaders including four U.S. Presidents. On several occasions he served as an advisor to President Bill Clinton.

While serving as a delegate to the World Pentecostal Conference, Bishop Clark visited Jerusalem and Switzerland, and at the request of the President of Sierra Leone, West Africa, was called to preach during a special celebration at the President's church. The Presiding Bishop of the Church of God in Christ Worldwide also called upon Bishop Clark to minister to congregants in South Korea.

He has ministered in Greece, the City of Corinth, London, England, the Vatican, and Rome, Italy. He serves as an advisor, counselor, and member of the Joint College of Afri-

can-American Bishops and its Pentecostal Congress where he was awarded a Doctorate of Divinity degree. Bishop Clark also holds two Master's Degrees and an earned Doctorate of Philosophy.

He has received many awards including the Humanitarian Award of the NAACP, of which he is a lifetime member, the Church of God in Christ Presiding Bishop's Award, and the Man of the Year of the Greater Aliquippa Chamber of Commerce for honorable and unselfish service. Bishop Clark is honored to serve on the national Saints Center Board and the National Task Force of the Church of God in Christ.

COMPLETE AUTO REPAIR

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 7, 2019

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Complete Auto Repair for receiving the 2019 Golden Rotary Ethics in Business Award for a for-profit organization.

Ethical behavior has been the foundation for which Complete Auto Repair has built their foundation. Honesty, integrity, quality and convenience is the criteria used in every decision. Their ethical standards have allowed them to build lasting relationships with customers, and to retain employees—many of who have been with the company since day one. Currently, Complete Auto Repair has served more than 3,600 individuals in our community.

Complete Auto Repair improves our community through their environmentally friendly practices such as recycling their waste oil, filters, anti-freeze, and tires. They are also well known for their generosity and contributions to local high schools, elementary school fundraisers, the Toys for Tots campaign, American Heart Association, various scholarship funds and church fundraisers, and their participation in events such as coaching youth sports.

Congratulations to everyone at Complete Auto Repair on receiving the Golden Rotary Ethics in Business Award. I thank them for their continued commitment to our community.

IN RECOGNITION OF INTERMETRO INDUSTRIES FOR EXCELLENCE IN MANUFACTURER PRODUCT INNOVATION AND PROCESS IMPROVEMENT

HON. MATT CARTWRIGHT

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 7, 2019

Mr. CARTWRIGHT. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize InterMetro Industries on receiving an Excellence Award from the Northeast PA Manufacturers and Employers Association in the Manufacturer Product Innovation

and Process Improvement category. They will be honored on May 7, 2019 for their accomplishments.

Founded in 1929 and headquartered in Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania, InterMetro Industries (Metro) is a leading manufacturer in storage and transport products for the food service, commercial products, and health care industries. What started as a shelving company has grown into a world-class, innovative, and solutions-based company that has revolutionized the way many industries conduct their day-to-day business.

InterMetro is being recognized for its PrepMate MultiStation, an adjustable-height, high-productivity worktable that has changed the way food is prepared in commercial settings. The PrepMate MultiStation's unique design reduces food waste and operator fatigue. This fairly-priced piece of equipment helps increase efficiency in the kitchen by eliminating the need to consistently change workspaces for different purposes.

It is an honor to recognize InterMetro on this outstanding accomplishment. I applaud the excellent work they're doing to create revolutionary new products to help businesses meet the needs of their customers. I wish them the best for many successful years to come.

IN HONOR OF REVEREND DOCTOR C. MEDLEY HAYES

HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 7, 2019

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor an outstanding Man of God, a dedicated public servant, and dear friend of longstanding, Rev. Dr. C. Medley Hayes, who celebrated his 30th anniversary as the distinguished pastor of Greater Beulah Missionary Baptist Church in Columbus, Georgia on Sunday, May 5, 2019 at 3 p.m.

Rev. Dr. Chester Medley Hayes was born in Miami, Florida and grew up in Alabama graduating from Warren Smith High School in New Brocton, Alabama. He earned his Bachelor of Ministry degree in 1984, his Master of Ministry degree in 1987, and his Doctorate of Ministry degree in 1989. He was trained in Ground Surveillance and Ground Control Approach Radar through the U.S. Army and has 21 years experience in telecommunications. He founded and managed Companion Medical Equipment Company in 1994 and has been involved in Network Marketing with some of the strongest companies in the industry since he was 22 years of age.

At the age of twenty-six, Rev. Hayes accepted his call to preach the Gospel of Christ beginning his pastoral ministry at Big Creek Baptist Church in Clio, Alabama, a rather small church that consisted of about seventy members. From there, he pastored Morning Star Baptist Church in Troy, Alabama, Saint Paul Baptist Church in Pinckard, Alabama,

• 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.

and Morning Star Baptist Church in Enterprise, Alabama. In 1989, Rev. Hayes was called to be the pastor and spiritual leader of Greater Beulah Missionary Baptist Church in Columbus, Georgia and he and his family moved to the Fountain City.

For the past 30 years, he has served as a guiding light and beacon of hope for the congregation of Greater Beulah Missionary Baptist Church and the Columbus community. Rev. Hayes believes that you enter the church to worship, but you leave to serve. Therefore, his ministry has been to take the church and the teachings of Christ beyond the church building into the community and throughout the world.

Outside of the church, Rev. Hayes has also proved himself a true servant of the communities in which he has lived. At the age of 26, he became the Chairman of the Coffee County, Alabama branch of the Alabama Democratic Conference, a post that he held for eight years. Years later, he was appointed by then Georgia Governor Zell Miller and later Governor Roy Barnes to serve on Georgia's Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday Commission. Having seen issues arise with human trafficking, he was moved to open two group homes for girls. Because of his love for young people, he opened a counseling center called "Mentoring Youth." As a result of his tremendous advocacy and support for the Columbus community, on August 8, 2017, the Council of the Columbus Consolidated Government named the intersection of 6th Street and 6th Avenue as "C. Medley Hayes Way."

Always seeking to improve his craft in discipleship and Christian ministry, he has been a longtime member of the National Baptist Convention, USA; General Missionary Baptist Convention of Georgia (G.M.B.C.); Fourth District of G.M.B.C.; Mount Calvary Missionary Baptist Association; along with many other faith-based organizations.

The great agricultural chemist, Dr. George Washington Carver once said that, "How far you go in life depends on your being tender with young, compassionate with the aged, sympathetic with the striving and tolerant of the weak and strong. Because someday in your life you will have been all of these." Reverend Hayes has gone far in his ministry and in life because of his love for all people in the same vein as his Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

On a personal note, Rev. Hayes has been a great friend and supporter over the many years I have known him. I value his wise counsel and sage advice. He never told me only what I wanted to hear, but always told me what I needed to hear. And for that, I am grateful.

Reverend Hayes has achieved much in his life, but none of it would be possible but for the Grace of God and the love and the support of his wife, Stephanie, and their children, Leon, Lester, Tonya, Alyssa, Tiffany, and Sophia. Rev. Hayes is man of great accomplishment, an outstanding mentor, and a strong leader, but above all, he is a faithful servant of God.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join my wife, Vivian, and me, along with the congregation of Greater Beulah Missionary Baptist Church and the 730,000 residents of Georgia's Second Congressional District, in congratulating Rev. Dr. C. Medley Hayes on the joyous occasion of his 30th pastoral anniversary.

INTRODUCTION OF THE PREVENT BLOOD LOSS WITH EMERGENCY EQUIPMENT DEVICES ACT OF 2019

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 7, 2019

Mr. HASTINGS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Prevent Blood Loss with Emergency Equipment Devices Act of 2019—the Prevent BLEEDing Act—legislation that would expand access to Bleeding Control Kits (BCKs) in public gathering places across the country. I would like to thank my colleague, Dr. BRAD WENSTRUP, for introducing this legislation with me, which will help to save lives during emergency situations.

Approximately 214,000 people die every year from traumatic incidents. Motor vehicle crashes, shootings, natural disasters, and workplace accidents, to name just a few, oftentimes result in situations where people suffer traumatic blood loss. Such an injury can lead to death within five minutes, where many of these deaths can be prevented. The Prevent BLEEDing Act will help states to distribute thousands of BCKs to schools, libraries, places of worship, concert venues, shopping malls, and any other place where people gather, while providing staff and volunteers at these facilities with the necessary training to utilize the materials.

Following the disaster at Sandy Hook in December 2012, the American College of Surgeons (ACS) as well as others in the medical community, the federal government, and the U.S. military, convened the Joint Committee to Create a National Policy to Enhance Survivability from Active Shooter Events and Intentional Mass Casualty. The committee's recommendations are called the Hartford Consensus, and they led to the establishment of the Stop the Bleed Program, a national awareness campaign to train and equip everyday Americans with the skills to help in a bleeding emergency before professional help arrives. To date, Stop the Bleed has trained nearly 125,000 Americans anti blood-loss skills, empowering them to help prevent unnecessary deaths from blood loss.

This legislation builds on that program's successes by amending the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to make it easier for states to apply for BCKs through the Homeland Security Grant Program (HSGP). By making these materials more accessible during times of disaster, bystanders with little or no medical training can save lives when confronted with traumatic injury, similar to the use of CPR or automatic defibrillators (AEDs).

Madam Speaker, this bill will help save lives. We can't prevent disasters, but we can help to ensure we are ready to respond to them. I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

CONGRATULATING SUE MALAHY FOR WINNING THE GOLDEN APPLE AWARD

HON. CHERI BUSTOS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 7, 2019

Mrs. BUSTOS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Sue Malahy for winning the Gold-

en Apple Award. Ms. Malahy is the first educator from downstate Illinois who has received this award.

Ms. Malahy serves as the Principal at Charles Lindbergh Middle School in Peoria, Illinois. Upon receiving the award, she was greeted in the school's gymnasium by golden balloons and singing middle school students to show their appreciation for her work and congratulate her on this outstanding achievement. Ms. Malahy has earned the admiration of her colleagues and students through her leadership. After five years with Ms. Malahy as principal, Lindbergh Middle School is known for having a positive culture for students and teachers to grow and support one another inside and outside of the classroom. One of the areas where Ms. Malahy has led the way is helping teachers use data to recognize students' achievements. In addition, she has introduced programs for students to arrive early before school to study subjects such as algebra and Spanish. As a result of winning this award, her middle school will receive a prize to put towards enhancements at the school, while Ms. Malahy will use her prize to help prepare Illinois undergraduate students interested in pursuing a career in education. I applaud Ms. Malahy's successful efforts to make her school a better place to learn.

