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House of Representatives

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

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,
May 9, 2019.

I hereby appoint the Honorable HENRY C. ''HANK'' JOHNSON, Jr. to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

NANCY PELOSI,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

MORNING-HOUR DEBATE

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

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

RECOGNIZING CARBONDALE COMMUNITY ICONS

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

Mr. BOST. Mr. Speaker, last weekend Southern Illinois University and the larger Carbondale community lost two icons, Harvey Welch and Seymour Bryson.

Harry Welch, a native of Centralia, was the first Black athlete to earn a basketball letter at SIU, playing from 1951 to 1954. He was also the first Black student to complete the ROTC program at the university. Harvey went on to a 20-year career in the Air Force, and he was the first of three Black officers to be promoted to colonel.

After retiring from the Air Force, Harvey came back to Carbondale and SIU in 1975. He served as the first Black dean of student life at SIU and then as vice chancellor from 1987 to 2000.

Seymour Bryson of Quincy, a fellow basketball standout, received three degrees from SIU. He was one of three African Americans to progress from assistant professor to full professor at SIU. He was also the first African American associate dean of the college and the second of three African American deans. Seymour was active in the Carbondale NAACP, Jackson County Mental Health Board, and Carbondale United Way.

Harvey Welch and Seymour Bryson are members of the SIU Saluki Hall of Fame. They will be dearly missed.

RECOGNIZING KODY VANFOSSAN

Mr. BOST. Mr. Speaker, I rise today not only as a Member of Congress, but also as a former firefighter to recognize Kody Vanfossan of Christopher, Illinois. Kody, a 24-year-old firefighter, passed away in the line of duty early Sunday morning.

Kody grew up around the fire station and comes from a family with deep traditions of public service. His dad, Brent, is a captain on the Christopher force. His grandfather is Christopher's mayor but was also a firefighter at the Valier Fire Department.

Kody's family instilled in him a passion for helping others, despite the risk. Now his community will remember him as a hero.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Kody for his service, and may he rest in peace.

NO ONE IS ABOVE THE LAW

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

Mr. GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, last night at a rally in Florida, the President referred to me as ''that man.''

Mr. Speaker, I love my country, and still I rise. And I rise today to address the comment that the President made in referring to me as ''that man.''

Mr. Speaker, the video of what I said speaks for itself. The President indicates that I said the only way to get him out of office is to impeach him, but the video speaks for itself.

But I do want to share with the President that he is right; I am ''that man.'' I am ''that man,'' a liberated Democrat, a liberated Democrat in the spirit of Shirley Chisholm. I am unbought and unbossed.

Mr. President, you finally encountered at least one person that your money can't buy and your power doesn't scare.

You have a date with destiny, Mr. President. Your fate is in the hands of 435 Members of Congress. You are not above the law. No one is.

Impeachment is in the hands of this Congress. ''That man,'' Mr. President, is a Member of this Congress.

Mr. President, I assure you that the long arm of the law is reaching out for you. In this country, we will not allow you or any other person to hold yourself out as being above the law.

You have an appointment with history in this House of Representatives. If no one else will bring you to justice, I will, Mr. President.

Lawsuits and delay tactics will not deter me. You will not engage in the paralysis of analysis, as Dr. King put it. You won't engage in this paralysis of analysis such that we will put this off until the next election.

Mr. President, your case will be brought before this House. It is just a matter of time, Mr. President; it is just a matter of time.

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

Members are further reminded to address their remarks to the Chair and not a perceived viewing audience.

RECOGNIZING BUCKS COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE MEN'S GOLF TEAM

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

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the Bucks County Community College men's golf team for their strong performance this season, their first year competing as a Division II athletic program.

While golf season for most Americans is just underway, the Bucks County Community College men's golf team has been playing since March. Earlier this month, the team secured a bid to the 2019 NJCAA Division II Men's National Golf Championship after winning their regional golf championship at Cumberland Country Club in Maryland with a combined team score of 320.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to particularly recognize golfer Chris Benvenuto and Coach Scott Bradshaw for their work in guiding this team to such success. We wish them and all Bucks County golfers all the best of luck as they move on to compete in Indiana and beyond. Our entire Bucks County community is incredibly proud of each and every one of these team members and Bucks County Community College.

TEACHER APPRECIATION WEEK

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, this week is Teacher Appreciation Week, and I rise to recognize an outstanding school faculty member from Bucks County, Pennsylvania.

Jeff Klein, a guidance counselor at Tamanend Middle School in Warrington, was recently named the winner of the Unsung Heroes Award, sponsored by the Pennsylvania State Education Association and the Council for the Advancement of Public Schools. In addition to his work counseling students, Jeff serves as a coach and works to give students additional learning opportunities both inside and outside of the traditional classroom.

With this prestigious honor comes a $2,000 grant, which Jeff says will be put toward the painting of a mural in the Tamanend gym that honors the basketball tournament he conducts to fundraise for the Kelly Anne Dolan Memorial Fund, a nonprofit organization in Montgomery County that assists families raising children with disabilities.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to honor Jeff, and I thank him for his service to our community.

I would also like to thank the Kelly Anne Dolan Memorial Fund, PSEA, and Tamanend Middle School and their principal, Dr. Brian Caughie, for all they do to educate our youth and to serve all those in need in our community.

TEACHER APPRECIATION WEEK

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, this week is Teacher Appreciation Week, and I rise today to recognize a dedicated educator from Bucks County, Pennsylvania.

Andrea Mangold, a teacher at the Holland Elementary School, was recently named an Outstanding Earth Science Teacher for the State of Pennsylvania by the National Association of Geoscience Teachers. These awards are given to educators who contribute greatly to students' interest in earth science at the precollege level. In June, Andrea will be recognized by her peers at the National Association of Geoscience Teachers' Eastern Section Meeting.

Mr. Speaker, I am grateful for Andrea's work and appreciate her dedication for instilling a passion for science and learning in our community's youth.

I would also like to recognize Holland Elementary School Principal Joe MacClay and the National Association of Geoscience Teachers for all they do to educate and inspire our next generation of leaders.

MOURNING ANDREW ''AJ'' FREUND

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

Ms. UNDERWOOD. Mr. Speaker, on Friday, May 3, I attended the visitation of 5-year-old Andrew ''AJ'' Freund. His mother and father are awaiting trial for his murder.

Our community is in mourning. AJ's death is heartbreaking, and so is the system that failed him. But one key part of the foster care system is stretched beyond capacity.

In the county where AJ lived, 40 percent of children must leave the county to be placed in foster homes, which can have adverse impacts. The need for foster care in Illinois grew by 20 percent between 2017 and 2018, while the number of foster homes is decreasing at the fastest rate in the country.

Local agencies are reviewing the policies surrounding AJ's death, but Congress must act as well. Here are two things that I am doing and that our colleagues can do as well to prevent another tragedy like AJ.

First, join me as a member of the Congressional Foster Youth Caucus to support people to become foster parents and to place children into stable homes. Second, seek data-informed solutions.

This week, I championed a bipartisan amendment to the Child Abuse and Treatment Act, CAPTA, to study the effect of parental substance use disorders on children removed from a family.

I hope my colleagues will join me in supporting foster youth and families across this country. We must all work to ensure tragedies like AJ's death never happen again.

RECOGNIZING MRS. CATHERINE ROSALIE McFADDIN BEATY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. NORMAN) for 5 minutes.

Mr. NORMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a truly great American, Mrs. Catherine Rosalie McFaddin Beaty, who passed away on April 27, 2019, at the age of 94.

Mrs. Beaty was born in Rock Hill, South Carolina, and was the daughter of the late Roy D. McFaddin and the late Eulalie Boykin Cook McFaddin. She was also preceded in death by her husband, Cherry Beaty, and brother, First Lieutenant Robert Eli McFaddin, who was killed in action during World War II.

Mrs. Beaty was a 1941 graduate of Rock Hill High School, where she was a member of the following clubs: the National Honor Society, the Glee Club, the Public Speaking and Drama Club, and the Latin and French Club. She was a junior assistant of the Bearcat publication.

She graduated from Winthrop College in 1945, where she received a bachelor's degree in business and, later, a teaching degree.

Upon graduation from Winthrop, she first worked as a paralegal and secretary before beginning her career as a teacher, where she taught at Rock Hill High School, Ebinport Elementary, Riverview Elementary, Fort Mill Elementary, McCelvey Elementary, and Richmond Drive Elementary.

During her teaching career, she was a member of the NEA and the SCEA as a representative of Richmond Drive Elementary School and Delta Kappa Gamma International Society of Teachers, along with Alpha Delta Kappa, where she served for over 30 years.

Mrs. Beaty was a dedicated member of Oakland Avenue Presbyterian Church, volunteering for the Providence Presbytery for over 20 years in the resource library.

□ 1015

She rang handbells in the Memorial Handbell Choir and sang in the Chancel Choir for over 59 years.

In recognition of her dedicated and tireless service to the church, Mrs. Beaty was awarded the Presbyterian Woman of the Year in 2015.

Rosalie Beaty was an icon with the very people who knew her the best, her family. She delighted in family gatherings, where she would provide bottled Coke, hot tea, and cheese rings for everyone who attended.

She had the uncanny ability to remember family birthdays and anniversaries with cards and special mementos.