It is because of dedicated leaders such as Ms. Malahy that I am especially proud to serve Illinois' 17th Congressional District. Madam Speaker, I would like to again formally congratulate Ms. Malahy on winning the Golden Apple Award.

HONORING NEIGHBORHOOD CONNECTIONS OF LONDONDERRY, VERMONT ON THE OCCASION OF ITS 10TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. PETER WELCH

OF VERMONT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 7, 2019

Mr. WELCH. Madam Speaker, it is with great pride that I rise today to pay tribute to Neighborhood Connections of Londonderry, Vermont which will be celebrating its 10th anniversary on May 17th. I especially want to recognize the vision of its two founding partners, Dr. Dolores Barbeau and Gloria Dawson, who identified a need in their community and had the energy and skills to deliver results that have improved the lives of their neighbors.

Today Neighborhood Connections serves nine towns in rural, south-central Vermont. This is an area of my state where many residents are vulnerable to poverty, food and employment insecurity, lack of transportation, mental and physical health issues, disability, isolation and simply not knowing where to turn for basic support.

Neighborhood Connections is a vital organization committed to welcoming all people through its doors, regardless of challenge or financial status, to help them navigate a range of personal difficulties by connecting them with all forms of available assistance. Its focus is on the most vulnerable and those who face barriers to care.

It offers a myriad of services from connecting people to transportation, housing, heating and employment assistance to helping people access disability and income benefits,

Medicare, Medicaid and tax preparation assistance. The small professional staff offers counseling, crisis management assistance and home visits primarily to elderly and disabled residents. They “walk with” those they serve, offering support for “as long as it takes.” In a given year, Neighborhood Connections delivers over 1,200 services to individuals and families, 90 percent of whom fall below the federal poverty level and 80 percent of whom have significant mental or physical health issues.

Neighborhood Connections is committed to the “total well-being” of communities to improve health and quality of life for all. In short, it exists to foster hope, particularly for vulnerable individuals and families, by delivering care and connecting everyone who walks through its doors to comprehensive wellbeing support.

The motto of Neighborhood Connections is simple: “Neighbors Helping Neighbors.” For ten years they have been fulfilling their vital mission and I know they will continue their work for many years to come.

Madam Speaker, I urge the House to join me today in paying tribute to Neighborhood Connections, Dolores Barbeau, and Gloria Dawson for the countless ways they have improved the quality of life for people in south-central Vermont. Congratulations on this remarkable milestone and best wishes for many more years of success.

THE JEFFERSON CENTER

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 7, 2019

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud The Jefferson Center for receiving the 2019 Golden Rotary Ethics in Business Award for a non-profit organization.

To receive this award an organization must maintain integrity, conviction and possess high ethical standards demonstrated by the treatment of customers, employees, community and the environment. The Jefferson Center checks all those boxes. The Jefferson Center is a mental health and substance use organization committed to making mental health care accessible to all. Each year, The Jefferson Center helps bring hope for a brighter future to thousands of community members who struggle with mental health and substance abuse disorders and individuals whose mental health problems contribute to difficulties at work or school or who have endured hospitalization, homelessness, or even involvement with the juvenile or criminal justice system.

The Jefferson Center's programs and services serve people of all ages and encourage recovery and resiliency of clients throughout their treatment. Their services include outpatient counseling, 24-hour emergency services, wellness classes, recovery-focused support groups, vocational services, homeless prevention assistance and school-based counseling. Because The Jefferson Center offices are throughout our neighborhoods, the Center's staff members are intertwined in the community and provide personal care to the people they treat.

I extend my deepest congratulations to The Jefferson Center for this well-deserved recognition by the Golden Rotary Club.

RECOGNIZING EVAN PRESS

HON. TONY CÁRDENAS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 7, 2019

Mr. CÁRDENAS. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize a San Fernando Valley native and constituent of mine, Evan Press.

Mr. Press has worked tirelessly to improve the Greater San Fernando Valley and give back to his community. Earning a degree in Political Science from our state schools at UC Berkeley and San Francisco State University as well as a Certificate in Financial Planning from UCLA, Mr. Press briefly worked in San Francisco for the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. Thereafter he brought his wealth of knowledge to our community's Chamber of Commerce. Mr. Press began his work in the Chamber of Commerce in 2015 where he worked his way up from serving as the Chairman on the Chamber's Government Affairs Committee to leading the Chamber as Chairman of the Board.

Mr. Press helped establish the San Fernando Valley Regional Foundation, which advances economic, community, and educational development in the area. Further, while Board Chair, the Chamber's Job Training Program expanded with over 800 workers learning management and leadership skills. Mr. Press has shown his clear commitment to the financial success of his community by working to promote San Fernando's small businesses. As Chairman, Mr. Press advocated to decrease costs and streamline the process for the Valley's emerging independent brewing industry. He worked with Valley entrepreneurs to help them navigate the difficulties of opening new stores and setting up new businesses. Even in retirement, Mr. Press continues to serve the San Fernando Valley as an Independent Financial Consultant.

I applaud Mr. Press and his commitment to our community. Such a prominent business leader and respected community member deserves recognition. I hope Mr. Press' efforts inspire other Angelenos to dedicate themselves to the economic success of their neighbors and the Greater San Fernando Valley.

CONGRATULATING THE PEANUT & TREE NUT PROCESSORS ASSOCIATION ON ITS 80TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. DONALD S. BEYER, JR.

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 7, 2019

Mr. BEYER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to ask the House of Representatives to join me in congratulating The Peanut & Tree Nut Processors Association (PTNPA). The PTNPA was established in 1939 and is proud to be celebrating its 80th anniversary in 2019.

Headquartered in Virginia's 8th Congressional District, the PTNPA is an association of leading nut industry companies and representatives. PTNPA member companies range from large global organizations to small family-owned businesses that focus on the food industry production of peanuts and tree nuts—along with companies who supply equipment

and services critical to the nut industry. The PTNPA also works closely with nut and food industry associations, alliances, and coalitions.

PTNPA member companies generate billions of dollars in today's global economy and are growing in response to consumer interests and demands. Eighty percent of PTNPA's employees are constituents of mine lead by Executive Director Jeannie Shaughnessy. The vision of the PTNPA is to be “The Voice of America's Nut Industry”.

Madam Speaker, for these reasons I ask the House of Representatives to join me in congratulating the association and its members on their 80th anniversary.

OATH CEREMONY ON MAY 10, 2019

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 7, 2019

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Madam Speaker, it is with great pleasure and sincerity that I take this time to congratulate thirty individuals who will take their oaths of citizenship on May 10, 2019. This memorable occasion will be held at the United States Courthouse and Federal Building in Hammond, Indiana.

America is a country founded by immigrants. From its beginning, settlers have come from countries around the world to the United States in search of better lives for their families. Oath ceremonies are a shining example of what is so great about the United States of America—that people from all over the world can come together and unite as members of a free, democratic nation. These individuals realize that nowhere else in the world offers a better opportunity for success than here in America.

On May 10, 2019, the following people, representing many nations throughout the world, will take their oaths of citizenship in Hammond, Indiana: Amorette Jackson Vorkpor, Ragubir Singh Rathore, Zeyad Khalaf Al Sedra Al Sedra, Bushra Thamer Mohsin, Jason Christopher Richardson, Sana Hajira Kendrix, Mari Diaz, Marisol Lopez Pantoja, Felipe Garcilazo Garcilazo, Alexandros Angelos Taflanidis, Henry G. Huang, Carlos Magdaleno, Teodora Orduno Gutierrez, Geena Jikyung Kam, Natalie B. Leonov, Andres Loza, Ying-Ling Lin, Araceli Magdaleno, Janet V. Fatti, Mourad Takawi, Veronica Gonzalez, Qusai M. Odeh, Ana Delia Aleman Lorenzo, Estela Reyes, Boubacar Bouka Gamby, Norma Alicia Garmendiz, Mika Trivunovic, Adrian Jaesim, Hisham Mahmoud Salih Abidallh and Stanislaw Antonina Malochleb.

Although each individual has sought to become a citizen of the United States for his or her own reasons, be it for education, occupation, or to offer their loved ones better lives, each is inspired by the fact that the United States of America is, as Abraham Lincoln described it, a country “. . . of the people, by the people, and for the people.” They realize that the United States is truly a free nation. By seeking American citizenship, they have made the decision that they want to live in a place where, as guaranteed by the First Amendment of the Constitution, they can practice religion as they choose, speak their minds without fear of punishment, and assemble in peaceful protest should they choose to do so.

Madam Speaker, I respectfully ask you and my other distinguished colleagues to join me in congratulating these individuals who will become citizens of the United States of America on May 10, 2019. They, too, are American citizens, guaranteed the inalienable rights to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. We, as a free and democratic nation, congratulate them and welcome them.

HONORING DONALD WERLING, 2019
CENTRAL OHIO SENIOR CITIZENS
HALL OF FAME INDUCTEE

HON. JIM JORDAN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 7, 2019

Mr. JORDAN. Madam Speaker, the Central Ohio Area Agency on Aging will host the 44th annual Central Ohio Senior Citizens Hall of Fame induction ceremony on Wednesday, May 15, in Columbus. I am honored to commend to the House one of this year's outstanding inductees: Donald Werling of Marysville.

Don has dedicated countless hours to helping his fellow senior citizens be safer in their homes. After conducting assessments of a senior's house, he draws up plans for basic safety modifications—everything from wheelchair ramps to hand railings to bathroom grab bars. As needed, he helps acquire any necessary permits and obtains quotes for materials. Refusing to decline help to anyone in need, he often recruits sponsors and volunteers to help him complete projects at no cost to the homeowner. In 2018 alone, Don and his volunteers completed 64 much-needed renovation projects throughout Union County.

Madam Speaker, selection for the Central Ohio Senior Citizens Hall of Fame is a high honor accorded to seniors who have devoted their lives to service to others. I am pleased to join in the accolades to Donald Werling on his induction, and thank the Central Ohio Area Agency on Aging for recognizing his many sacrifices and those of all of this year's inductees.

RECOGNIZING 125 YEARS OF
SERVICE BY WINONA HEALTH

HON. JIM HAGEDORN

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 7, 2019

Mr. HAGEDORN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Winona Health.

One-hundred and twenty-five years ago, Winona Health started with \$4,500 to create the 18-bed Winona General Hospital. Certainly, Winona Health has grown over the years, but its focus on serving the community and providing quality health care has stayed the same.

Winona Health's high quality health care is a reflection of the hard work of its doctors, associate providers, staff and volunteers.

All Americans deserve access to quality, timely medical care. I'm thankful the residents of Winona and surrounding areas have a fine medical provider in Winona Health. Congratulations on 125 years.