Rosalie Beaty will be remembered for her fierce independence, her sharp

mind, her amazing memory, and her loyalty and strict attention to detail.

During her memorial service held on May 1, 2019, the description stated by Reverend Jeff Bryan was that she was simply the mother of Cathy Rose, and the legacy left behind by her life was epitomized by these words: While she was alive, she lived, and the 94 years she lived on this Earth were spent serving her God, her family, and her fellow man, in that order.

The indelible mark she left on her family and community will remain for years to come. The world is truly a better place by having the person of Rosalie McFadden Beaty as a shining example of dedication to a higher calling and, truly, a life well lived.

RECOGNIZING 2019 ILLINOIS TEACHER OF THE YEAR SUSAN CONVERSE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. RODNEY DAVIS) for 5 minutes.

Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mrs. Susan Converse, who was recently named the 2019 Illinois Teacher of the Year by the Illinois State Board of Education.

Mrs. Converse teaches functional life skills at Edwardsville High School in my district. She takes a personal interest in her students, ensuring they have all the tools they need to succeed in the classroom and beyond.

If you ask her, she will tell you that the work she does every day is a dream come true.

As a functional life skills teacher, Mrs. Converse manages the Tiger Den at Edwardsville High School. It is a coffee shop staffed and run by students with disabilities.

Her students take the orders and work the register, teaching them consumer service skills and equipping them with vocational training to prepare them for life after they exit the school system.

As a father, I know the difference a teacher can make in the lives of our kids, and Mrs. Converse certainly has made a profound impact on each and every one of her students.

I am proud to recognize her today as one of the best educators in not just the State of Illinois but the entire country.

I congratulate Susan. It was great to see her out here in Washington last week, and I look forward to seeing her back home very soon.

RECOGNIZING AUDREY EPHRAIM WOMEN'S CENTER

Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Audrey Ephraim Women's Center in Carlinville, Illinois, and Pastor Don and his wife, Deneane, who run this great facility.

As the southern Illinois site for Adult & Teen Challenge Illinois, this center is a critical resource in providing effective care to women who struggle with life-controlling problems.

Audrey Ephraim Women's Center is a residential program with a one-of-a-kind approach to caring for women in need of treatment.

For some, this program is a last chance before serving time in jail. For others, they come at their own will for help in seeking a road to recovery.

When I visited the center, I spoke with three women who told me that, upon their arrival, they had found a path to bettering their lives and finding purpose. For so many women, this center is a safe haven. It is a place for hope and a promise of a brighter tomorrow.

I am proud to represent facilities like the Audrey Ephraim Women's Center that provide this life-changing care to women who are in their most desperate times.

To all those at the center, I thank them for all they do. I am going to continue to pray for each and every one of them.

I really want to thank my new friends—Katrina, Alicia, and Rhonda—who were not just an inspiration to me and my team but are an inspiration to this entire institution and our great country. I look forward to seeing them again.

RECESS

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

Accordingly (at 10 o'clock and 19 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1200

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker at noon.

PRAYER

Imam Omar Sulieman, Yaqeen Institute for Islamic Research, Irving, Texas, offered the following prayer:

In the name of God, the most compassionate, the most merciful; our sustainer, our guide; ever present, never unaware, infinitely able, Your servants in Your loving care; guide us to pure convictions that inspire in us the courage to match those convictions.

We pray for peace, not war; love, not hate; benevolence, not greed; unity, not division. And we commit ourselves to not betraying our prayers with actions that contradict them.

Let us be for truth, no matter who or for is against it; and justice, no matter who or for it is against; and hope, no matter what obstacles lie ahead.

Let us not be deterred by the hatred that has claimed the lives of innocent worshipers across the world, but emboldened by the love that gathered them together to remember You and gathered us together to remember them.

Let us not be overcome by the darkness of evil nor the slumber of indifference that turns human beings into hashtags and neighbors into enemies. Let us be the light that we seek from You.

Guide the deliberations of our Members of Congress to just decisions, and guide our Nation to the abode of reconciliation. May we honor one another, glorify You together, and inspire the world to be better.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

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

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. Will the gentleman from Montana (Mr. GIANFORTE) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. GIANFORTE led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

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

WELCOMING IMAM OMAR SULIEMAN

The SPEAKER. Without objection, the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JOHNSON) is recognized for 1 minute.

There was no objection.

Ms. JOHNSON of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise today to thank Imam Sulieman for offering the opening prayer before the House of Representatives and to recognize the commencement of Ramadan, the Muslim holy month of fasting and spiritual renewal. He offers counsel and religious guidance to many Muslims in my district and throughout the north Texas region.