IN RECOGNITION OF DWIGHT
SPARKS' CONTRIBUTIONS TO
THE DAVIE COUNTY ENTERPRISE

HON. TED BUDD

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 7, 2019

Mr. BUDD. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Dwight Sparks, who retired from the Davie County Enterprise and Clemmons Courier on June 1, 2018.

Mr. Sparks began his journalism career in 1985, helping turn the Davie County Enterprise into a traditional newspaper. At one point, the Enterprise delivered roughly 10,000 copies a week to subscribers. This may not seem like a large number, but perhaps the next fact will highlight how successful Mr. Sparks was in growing the Davie County Enterprise.

During the 1980s, the Davie County Enterprise had the second largest paid circulation in North Carolina among the weeklies. For a small, rural county like Davie, this is a big deal.

He initially worked for the Salisbury Post. And after years in Salisbury, he moved over to the Winston-Salem Journal where he eventually became editor and remained for seven years. Not only was Mr. Sparks a very talented journalist, but I think that his Davie County roots helped him tell important stories in a unique way.

Madam Speaker, please join me today in celebrating Dwight Sparks and wishing him a wonderful retirement.

IN RECOGNITION OF CHRISTIAN
ALVARADO

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 7, 2019

Mr. BURGESS. Madam Speaker, today I rise to recognize Christian Alvarado, a 2019 recipient of the North Texas in DC Internship Program Legacy Award. As a fellow University of North Texas alum, it is my privilege to recognize this outstanding Texan for his many achievements.

Currently, Christian is the co-founder of CBTX Capital, an investment and real estate development firm based in Austin, Texas. Prior to co-founding CBTX Capital, Christian served as the chief of staff and counsel to the chairman of the Texas Railroad Commission.

Previously, he worked as an attorney at Jackson Walker, LLP where he advised corporate clients on various business transactions including securities, mergers and acquisitions, business formation and governance. He also has served as a special assistant to then-Texas Secretary of State Roger Williams.

Governor Perry appointed Christian to the One Call Board of Texas, and Governor Abbott appointed him to serve as a board member of the Department of Information Resources. Additionally, he is the board president of Austin Angels, a non-profit organization that provides assistance to local foster children.

As evidenced by his distinguished track record of accomplishments, Christian has

spent much of his career in service to his fellow Texans. I congratulate him on this honor, and wish the entire Alvarado family every continued success.

HONORING SHIRLEY MONACELLI
AS AMHERST WOMEN'S
INTERCLUB COUNCIL HONOREE

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 7, 2019

Mr. HIGGINS of New York. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the life and accomplishments of Shirley Monacelli as she is honored by the Amherst Women's Interclub Council for her lifetime of service to her community.

As a dedicated educator, Shirley began her career teaching grades Nursery through 3rd Grade in the Niagara Falls School System, as well as evening classes in English for adults seeking U.S. Citizenship or their GED. Additionally, she served as an adjunct professor at Niagara County Community College where she designed and taught her own Early Childhood Education Curriculum.

In 1980, Shirley started her lifetime of community service by volunteering as an usher and in the gift shop at Art Park. She continued in that volunteer role for 30 years, picking up numerous other volunteer roles along the way which she continues to participate in to this day.

Shirley has touched the lives of so many individuals as a leader, educator, and neighbor in her community. Her roles stretch from a Chairwoman of the New York State Council for Children State Conference, to working the Information Office at the Amherst Senior Center, to teaching Religious Education at St. Gregory the Great.

Dedicated community leaders such as Shirley, who are committed to serving the Western New York Community and to making life enjoyable and fulfilling for all our neighbors, are part of what makes Western New York such a special place to live.

Madam Speaker, I recognize Shirley Monacelli as she is honored by the Amherst Women's Interclub Council for her lifetime of service to her community. Her devotion to enriching the lives of others through community service and volunteer work is an inspiration to everyone who seeks to better the world in which we live.

HONORING THE 2019 NATIONAL
SCIENCE BOWL FINALISTS FROM
NAPERVILLE NORTH HIGH
SCHOOL

HON. BILL FOSTER

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 7, 2019

Mr. FOSTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the National Science Bowl team of Naperville North High School and to commend them on reaching the national finals of the high school academic competition.

Since 1991, the Office of Science's National Science Bowl has hosted some of the nation's

most intelligent students for one of the largest and most prestigious academic competitions. Every year, teams from 64 schools around the country compete to demonstrate their understanding of the great issues in mathematics and science.

I want to congratulate the Naperville North High School team on reaching the national finals and on placing first in SLAC Division Team Challenge. The talent and knowledge present in these students are truly impressive, and as Congress' resident PhD-trained physicist, I wish them the best of luck in their future endeavors.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ERIC A. "RICK" CRAWFORD

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 7, 2019

Mr. CRAWFORD. Madam Speaker, on Thursday, May 2, 2019 I was inadvertently detained on Roll Call Votes 175 through 184. Had I been present to vote, I would have voted in the following manner: No on roll Call No. 175; Yes on Roll Call Vote 176; Yes on Roll Call Vote 177; No on Roll Call Vote 178; Yes on Roll Call Vote 179; No on Roll Call Vote 180; No on Roll Call Vote 181; No on Roll Call Vote 182; Yes on Roll Call Vote 183; and No on Roll Call Vote 184.

CONGRATULATING GWEN TOMBERGS ON WINNING THE QUAD-CITIES ATHENA LEADERSHIP AWARD

HON. CHERI BUSTOS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 7, 2019

Mrs. BUSTOS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Gwen Tombergs for winning the Quad-Cities Athena Leadership Award for empowering and mentoring women throughout their careers. Ms. Tombergs is the first female president in the Southern Professional Hockey League for the Quad-City Storm.

The Quad-Cities Athena Awards were founded 14 years ago by a group of women focused on female leadership and gender diversity. Ms. Tombergs embodies the spirit of this award through her work in our community. She has had an outstanding career where she led the way and shaped the lives of women at places such as casinos, Lujack's, the Quad-City Times and the Quad-Cities Chamber of Commerce—culminating with the nomination for this distinguished award. However, Ms. Tombergs did not stop there—she has taken on multiple leadership roles within the Quad-City Thunder CBA Basketball Team, the Quad-City Sports Center, the New York Mets and now the Quad-City Storm hockey team. Ms. Tombergs has been a steadfast advocate for young women in the Quad-Cities region, and is an asset to our community. I am grateful for her leadership and wish her continued success in the future.

It is because of dedicated leaders like Ms. Tombergs that I am especially proud to serve Illinois' 17th Congressional District. Madam Speaker, I would like to again formally con-

gratulate Gwen Tombergs for winning the Quad-Cities Athena Award and thank her for empowering women in everything she does.

HONORING THE 2019 BROWARD SENIOR HALL OF FAME ELECTEES

HON. THEODORE E. DEUTCH

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 7, 2019

Mr. DEUTCH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor and congratulate ten exemplary men and women from Broward County who will be inducted to the Broward Senior Hall of Fame this week.

Each year, the Aging & Disability Resource Center of Broward County honors elder excellence in the volunteer sector of Broward County. These outstanding citizens are individuals from all walks of life who have contributed greatly to the vibrancy and well-being of South Florida. They are engaged in distinguished volunteer service that benefit our communities and make Broward County the outstanding place that it is to live, raise a family, and retire.

The ten distinguished electees are Barbara "Bobbi" Arnold of Hollywood, Beauregard Cummings of Ft. Lauderdale, Gail Gannotta of Pompano Beach, Ruby Hutson of Lauderdale Lakes, Jean Merget of Ft. Lauderdale, Art Schmall of Margate, Florie Scott of Lauderdale Lakes, Carl Shechter of Pembroke Pines, Harold Smith of Davie, and Aline Zucker of Cooper City.

Again, congratulations to these outstanding individuals. I wish them the best of luck with their induction and continued service to Broward County. It is with great pleasure that I honor them, and I look forward to hearing of their continued service activities.

INTRODUCTION OF THE PREPARING LOCALITIES FOR AN AUTONOMOUS AND CONNECTED ENVIRONMENT ACT

HON. EARL BLUMENAUER

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 7, 2019

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Madam Speaker, today I introduced the Preparing Localities for an Autonomous and Connected Environment (PLACE) Act. This legislation would create a federally funded highly automated vehicle clearinghouse to examine the secondary influences of autonomous vehicles on land use, real estate, transportation, municipal budgets, urban design, the environment, and social equity.

The transportation sector is changing at a faster pace than ever before. New mobility options like transportation network companies, bikeshare, scooters, and more have already disrupted how Americans get around. And with more than 300 companies and partnerships working toward bringing semi- or fully-autonomous vehicles to market in the near future, the landscape is set to change even faster. While Congress has started to debate autonomous vehicle legislation, little attention has been paid to the secondary influences of auto-

nous vehicles once they are deployed onto the roads. Done right, autonomous vehicles can solve some of the country's most vexing transportation problems while improving mobility for all. Done wrong, autonomous vehicles can exacerbate transportation's negative externalities, leaving communities struggling to make sense of an ever-changing landscape.

The PLACE Act will help communities better prepare for rapidly-changing environments while providing policymakers with the tools and research they need to make great places. I look forward to working with my colleague and the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee to enacting this bill.

RECOGNIZING JOANNA CLOUD FOR HER TENURE AS EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE LAKE LANIER ASSOCIATION

HON. DOUG COLLINS

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 7, 2019

Mr. COLLINS of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Joanna Cloud's nine-year tenure as Executive Director of the Lake Lanier Association.

Since Joanna first stepped into the role of Executive Director in August of 2010, the Lake Lanier Association has experienced incredible growth. Under her leadership, the Association's annual income has tripled, and lake-based programs, membership and services have expanded significantly. She led several projects to implement much-needed improvements to Lake Lanier, including placing solar lights on hazard markers for boating safety, and preventing further erosion by placing heavy rocks on the edges of the lake islands. Joanna was especially passionate about removing abandoned docks and vessels, which required her to garner support from state lawmakers to attain the funding necessary to complete the project. Because of her steadfast commitment, approximately 60 abandoned and rundown docks and boats on Lake Lanier were removed between 2015 and 2018.

Joanna's hard work and dedication over the past decade helped ensure the over 4 million people in the surrounding area would continue to have access to clean drinking water, and thanks to her leadership, families in Northeast Georgia will be able to continue enjoying Lake Lanier for many years to come.

Personally, I'd like to thank Joanna for her friendship and for working steadily with me and my office. On behalf of the people of Northeast Georgia, I want to thank Joanna for her hard work and dedication to improving our community. I wish her the best of luck in her future endeavors.

HONORING COUNCILMAN ERIC TURNER FOR TWENTY-FOUR YEARS OF SERVICE

HON. DARIN LAHOOD

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 7, 2019

Mr. LAHOOD. Madam Speaker, today, I would like to honor Peoria City Councilman,

Eric Turner, for his twenty-four years of service to Peoria, Illinois.

Councilman Turner will retire as the longest tenured member of the current Peoria City Council. In his service to the City Council, Eric Turner has truly worked to benefit all of Peoria as an At Large Councilman. His public service left a profound impact on our community.

Outside of Turner's public service to Peoria, he served our nation proudly in Vietnam from 1966 to 1967, and he still plays a key role in coordinating Peoria's Memorial Day events held at our riverfront each year. Councilman Turner has left his mark on the business world, as well. He had a forty-one year career at Caterpillar Inc., working in marketing and human resources.

I am grateful for Eric Turner's time and commitment to the City of Peoria. His work, as a public servant and private citizen, left a legacy in the Peoria community that will remain for generations to come.

HONORING GREENE'S CLEANERS, INC.

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 7, 2019

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Greene's Cleaners on its 100th anniversary.

The late George Greene started Greene's Cleaners in 1919. The business was bought by Glenn and Helen Paulsen in 1957, who sold the business to Peter and Terry Smith in 1979. In 2009, the Smiths sold Greene's Cleaners to Laurie and Alonso Corona, their daughter and son-in-law. Mr. and Ms. Corona both graduated from the University of California, Santa Cruz with a Bachelor of Arts in Business Management. Ms. Corona also earned an MBA from Sonoma State University.

Greene's Cleaners is an integral part of our community and has provided support to many people and organizations throughout Napa County. During the recent North Bay fires, Greene's Cleaners cleaned 5,000 pounds of donated clothing for fire survivors and helped organize a pop-up store for people in need. At Christmas, Greene's Cleaners collect donations, which are given to the Salvation Army's Toys for Tots program. For food and clothing drives throughout the year, Greene's Cleaners often provides drop-off locations and will pick up donations from customers who are unable to drop them off. Greene's Cleaners financially supports local schools and is a sponsor of Little League and Napa Junior Girls Softball.

Greene's Cleaners is an important small business in our area. It employs thirty-three people between its two locations. Mr. Corona is a member of numerous Chambers of Commerce, including the Napa, St. Helena, and Sonoma chapters, and is a member of the Hispanic Chamber of Commerce. Greene's Cleaners is also associated with America's Best Cleaners. Mr. and Ms. Corona have worked hard to make Greene's Cleaners environmentally sustainable and continue to work towards that goal. The stores use bio-based solvent, low wattage LED lighting, and water recycling.

Madam Speaker, Greene's Cleaners has been an important institution in our community

for 100 years. It is therefore fitting and proper that we honor its 100th anniversary here today.

IN RECOGNITION OF TAYLOE AND HELEN MURPHY

HON. ROBERT J. WITTMAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 7, 2019

Mr. WITTMAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of this year's Outstanding Virginians, Tayloe and Helen Murphy, two dedicated servant leaders from the First District of Virginia.

Tayloe Murphy received his Bachelor's degree from Hampden-Sydney College in 1953 and his law degree from the University of Virginia in 1960. He was commissioned an Ensign in the U.S. Naval Reserve from 1954 to 1957. He then served aboard the U.S.S. *Newport News*, and later on the staff of the Supreme Allied Commander of NATO. Tayloe Murphy was elected to the Virginia General Assembly as a Delegate to represent the 99th District from 1982 until his retirement in 2000. His committee assignments included Labor and Commerce, Courts of Justice, Corporations Insurance and Banking, and Chesapeake and Its Tributaries. He was later appointed Secretary of Natural Resources under Governor Mark Warner. Throughout his political career and beyond, Murphy has been a champion of the environment. He has worked hard to be a leader in the efforts to clean up the Chesapeake Bay, with includes his landmark legislation in 1988, the Chesapeake Bay Preservation Act.

Helen Murphy graduated from Sweet Briar College in 1956, and shortly after, married Tayloe. Helen is also an avid environmentalist who has dedicated her life to conservation. Helen served on the board of the Nature Conservancy, Lewis Ginter Botanical Gardens, and the Virginia Outdoors Foundation, among others, and was a founding member of The Garden Club of the Northern Neck. Helen also served as the President of the Menokin Foundation and was awarded Volunteer of the Year by the Association of Fundraising Professionals Central Virginia Chapter in 1999.

The couple continues to work to address environmental issues to this day. Tayloe and Helen have devoted their lives to leaving a legacy through their leadership and unrelenting conservation efforts in the Commonwealth and the Chesapeake Bay watershed. Tayloe and Helen could not be more deserving of this year's Outstanding Virginian Award.

Madam Speaker, I ask you to join me in recognizing the incredible accomplishments and devotion of Tayloe and Helen Murphy. Words alone cannot express our gratitude for their service to our great Commonwealth of Virginia. May God bless Tayloe and Helen Murphy in all their future endeavors.

RECOGNIZING THE 175TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FOUNDDING OF THE UNIVERSITY OF ALBANY

HON. PAUL TONKO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 7, 2019

Mr. TONKO. Madam Speaker, I rise to mark the 175th anniversary of the founding of the University at Albany on the principles "wisdom both for its own sake and for the sake of teaching" sapientia et sua et docendi causa.

The University at Albany was founded by the New York State Legislature on May 7, 1844 as the New York State Normal School, dedicated to ensuring that New York's next generation of teachers would be highly trained. Through the 19th century, the New York State Normal School educated teachers and school administrators and provided opportunities for social and economic mobility.

Between 1890 and 1905, the school was transformed from a two-year teacher training school into a four-year liberal arts college, granting its first bachelor's degree in 1893. In 1914, the school was renamed the New York State College for Teachers, and by the 1950s started offering a Ph.D. program in education.

In the early 1960s, the college broadened from its focus on teaching to a university with a more comprehensive scope. In 1962, a major expansion of the broader SUNY system heralded the University at Albany's first class of undergraduate students in liberal arts programs without required study in teacher education. The University at Albany continued its evolution into a leading research university in the decades that followed.

Today, the University at Albany is a nationally respected Research 1 university and a major employer and economic driver of the surrounding economy with a \$1 billion annual impact on New York's Capital Region. The school maintains 18 NCAA Division I athletic teams that share in the school's legacy of excellence; in 2018, the University at Albany Men's Lacrosse team became the first State University of New York Division I team to be ranked No. 1 in the nation. And with an enrollment level of nearly 18,000 students today, the University at Albany has earned national recognition for supporting students from traditionally underrepresented backgrounds on college campuses.

The University at Albany continues to build on its strong tradition as one of our nation's leading and most diverse research institutions. I am incredibly proud of the students, faculty, staff and alumni who have made the University at Albany what it is today. May they carry their success forward for another 175 years and beyond.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE ST. FRANCIS XAVIER CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL CLASS OF 1969

HON. MIKE GALLAGHER

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 7, 2019

Mr. GALLAGHER. Madam Speaker, today I rise to recognize the St. Francis Xavier High School Class of 1969.

Fifty years ago, 287 students graduated from St. Francis Xavier Catholic High School in Appleton, Wisconsin. Members of the class have gone on to be leaders in the community and emulate the school's central principles of faith, hope, justice, and charity. Many now serve as role models for young men and women in their own communities nationwide.

The May 25, 1969 graduates include:

Stephen Abitz, Kathleen Ann Arens, Catherine Babb, Kathy Bachman, Daniel J. Balliet, Richard M. Balza, Robert James Balza, Joyce A. Barkholtz, Michael J. Barras, Tim J. Bartelt, Edward A. Baum, Marilyn Baum, Barbara M. Bayer, Patricia Bayer, Suzanne C. Beaudoin, Susan Becker, Karen L. Besch, Marcelline F. Beschta, Eugene Michael Bissing, James T. Black, Marilyn J. Blick, Barbara Anne Bobber, Betty Lou Bock, Susan M. Bonner, Joanne Elizabeth Booth, Nancy Bowers, Loretta H. Brandt, Barbara Jeanne Brayton, Sue E. Breitenbach, Thomas R. Brinsko, Jeffrey L. Brum, Robert L. Burch, David T. Burke, Mark Edward Calmes, Lynn A. Carew, Kathryn Ann Carpenter, Mary Lou Cassidy, Mary F. Christianson, Michael Clark, Mary A. Connolly, Joyce Mary Crawford, Kathleen Damon, Patricia Ann Day, Jane E. Deckers, Patricia Ann DeGroot, Charles J. Deibele, Michael Dengel, Patricia A. De Noble, Donna Dexheimer, Jean Ann De Young, Richard E. Diedrick, Margaret Dietz, Doris Dietzen, Robert J. Doherty, Linda Dorzweiler, Cynthia A. Dougherty, Janis E. Driscoll, Patricia M. Early, James E. Eisner, Patricia Ellenbecker, Jeanne M. Erchul, Nancy J. Escamilla, Robert Femal, Christine M. Ferron, Michael E. Ferron, Shirley M. Feuerstein, Richard J. Fischer, Kathleen Flanagan, Barbara A. Flood, William F. Floodstrand, Jacinta Mary Fralun, Robert H. Fullarton, David Francis Gage, Anna Garvey, Jennifer A. Garvey, Sharon Gass, Sue Ann Gatz, William P. Gedemer, Cynthia M. Geurts, Jane Ann Gilbert, John R. Gloudemans, James J. Gloudemans, Brad J. Graff, Douglas P. Green, Virginia M. Green, Barbara Gregorius, Ellen P. Gregorius, Gregory Michael Griesbach, Lynn Ellen Griesbach, Robert J. Griesbach, Richard M. Grossman.

James R. Gruentzel, Mary Jo Guckenberger, Kay Gutschow, Guy Guyon, Peter James Hahn, Sharon Hando, Steven A. Hardy, Richard G. Hayes, Dennis Heigl, Gary F. Heimerman, Edith Hein, Ellen Mary Heinemann, Marie C. Heinritz, Micheline R. Heinritz, Joan Heiss, Dianne Mary Herwig, Victoria Hildebrandt, Angela May Hughes, Thomas O. Hurley, Suzette Ann Hurst, Arthur F. Jaehnke, Cynthia Ann Jandourek, Mark Douglas Jankowski, Judith Mae Jansen, Mary Dianne Janssen, Veronica Mary Jentz, Mary Lou Jochman, Shirley Ann Jochman, Charles M. Johnson, Garry C. Kausch, Robert L. Keller, Cynthia Doris Kells, Rosemary Frances Kemkes, Nancy Marie Kennedy, Ralph Charles Kessler, Karen Kay Kester, Carol Kettenhoven, William R. Kettenhofen, Lawrence Keuler, Katherine Jane Kewley, Robert C. Klemp, Curtis J. Knight, Patricia Knight, Robert W. Knoll, Louise Ann Koll, Richard Eugene Koller, Kathryn Kolosso, Frederick Kranzusch, Sandra J. Kraus, Jane Krejcha, Jeffrey George Krueger, Carol A. Krupka, Mary Jo Kurth, Karla G. Kwikite, Kevin K. Lally, Charles Joseph Lang, Daniel John Laux, Charles Joseph LaViolette, John Edward Le Capitaine, Timothy H. Leopold, Debra Liethen, Eugene F. Lillge, Ann Loerke, Kathryn Ann

Lorenz, James Losselyong, Catherine Lund, Mary Ann Luedeke, Deborah Susan Lux, Charles E. Maass, Mark R. Malchow, Philip John Mannebach, Elizabeth Martin, Francesca Jean Martin, Michael A. Marx, Mary Lynn Mauthe, Robert R. McCann, Margaret Mary Catherine McCanna, Margery W. McClenahan, Christopher B. McDermott, Richard M. McKenny, Elizabeth L. Meiers, Stephen C. Mendleski, Lynn Mary Motelewski, Cheryl Mueller, Michael James Murphy, Michael John Murphy, Patrice Michelle Murphy, Thomas L. Neilitz, Richard E. Neubauer, Richard E. Noe, Stephen C. Noffke, Margaret K. Nyman, Pamela Ann O'Leary, John Paltzer, Michael Richard Pankratz, Carol Ann Pastorelli, Stephen Mark Patenaude, Denise Paulie, James P. Peerenboom.

Jay F. Peerenboom, Mary Pendergast, Kathleen Ann Peterson, Jean Pfankuch, William Richard Pfefferle, Mary Melanie Piette, Larry J. Plamann, Mary Therese Ponschock, Thomas Putzer, Kathleen Quigley, Mary Louise Rathack, Jenny Rechner, Barbara Reis, John M. Resch, Judy K. Rieden, Mary T. Roberts, David Joseph Roche, Stephen L. Roder, Paul M. Rubsani, Peter A. Rubsam, Christine Ruppel, Michael Samsa, Donald J. Schaefer, Robert Norton Schmieder, Mary Theresa Schuldes, Jean Ann Schumacher, Joseph Schwaller, Patricia Ann Schweitzer, Christopher L. Seghers, Mark Sherman, Ronald Shilt, Barbara J. Smith, Marsha Mary Snow, Joan Marie Sommers, Ann Marie Springer, Kathleen B. Springer, Margaret Ann Stack, Thomas J. Stadler, Sally Joan Stevens, William George Michael Stoeger, Roger Raymond Stoffel, Debra A. Streck, Elizabeth J. Strutz, Robert John Sturm, Carey Sullivan, Patricia Ann Sullivan, Rodger J. Surprise, Robert Tews, Mary F. Theabo, Jeffrey Theisen, Mary Jill Thiel, Charles A. Thompson, Thomas Lee Thomson, Joan Marie Tillman, Susan C. Tomazevic, Marjorie H. Ulman, Anthony J. Utschig, Nancy D. Vandenberg, Thomas E. Vandenberg, Thomas Vanden Elsen, Vickie E. Vanderpool, Victoria G. Van Dinter, Gary G. Van Eperen, Michael E. Van Groll, Christine Ann Van Handel, Michael N. Van Handel, Richard Van Handel, Pamela J. Van Rooy, Mark Van Ryzin, Mary K. Van Sistine, Frieda Ann Van Sleuwen, Marsha Claire Voissem, Michael Louis Voster, Kenneth P. Wagner, Mary Pat Wallace, Daniel I. Waller, Gail Mary Warne, Gary L. Wassmann, Carl J. Weber, Wayne Weckwerth, Dianne Marie Weggel, Susan Mary Weiland, Linda K. Weiss, Jane E. Welhouse, Charlene Ann Werner, Roger E. West, Joseph R. Wettengel, Thomas Whalen, Ellen J. White, Paul Whitehead, Lawrence Wilson, John F. Witmer, Mary Rae Witter, Judith A. Wolfe, Lisa Ann Young, Gregory T. Zak, Mary Lee Zwicker.

Madam Speaker, it is my honor to congratulate the Class of 1969 in celebrating their golden reunion. I wish them the best during this time of joy in seeing old friends and remembering good times.

RECOGNIZING THE EIGHTH ANNUAL COCOA BEACH "FOOTPRINTS IN THE SAND" KIDNEY WALK AND THOSE WHO HAVE GIVEN THE PRECIOUS GIFT OF LIFE

HON. BILL POSEY

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 7, 2019

Mr. POSEY. Madam Speaker, on Saturday, May 11, 2019, thousands of residents from across Central Florida will gather at the Cocoa Beach Pier in Cocoa Beach, Florida, to take part in the Eighth Annual "Footprints in the Sand" Cocoa Beach Kidney Walk. Katie and I have joined others in our community in participating every year since the first walk was organized in 2012 by Rich Salick, Bill Hahn and volunteers with the Florida Affiliate of the National Kidney Foundation.

The "Footprints in the Sand" Kidney Walk brings our community together to show our love and concern. So many of us have family, friends and loved ones that are afflicted by kidney disease and they need our strength and support. The road ahead is not easy for them, but as the kidney walk demonstrates, they do not have to travel that path alone.

The National Kidney Foundation of Florida, its supporters and activists have made a significant difference in people's lives. They not only raise awareness about this disease but they have helped push for much needed changes in our laws and new innovations to give patients more treatment options and a better quality of life.

This year organizers of the kidney walk will recognize organ donors and their families for giving the precious gift of life so that others could receive a second chance and continue with their lives.

Those recognized include:

Ellen Tuech on behalf of Geoffrey Wasden, Donna Oakley on behalf of James "Jimmy" Gregory Fisher, Dawn Futch on behalf of Michael-Gene Futch, Diana Couch on behalf of Linda Couch, Billie Lomonaco on behalf of Tiffany Accardi, Jasmine Persaud on behalf of Anand Persaud, Sherri Wilson on behalf of William Garrett Coe, Pat Brown on behalf of Michael Brown, Laila Merolle on behalf of Mario Merolle, Maria Isabel Almonte on behalf of Xavier Emilio Lara Almonte, Josefina Merizalde on behalf of Emily Baquerizo, Laura Dawkins on behalf of Brooke Dawkins, Mary Carpenter on behalf of Shawn Carpenter, Patricia Rivera on behalf of Sebastian Rivera, Donna Kinney on behalf of Matthew David Hartmann, Shebna Dorsey on behalf of Andrew Dorsey, Deborah Harder Thorpe on behalf of Jessica Harder, Vivian Pogeler on behalf of Scott Pogeler, and Susan Hahn and Teresa Jamison-Hahn on behalf of Bill Hahn.

I ask my colleagues in the U.S. House of Representatives to join me in recognizing the strong will of these caring families, their loved ones and all those who have joined the effort and worked tirelessly to raise awareness about kidney disease.

IN RECOGNITION OF ZAMERON BOOZER WINNING THE 1A BOYS STATE CHAMPIONSHIP IN THE HIGH JUMP

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 7, 2019

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize Zameron Boozer for winning the Alabama 1A Boys State Championship in the high jump.

Zameron is a junior at Lanett High School in Lanett, Alabama. On Friday, May 3, 2019, in Cullman, Alabama at the state meet, he secured the 1A boys state championship in the high jump with a leap of 6–6. It was his personal best.

Zameron just started track and field last year. He also plays basketball and hopes to continue playing in college.

Madam Speaker, please join me in recognizing and congratulating Zameron on this achievement.

COMMEMORATING THE 150TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE GREENVIEW CHRISTIAN CHURCH

HON. DARIN LaHOOD

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 7, 2019

Mr. LAHOOD. Madam Speaker, I would like to recognize the Greenview Christian Church of Greenview, Illinois, for celebrating their 150th anniversary.

In 1869, the Greenview Christian Church was officially opened as a place of worship for the residents of the city. Since then, the church has grown immensely; it now provides the community with far more than a place to pray. This is where the residents of Greenview come to make strides towards improving their local area, as well as to help those less fortunate than themselves abroad, through their partner missionary program, Faith Promise Rally.

The Greenview Christian Church is known throughout the area for the services that it has provided for the community over the last 150 years. Today, we celebrate the church for their dedication to serving Greenview. I extend my sincere congratulations to the Greenview Christian Church for a successful 150 years, and I wish them even more success going forward.

HONORING SNOOPY'S HOME ICE'S 50TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 7, 2019

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today with Congressman JARED HUFFMAN to honor Snoopy's Home Ice on its 50th anniversary.

Snoopy's Home Ice, also known as the Redwood Empire Ice Arena, opened on Monday, April 28th in 1969. Snoopy's was built

and owned by Charles M. Schulz, creator of the Peanuts comic strip. Snoopy's is the only permanent ice rink between Oakland and the Oregon border serving California coastal communities. The 33,500-foot facility welcomes over 110,000 skaters a year and has been a venue for ice skating performances, skating lessons, hockey games, tennis matches, and concerts. The Santa Rosa Figure Skating Club, Santa Rosa Junior Hockey Club, Snoopy's Adult Hockey League, and the Santa Rosa Junior College hockey team all call Snoopy's Home Ice their home.

Snoopy's Home Ice is the home of the Snoopy's Senior World Hockey Tournament, which was started in 1975 by Mr. Schulz. The annual event draws over 50 teams of players aged 40 to 96 from all over the world to play more than 100 games. Teams have traveled from numerous countries, including those as far away as Japan, Austria, and Australia. Snoopy's Senior World Hockey Tournament has brought in an estimated \$5.8 million per summer to Sonoma County. The arena also hosted holiday ice shows from 1986 until 2003. The shows had elaborate choreography performed by many well-known and respected skaters.

Madam Speaker, Snoopy's Home Ice has not only been a recreational facility for the last fifty years, it has been a place for our community to gather, children to celebrate birthdays, families to celebrate holidays, and the site of numerous sporting events. It is therefore fitting and proper that we honor its 50th anniversary here today.

INTRODUCTION OF THE BUILDING UNITED STATES INFRASTRUCTURE AND LEVERAGING DEVELOPMENT (BUILD) ACT

HON. EARL BLUMENAUER

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 7, 2019

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Madam Speaker, today I introduced the Building United States Infrastructure and Leveraging Development (BUILD) Act. This bipartisan legislation will spur billions of dollars private investment in surface transportation and freight transfer facilities, while giving state and local governments an important instrument to improve their communities.

Across all sectors of infrastructure, the United States faces a \$2 trillion gap between projected needs and projected funding. The sector with the largest gap is surface transportation, where the United States is projected to underfund our roads, bridges, and transit systems by \$1.1 trillion by 2025. This is unacceptable. Americans are already paying for the cost of inaction through increased traffic, worse health outcomes, damage due to rough road conditions, and higher prices for household goods. Congress needs to use every tool at its disposal to deliver a better transportation system for the American people.

This legislation builds on the success of surface transportation private activity bonds by increasing the federal volume cap by \$5.8 billion while clarifying that the use of the bonds must maintain robust labor protections. While public-private partnerships are not a panacea for solving all of our transportation challenges,

they are an important piece of rebuilding and renewing America. I look forward to working with my colleagues in the House and Senate to enact this legislation as part of an infrastructure investment bill.

RECOGNIZING THE DEDICATED SERVICE OF DR. WILLIAM BOWEN

HON. MATT GAETZ

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 7, 2019

Mr. GAETZ. Madam Speaker, today I rise to recognize Dr. William Bowen, professor of political science at Pensacola Christian College, for his twenty-six years of exemplary service and investment in Northwest Florida.

Dr. Bowen began his service at Pensacola Christian College in 1992 when he approached the founder and president, Dr. Horton, about the possibility of establishing a political science program at the College. At this time, the College only offered a political science minor.

In 1993, Dr. Bowen officially joined the faculty of Pensacola Christian College and began establishing the curriculum for the foundational courses in PCC's political science concentration. By the fall of 2004, the political science concentration was officially offered under Dr. Bowen's guidance and expertise.

Dr. Bowen singlehandedly developed the entire political science program at Pensacola Christian College. He has been responsible for the curriculum development and teaching of every political science elective offered at the College; moreover, he has also developed two graduate-level courses for PCC's Master of Science in Curriculum and Instruction with a History specialization.

Dr. Bowen's biblical worldview, understanding of America's founding, and keen awareness of political trends have helped to shape one of the most successful programs in the Humanities Department of Pensacola Christian College. His faithful service and unrivaled scholarship have earned him a place among the College's most distinguished faculty members.

Dr. Bowen's wisdom and insight have been an inspiration and guide for all his students, many of whom have become influential leaders in Northwest Florida and across America. Some of Dr. Bowen's students have attained the heights of American leadership, becoming influential leaders in Washington, D.C.

Dr. Bowen's commitment to excellence in instruction has challenged his students to reach new heights of scholastic achievement. His exemplary scholarship has made him an invaluable instructor in both national and state issues. Dr. Bowen has a profound influence on the lives of each of the students he instructs.

The strength of America lies in the education of its future leaders, and it is an honor for me to have exceptional professors in our district such as Dr. William Bowen who are faithfully training future American leaders that will one day shape the destiny of our great country.

Madam Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, I am privileged to congratulate Dr. William Bowen for his twenty-six years of service and the exemplary legacy he leaves for the future leaders of America.

RECOGNITION OF MR. COLIN GARRISON'S SPECIAL OLYMPIC WORLD GAMES TITLES

HON. EMANUEL CLEAVER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 7, 2019

Mr. CLEAVER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate Mr. Colin Garrison's three Olympic victories at the 2019 Special Olympic World Games. The achievement of such a distinguished title takes profound dedication and practice on the part of both the athlete, coaches, and the community. The immense accomplishments of individuals like Mr. Garrison make me proud to represent the Fifth Congressional District of Missouri in the United States Congress.

Out of the 216 athletes competing in the 2019 World Games, Mr. Garrison was one of two participants representing the state of Missouri. Having participated alongside countless talented athletes in Missouri for many years, Mr. Garrison was honored to earn a trip as a top contestant.

Mr. Garrison's awards in bocce ball, both silver and gold, at the 2019 Special Olympic World Games in Abu Dhabi are the culmination of years of hard work. Garrison overcame what might be perceived by others as obstacles in his life and turned them into blessings and triumphs. For the last 13 years, Colin has taken part in the Missouri Special Olympics, taking home titles in a variety of athletic categories. Furthermore, he has competed at the USA Games numerous times, including the 2010 and 2018 USA Games. Not limited to bocce ball, Colin competed in multiple sports such as basketball, softball, bowling, flag football, soccer, and more. Garrison says that he is not done competing and plans to continue training for future events. He hopes to once more join the American team at the 2023 Special Olympic World Games in Berlin.

Through these athletic games and tournaments, Colin Garrison has traveled across the nation from Lincoln, Nebraska to Seattle, Washington, and now, he has expanded globally. Mr. Garrison enjoys visiting new cities and attending professional sporting events; however, his favorite part is meeting new people at each series of events.

When Mr. Garrison is not competing, he is a crucial and beloved member of his family and his community. All those who know him feel blessed to have him in their life. His positive outlook and perseverance are two of his most defining traits. Working hard at two jobs, he always makes time for the rigorous practice schedule in a variety of sports. His coach and father, Mike Garrison, has said that he could not be prouder of his son and all that Colin has accomplished through his hard work and perseverance.

Madam Speaker, please join me and Missouri's Fifth Congressional District in celebrating the accomplishments of Mr. Colin Garrison. I encourage my fellow citizens and constituents to unite together under the same spirit of positivity, resiliency, and determination that Mr. Garrison has carried throughout his long and prestigious career.

HONORING TECHNICAL SERGEANT JUSTIN MARTZ

HON. DANIEL MEUSER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 7, 2019

Mr. MEUSER. Madam Speaker, it is with great respect that I rise today to recognize the distinguished service of Technical Sergeant Justin Martz of Jonestown. After 26 years serving Pennsylvania in the Army National Guard and in the Air National Guard, TSgt. Martz is retiring this June.

I have a profound admiration for those individuals who answer the call to serve and dedicate themselves to both country and community. TSgt. Martz's service has earned him the Army Service Ribbon, the Iraq Campaign Medal, and multiple State Service ribbons. Most important, however, TSgt. Martz has earned the respect and admiration of his fellow guardsmen. His service has taken him around Pennsylvania, across the country, and to the furthest reaches of the globe, but no matter what the mission, TSgt. Martz remains an exemplary citizen and soldier.

TSgt. Martz, his wife, Heather, and their family represent the very best in our Citizen Soldiers. I ask that my colleagues join me in thanking TSgt. Martz for his dedicated service to the United States and his many contributions to the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. We wish him the best as he enters this next chapter in life.

COMMEMORATING THE 40TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE PRAIRIE CITIES SOCCER LEAGUE

HON. DARIN LAHOOD

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 7, 2019

Mr. LAHOOD. Madam Speaker, I would like to recognize the Prairie Cities Soccer League (PCSL) of Normal, Illinois, for the celebration of their 40th anniversary.

In 1978, over a friendly cup of coffee, two men developed an idea that would take youth soccer in the Bloomington/Normal area to new heights. Founders, Jack Fowler and Joe Miller worked tirelessly to bring their dream of a fun and safe environment for children to play soccer in their community. Since then, the PCSL has grown immensely. The League now provides the area with far more than a place to play the great game of soccer. PCSL is also where the Bloomington/Normal area youth learn valuable skills, such as teamwork, tenacity, and vision, that will benefit them for the rest of their lives. As a Co-Chair of the Congressional Soccer Caucus, I am incredibly proud of everything that PCSL does for our district.

The Prairie Cities Soccer League is known throughout the area for the services that it has provided for the community over the last 40 years. Today, we celebrate the league for their dedication to serving Bloomington/Normal. I extend my sincere congratulations to the Prai-

rie Cities Soccer League for a successful 40 years, and I wish them even more success going forward.

IN HONOR OF THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF DR. C.O. GRINSTEAD AT TRINITY BAPTIST MINISTRIES

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 7, 2019

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize the 50th Anniversary of Dr. C.O. Grinstead's ministry at Trinity Baptist Church of Oxford, Alabama.

June 23, 2019 will mark Dr. Grinstead's 50th anniversary at Trinity Baptist Church. Dr. Grinstead is a native of Gary, Indiana, and a graduate of Tennessee Temple University in Chattanooga, Tennessee. He met his wife, Sherry, at a college fellowship in 1957, and they were married June 4, 1960.

Dr. Grinstead came to Trinity in 1969 from Jacksonville, Florida. He bought some radio equipment and began a 15-minute daily radio program of Trinity highlights on WHMA in December of 1969.

In the 1970s, Trinity began Trinity Christian Academy, built the school and the gymnasium. In 1975, Dr. Grinstead left to travel with Evangelist Tom Williams and sent tithe back each month. In 1978, he returned to Trinity and became Associate Pastor with 100 percent vote of the church.

In 1981, he became pastor of Trinity. In 1989, Dr. Grinstead received his Doctorate from Florida Bible College and the next year, he became moderator of the Southwide Baptist Fellowship. In 1994, Truth Radio came on-air and has been running in 24 counties in East Central Alabama and a few counties in West Georgia.

Dr. Grinstead has served as Chaplain of the Calhoun County Republican Party, Oxford Police Department and Assistant Chaplain at Calhoun County Jail.

He and Sherry were blessed with three children and nine grandchildren.

Madam Speaker, please join me in recognizing this milestone for my good friend, Brother Grinstead.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ALMA S. ADAMS

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 7, 2019

Ms. ADAMS. Madam Speaker, I was absent for the votes listed below due to a tragic school shooting event in my district.

Had I been present, I would have voted: Roll Call No. 172, YEA; Roll Call No. 173, YEA; Roll Call No. 174, YEA; Roll Call No. 175, YEA; Roll Call No. 176, NO; Roll Call No. 177, NO; Roll Call No. 178, YEA; Roll Call No. 179, YEA; Roll Call No. 180, YEA; Roll Call No. 181, YEA; Roll Call No. 182, YEA; Roll Call No. 183, NO; and Roll Call No. 184, YEA.

Daily Digest

Senate

Chamber Action

Routine Proceedings, pages S2657–S2705

Measures Introduced: Twenty-one bills and two resolutions were introduced, as follows: S. 1336–1356, and S. Res. 192–193. **Pages S2687–88**

Measures Passed:

Authorizing testimony and representation: Senate agreed to S. Res. 192, to authorize testimony and representation in *State of Nevada v. Lacamera*.

Page S2700–01

Kids to Parks Day: Senate agreed to S. Res. 193, designating May 18, 2019, as “Kids to Parks Day”.

Page S2701

Commending the Government of Canada: Senate agreed to S. Res. 96, commending the Government of Canada for upholding the rule of law and expressing concern over actions by the Government of the People’s Republic of China in response to a request from the United States Government to the Government of Canada for the extradition of a Huawei Technologies Co., Ltd. executive.

Page S2701

Appointments:

Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe (Helsinki): The Chair, on behalf of the Vice President, pursuant to Public Law 94–304, as amended by Public Law 99–7, appointed the following Senators as members of the Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe (Helsinki) during the 116th Congress: Senators Cardin, Whitehouse, Udall, and Shaheen.

Page S2700

Congressional-Executive Commission on the People’s Republic of China: The Chair, on behalf of the President of the Senate, pursuant to Public Law 106–286, appointed the following Members to serve on the Congressional-Executive Commission on the People’s Republic of China: Senators Feinstein, Merkley, Peters, and King.

Page S2700

Bianco Nomination—Agreement: Senate continued consideration of the nomination of Joseph F. Bianco, of New York, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Second Circuit.

Pages S2660–68, S2688–76

A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing for further consideration of the nomination, post-cloture, at approximately 9:30 a.m., on Wednesday, May 8, 2019.

Page S2701

Reed Nomination—Cloture: By 82 yeas to 17 nays (Vote No. EX. 96), Senate agreed to the motion to close further debate on the nomination of Kimberly A. Reed, of West Virginia, to be President of the Export-Import Bank of the United States.

Page S2677

Bachus Nomination—Cloture: By 74 yeas to 24 nays (Vote No. EX. 97), Senate agreed to the motion to close further debate on the nomination of Spencer Bachus III, of Alabama, to be a Member of the Board of Directors of the Export-Import Bank of the United States.

Page S2677

Pryor Nomination—Cloture: Senate resumed consideration of the nomination of Judith DelZoppo Pryor, of Ohio, to be a Member of the Board of Directors of the Export-Import Bank of the United States.

Pages S2678–79

During consideration of this nomination today, Senate also took the following action:

By 79 yeas to 19 nays (Vote No. EX. 98), Senate agreed to the motion to close further debate on the nomination.

Pages S2677–78

Bianco, Reed, Bachus, and Pryor Nominations—Agreement: A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing that at 10 a.m., on Wednesday, May 8, 2019, Senate vote on confirmation of the nominations of Joseph F. Bianco, Kimberly A. Reed, Spencer Bachus III, and Judith DelZoppo Pryor in the order listed.

Page S2667

Measures Placed on the Calendar:

Pages S2658–59, S2684

Executive Communications: **Pages S2684–87**

Additional Cosponsors: **Pages S2688–90**

Statements on Introduced Bills/Resolutions: **Pages S2690–99**

Additional Statements: **Pages S2682–84**

Authorities for Committees to Meet: **Page S2700**

Record Votes: Three record votes were taken today. (Total—98) **Pages S2677, S2677–78**

Adjournment: Senate convened at 10 a.m. and adjourned at 6:41 p.m., until 9:30 a.m. on Wednesday, May 8, 2019. (For Senate's program, see the remarks of the Acting Majority Leader in today's Record on page S2701.)

Committee Meetings

(Committees not listed did not meet)

APPROPRIATIONS: FBI

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies concluded open and closed hearings to examine proposed budget estimates and justification for fiscal year 2020 for the Federal Bureau of Investigation, after receiving testimony from Christopher Wray, Director, Federal Bureau of Investigation, Department of Justice.

APPROPRIATIONS: FCC AND FTC

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Financial Services and General Government concluded a hearing to examine proposed budget estimates and justification for fiscal year 2020 for the Federal Communications Commission and the Federal Trade Commission, after receiving testimony from Ajit Pai, Chairman, Federal Communications Commission; and Joseph J. Simons, Chairman, Federal Trade Commission.

PRIVACY RIGHTS AND DATA COLLECTION

Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs: Committee concluded a hearing to examine privacy rights and data collection in a digital economy, after receiving testimony from Peter H. Chase, German Marshall Fund of the United States, Washington, D.C.; Jay Cline, PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP, Minneapolis, Minnesota; and Maciej Ceglowski, Pinboard, Friendship, Maine.

AGENCIES EARLY PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs: Subcommittee on Regulatory Affairs and Federal Management concluded a hearing to examine agencies early public engagement and retrospective

review, after receiving testimony from Susan E. Dudley, George Washington University Regulatory Studies Center, Washington, D.C.; and Sally Katzen, New York University School of Law, New York, New York.

NOMINATIONS

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs: Committee concluded a hearing to examine the nominations of Dale Cabaniss, of Virginia, to be Director of the Office of Personnel Management, who was introduced by Senator Boozman, and Michael Eric Wooten, of Virginia, to be Administrator for Federal Procurement Policy, who was introduced by former Representative Tom Davis, after the nominees testified and answered questions in their own behalf.

21ST CENTURY CURES ACT

Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions: Committee concluded a hearing to examine implementing the 21st Century Cures Act, focusing on making electronic health information available to patients and providers, after receiving testimony from Donald Rucker, National Coordinator for Health Information Technology, Office of the National Coordinator for Health IT, and Kate Goodrich, Director, Center for Clinical Standards and Quality, and Chief Medical Officer, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, both of the Department of Health and Human Services.

INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY AND THE PRICE OF PRESCRIPTION DRUGS

Committee on the Judiciary: Committee concluded a hearing to examine intellectual property and the price of prescription drugs, focusing on balancing innovation and competition, after receiving testimony from Joshua D. Baker, South Carolina Department of Health and Human Services, Columbia; David E. Mitchell, Patients for Affordable Drugs, and James Stansel, Pharmaceutical Research and Manufacturers of America, both of Washington, D.C.; Michael A. Carrier, Rutgers Law School, Camden, New Jersey; and David S. Olson, Boston College Law School, Newton Centre, Massachusetts.

House of Representatives

Chamber Action

Public Bills and Resolutions Introduced: 41 public bills, H.R. 2528–2568 and 4 resolutions, H. Res. 355–356 and 358–359 were introduced.

Pages H3473–75

Additional Cosponsors:

Pages H3476–78

Report Filed: A report was filed today as follows:

H. Res. 357, providing for consideration of the bill (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, and providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 2157) making supplemental appropriations for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2019, and for other purposes (H. Rept. 116–51).

Pages H3462, H3473

Speaker: Read a letter from the Speaker wherein she appointed Representative Gomez to act as Speaker pro tempore for today.

Page H3451

Recess: The House recessed at 12:26 p.m. and reconvened at 2 p.m.

Page H3454

Journal: The House agreed to the Speaker's approval of the Journal by voice vote.

Pages H3454, H3462

Recess: The House recessed at 2:09 p.m. and reconvened at 4 p.m.

Page H3455

Suspensions: The House agreed to suspend the rules and pass the following measures:

Taiwan Assurance Act of 2019: H.R. 2002, to foster security in Taiwan;

Pages H3455–57

Reaffirming the United States commitment to Taiwan and to the implementation of the Taiwan Relations Act: H. Res. 273, reaffirming the United States commitment to Taiwan and to the implementation of the Taiwan Relations Act, by a $\frac{2}{3}$ yeas-and-nay vote of 414 yeas with none voting “nay”, Roll No. 185; and

Pages H3457–58, H3461

Championing American Business Through Diplomacy Act of 2019: H.R. 1704, to foster commercial relations with foreign countries and support United States economic and business interests abroad in the conduct of foreign policy, by a $\frac{2}{3}$ yeas-and-nay vote of 400 yeas to 16 nays, Roll No. 186.

Pages H3459–61, H3461–62

Recess: The House recessed at 4:29 p.m. and reconvened at 6:30 p.m.

Page H3461

Senate Referral: S. 693 was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary.

Page H3472

Senate Message: Message received from the Senate by the Clerk and subsequently presented to the House today appears on page H3455.

Quorum Calls—Votes: Two yeas-and-nays votes developed during the proceedings of today and appear on pages H3461 and H3462. There were no quorum calls.

Adjournment: The House met at 12 noon and adjourned at 8:46 p.m.

Committee Meetings

APPROPRIATIONS—DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies held a budget hearing on the Department of the Interior. Testimony was heard from David Bernhardt, Secretary, Department of the Interior.

SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2019; PROTECTING AMERICANS WITH PREEXISTING CONDITIONS ACT OF 2019

Committee on Rules: Full Committee held a hearing on H.R. 2157, the “Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2019”; and H.R. 986, the “Protecting Americans with Preexisting Conditions Act of 2019”. The Committee granted, by record vote of 9–4, a rule providing for consideration of H.R. 986, the “Protecting Americans with Preexisting Conditions Act of 2019”, and H.R. 2157, the “Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2019”. Section 1 of the rule provides for consideration of 986, the “Protecting Americans with Preexisting Conditions Act of 2019”, under a structured rule. The rule provides one hour of general debate equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Energy and Commerce. The rule waives all points of order against consideration of the bill. The rule provides that the bill shall be considered as read. The rule waives all points of order against provisions in the bill. The rule makes in order only those amendments printed in part A the Rules Committee report accompanying the resolution. Each such amendment may be offered only in the order printed in the report, may be offered only by a Member designated in the report, shall be considered as read, shall be debatable for the time specified in the report equally divided and controlled by the proponent and an opponent, shall not be subject to amendment, and shall not be subject to a demand for division of the question. The rule waives all points of order against the amendments printed in

Part A of the report. The rule provides one motion to recommit with or without instructions. Section 2 of the rule provides for consideration of H.R. 2157, the “Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2019”, under a structured rule. The rule provides one hour of general debate equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Appropriations. The rule waives all points of order against consideration of the bill. The rule provides that an amendment in the nature of a substitute consisting of the text of Rules Committee Print 116–12, modified by the amendment printed in part B of the Rules Committee report, shall be considered as adopted and the bill, as amended, shall be considered as read. The rule waives all points of order against provisions in the bill, as amended. The rule provides that clause 2(e) of Rule XXI shall not apply during consideration of the bill. The rule makes in order only those further amendments printed in part C of the Rules Committee report. Each such amendment may be offered only in the order printed in the report, may be offered only by a Member designated in the report, shall be considered as read, shall be debatable for the time specified in the report equally divided and controlled by the proponent and an opponent, shall not be subject to amendment, and shall not be subject to a demand for division of the question. The rule waives all points of order against the amendments printed in part C of the report. Finally, the rule provides one motion to recommit with or without instructions. Testimony was heard from Chairman Scott of Virginia, and Representatives Pallone, Griffith, King of Iowa, Rodney Davis of Illinois, Dunn, Graves of Louisiana, Radewagen, and Austin Scott of Georgia.

Joint Meetings

No joint committee meetings were held.

COMMITTEE MEETINGS FOR WEDNESDAY, MAY 8, 2019

(Committee meetings are open unless otherwise indicated)

Senate

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Financial Services and General Government, to hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates and justification for fiscal year 2020 for the Commodity Futures Trading Commission and the Securities and Exchange Commission, Time to be announced, SD–124.

Subcommittee on Department of Defense, to hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates and justification for fiscal year 2020 for the Department of Defense, 10 a.m., S–128, Capitol.

Committee on Armed Services: Subcommittee on Strategic Forces, to hold hearings to examine the Department of Energy’s atomic defense activities and programs in review of the Defense Authorization Request for fiscal year 2020, 2:30 p.m., SR–222.

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation: to hold hearings to examine new entrants in the national airspace, focusing on policy, technology, and security issues for Congress, 9:30 a.m., SD–G50.

Committee on Environment and Public Works: to hold an oversight hearing to examine the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers’ Civil Works program, 10 a.m., SD–406.

Committee on Finance: to hold hearings to examine Medicare physician payment reform after two years, focusing on Medicare Access and CHIP Reauthorization Act implementation and the road ahead, 10:15 a.m., SD–215.

Committee on Foreign Relations: to hold hearings to examine the President’s proposed budget request for fiscal year 2020 for the United States Agency for International Development, 10 a.m., SD–419.

Committee on Indian Affairs: to hold hearings to examine the President’s proposed budget request for fiscal year 2020 for Indian programs, 2:30 p.m., SD–628.

Committee on Judiciary: Subcommittee on Border Security and Immigration, to hold hearings to examine the humanitarian and security crisis at our southern border, 2:30 p.m., SD–226.

Special Committee on Aging: to hold hearings to examine the Older Americans Act, focusing on protecting and supporting seniors as they age, 2:30 p.m., SD–562.

House

Committee on Appropriations, Full Committee, markup on the Report on the Suballocation of Budget Allocations for FY 2020; and the Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill, FY 2020, 10:30 a.m., 2359 Rayburn.

Committee on Armed Services, Subcommittee on Strategic Forces, hearing entitled “FY20 Priorities for Missile Defense and Missile Defeat Programs”, 2 p.m., 2118 Rayburn.

Committee on Education and Labor, Full Committee, markup on H.R. 2480, the “Stronger Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act”, 10:15 a.m., 2175 Rayburn.

Subcommittee on Health, Employment, Labor, and Pensions, hearing entitled “The Protecting the Right to Organize Act: Deterring Unfair Labor Practices”, 2 p.m., 2175 Rayburn.

Committee on Energy and Commerce, Subcommittee on Environment and Climate Change, hearing entitled “Ban Asbestos Now: Taking Action to Save Lives and Livelihoods”, 10 a.m., 2322 Rayburn.

Subcommittee on Consumer Protection and Commerce, hearing entitled “Oversight of the Federal Trade Commission: Strengthening Protections for Americans’ Privacy and Data Security”, 10:30 a.m., 2123 Rayburn.

Committee on Financial Services, Subcommittee on Housing, Community Development and Insurance, hearing entitled “A Review of the State of and Barriers to Minority Homeownership”, 10 a.m., 2128 Rayburn.

Full Committee, markup on H.R. 1988, the “Protect Affordable Mortgages for Veterans Act of 2019”; H.R. 2409, the “Expanding Access to Capital for Rural Job Creators Act”; H.R. 2513, the “Corporate Transparency Act of 2019”; H.R. 2514, the “Coordinating Oversight, Upgrading and Innovating Technology, and Examiner Reform Act of 2019”; H.R. 2515, to amend the Securities and Exchange Act of 1934 to amend the definition of whistleblower; legislation on the Insider Trading Prohibition Act of 2019; legislation on the Task Force on Financial Technology Resolution of 2019; and legislation on Task Force on Artificial Intelligence Resolution of 2019, 2 p.m., 2128 Rayburn.

Committee on Foreign Affairs, Full Committee, hearing entitled “Smart Competition: Adapting U.S. Strategy Toward China at 40 Years”, 10 a.m., 2172 Rayburn.

Subcommittee on the Middle East, North Africa, and International Terrorism, hearing entitled “Opportunities and Challenges in U.S. Relations with the Gulf States”, 1:30 p.m., 2172 Rayburn.

Subcommittee on Asia, the Pacific, and Nonproliferation, hearing entitled “China’s Growing Influence in Asia and the United States”, 2 p.m., 2200 Rayburn.

Committee on Homeland Security, Full Committee, hearing entitled “Confronting the Rise of Domestic Terrorism in the Homeland”, 10 a.m., 310 Cannon.

Committee on House Administration, Full Committee, hearing entitled “Election Security”, 2 p.m., 1310 Longworth.

Committee on the Judiciary, Full Committee, markup on Committee Report for Resolution Recommending that the House of Representatives Find William P. Barr, Attorney General, U.S. Department of Justice, in Contempt of Congress for Refusal to Comply with a Subpoena Duly Issued by the Committee on the Judiciary, 10 a.m., 2141 Rayburn.

Committee on Natural Resources, Subcommittee on Water, Oceans, and Wildlife, hearing on H.R. 417, to amend title 18, United States Code, to establish measures to combat invasive lionfish, and for other purposes; H.R. 1023, the “Great Lakes Fishery Research Authorization Act of 2019”; H.R. 1218, the “American Fisheries Advisory Committee Act”; H.R. 1240, the “Young Fishermen’s Development Act of 2019”; H.R. 1314, the “Integrated Coastal and Ocean Observation System Act Amendments of 2019”; H.R. 1979, the “Driftnet Modernization and Bycatch Reduction Act”; H.R. 2189, the “Digital Coast Act”; H.R. 2405, the “National Sea Grant College Program Amendments Act of 2019”; H.R. 2406, the “National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Commissioned Officer Corps Amendments Act of 2019”, 10 a.m., 1324 Longworth.

Committee on Oversight and Reform, Full Committee, markup on H.R. 391, the “White House Ethics Transparency Act”; H.R. 2003, the “Ensuring Federal Employees Health Benefits Program (FEHBP) Coverage During Shutdowns Act”; H.R. 2004, the “Ensuring Federal Employees Dental/Vision Program (FEDVIP) and Federal Long Term Care Insurance Program (FLTCIP) Coverage During Shutdowns Act”; and a postal naming measure, 10 a.m., 2154 Rayburn.

Subcommittee on National Security, hearing entitled “Veteran and Active-Duty Military Suicides”, 2 p.m., 2154 Rayburn.

Committee on Science, Space, and Technology, Subcommittee on Research and Technology, hearing entitled “A Review of the National Science Foundation FY 2020 Budget Request”, 10 a.m., 2318 Rayburn.

Subcommittee on Space and Aeronautics, hearing entitled “Keeping Our Sights on Mars: A Review of NASA’s Deep Space Exploration Programs and Lunar Proposal”, 2 p.m., 2318 Rayburn.

Committee on Small Business, Full Committee, hearing entitled “Honoring the Nation’s Small Business Heroes”, 10 a.m., 2360 Rayburn.

Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, Full Committee, markup on H.R. 2440, the “Full Utilization of the Harbor Maintenance Trust Fund Act”; H.R. 1984, the “DISASTER Act”; H.R. 2502, the “Transparency in Federal Buildings Projects Act of 2019”; and General Services Administration Capital Investment and Leasing Program Resolutions, 10 a.m., 2167 Rayburn.

Subcommittee on Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation, hearing entitled “The Cost of Doing Nothing: Maritime Infrastructure Vulnerabilities in an Emerging Arctic”, 2 p.m., 2167 Rayburn.

Committee on Veterans’ Affairs, Full Committee, markup on H.R. 299, the “Blue Water Navy Vietnam Veterans Act of 2019”; H.R. 712, the “VA Medicinal Cannabis Research Act of 2019”; H.R. 2191, the “Veterans Cannabis Use for Safe Healing Act”; H.R. 2385, 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; H.R. 1988, the “Protect Affordable Mortgages for Veterans Act”; H.R. 2372, the “Veterans’ Care Quality Transparency Act”; H.R. 2340, the “FIGHT Veteran Suicides Act”; H.R. 2359, the “Whole Veteran Act”; H.R. 2333, the “Support for Suicide Prevention Coordinators Act”; H.R. 1126, the “Honoring Veterans Families Act”; H.R. 2045, the “VET OPP Act”; H.R. 1200, the “Veterans’ Compensation Cost-of-Living Adjustment Act”; H.R. 1199, the “VA Website Accessibility Act”; H.R. 95, the “Homeless Veteran Families 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 of 2019”; H.R. 2398, the “Veteran House Act”; H.R. 2399, the “Home for Our Heroes Act of 2019”; H.R. 1812, the “Vet Center Eligibility Expansion Act”; H.R. 1947, to exempt transfers of funds from Federal agencies to the Department of Veterans Affairs for nonprofit corporations established under subchapter IV of chapter 73 of such title from certain provisions of the Economy Act, 10 a.m., 1334 Longworth.

Committee on Ways and Means, Full Committee, hearing entitled “Paid Family and Medical Leave: Helping Workers and Employers Succeed”, 10 a.m., 1100 Longworth.

Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence, Full Committee, hearing entitled “Fiscal Year 2020 National Security Program Budget Request”, 9:30 a.m., HVC-304. This hearing is closed.

Next Meeting of the SENATE

9:30 a.m., Wednesday, May 8

Next Meeting of the HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

10 a.m., Wednesday, May 8

Senate Chamber

Program for Wednesday: Senate will continue consideration of the nomination of Joseph F. Bianco, of New York, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Second Circuit, post-cloture, and vote on confirmation of the nomination at 10:00 a.m.

Following disposition of the Bianco nomination, Senate will vote on confirmation of the nominations of Kimberly A. Reed, of West Virginia, to be President of the Export-Import Bank of the United States, Spencer Bachus III, of Alabama, to be a Member of the Board of Directors of the Export-Import Bank of the United States, and Judith DelZoppo Pryor, of Ohio, to be a Member of the Board of Directors of the Export-Import Bank of the United States in the order listed.

Following disposition of the Pryor nomination, Senate will vote on the motion to invoke cloture on the nomination of Janet Dhillon, of Pennsylvania, to be a Member of the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission.

House Chamber

Program for Wednesday: Consideration of measures under suspension of the Rules.

Extensions of Remarks, as inserted in this issue

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