We are fortunate to live in a nation that embraces religious diversity and interfaith understanding. I am proud to have introduced a resolution to recognize the commencement of Ramadan and to commend the Muslim community in the United States and throughout the world for their faith.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

REUNITE CHILDREN WITH THEIR MOTHERS

(Mr. TAKANO asked and was given permission to address the House for 1

minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

(English translation of the statement made in Spanish is as follows:)

Mr. TAKANO. On Mother's Day, I have a message for all the mothers who were separated from their children at our border after enduring a long and dangerous journey to provide their children with a better life:

The American people and I are with you.

Thousands of children were separated from their parents. And hundreds are still separated from their families.

That's unacceptable.

The President's anti-immigrant actions are cruel, inhumane, and a violation of the human rights of families escaping violence.

We are not a country that closes its doors on immigrants and families seeking asylum.

We must reunite all the mothers with their children and fight for comprehensive immigration reform.

Este día de las madres, tengo un mensaje para todas las mamás que fueron separadas de sus hijos en nuestra frontera después de hacer un viaje largo y peligroso con la esperanza de darles una mejor vida a sus hijos:

El pueblo americano y yo estamos con ustedes.

Miles de niños fueron separados de sus padres. Y cientos de ninõs siguen separados de sus familias.

Eso es inaceptable.

Las acciones antiinmigrantes de este presidente son crueles, son inhumanas, y son una violación de los derechos humanos de las familias que están escapando violencia.

No somos un país que cierra sus puertas a los inmigrantes ya a las familias pidiendo asilo.

Tenemos que reunir a todas las madres con sus hijos y luchar por una ref orma migratoria.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from California will provide the Clerk a translation of his remarks.

RAISING MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS

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

Mr. GIANFORTE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to raise mental health awareness during Mental Health Month.

According to the National Alliance on Mental Illness, about 164,000 Montanans have a mental health condition. Unfortunately, mental healthcare is not available to many Montanans. In fact, over 50 percent of Montanans live in an area where there is a shortage of mental health professionals.

I recently brought together providers, leaders, and advocates in Montana to discuss how we can improve mental healthcare, substance abuse treatment, and suicide prevention. They told me about the challenges they face to provide care and of their promising progress. They told me about resources, like telemedicine, that could improve treatment and help fill coverage gaps.

Individuals impacted by mental illness can lead healthy, fulfilling lives. Access to treatment, though, is critical.

Let's work together in a bipartisan way to address mental healthcare. Our communities depend on it.

DEMOCRATS PROVIDE ACCESS TO HEALTHCARE

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

Mr. CICILLINE. Madam Speaker, 2 years ago, our Republican friends voted to repeal the Affordable Care Act. They brought in cases of beer to celebrate. They piled into luxury buses that ferried them to the White House, where they had a second party with the President to celebrate their attempt to kick millions of Americans off their health insurance.

Fortunately, we stopped them. That bill never became law.

But 2 years later, they are up to the same old tricks. The President is asking a Federal court to strike down not just protections for more than 130 million Americans with preexisting conditions, but the entire Affordable Care Act.

Talk about not getting the memo. The American people sent a message to President Trump in November and to my Republican colleagues on the other side of the aisle. They want government to stop working for special interests and start working for the people again. That is why House Democrats are about to pass legislation to strengthen protections for folks with preexisting conditions, H.R. 986.

While President Trump continues his assault on the Affordable Care Act, Democrats are going to continue our work for the people by passing legislation to make sure every American has access to the quality, affordable healthcare they deserve.

HONORING MITCH TITUS

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

Mr. BANKS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of volunteer firefighter Mitch Titus.

Over 15 years ago, Chief Titus took the helm as chief of the Winona Lake Fire Department. While he worked a full-time job in excavation, he was also a very dedicated public servant.

In the wake of his tragic passing on Sunday, Chief Titus has been described by fellow colleagues and friends as ''very dedicated and loyal,'' ''a fireman's firefighter,'' and ''a great guy, a great leader, a great fire leader.'' It is people like Mitch Titus who embody the very best that our Nation has to offer.

While all of Kosciusko County and the rest of Indiana mourn his loss, his endless dedication to his county and to his fellow people will be remembered for many years to come.

I offer my deepest condolences to his three children and his family and friends as we mourn the loss of Chief Titus.

TACKLING OPIOID ADDICTION

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

Mr. DELGADO. Madam Speaker, I rise today because I have heard from too many parents and siblings in upstate New York who have lost a loved one to overdose from opioids.

I rise because overdose fatalities are the leading cause of death for Americans under 50.

I rise because addressing the opioid crisis means understanding and treating addiction. We must see addiction for what it is: not a weakness, but a disease that requires treatment.

I am proud to have introduced legislation to address this crisis, H.R. 2482, the Mainstreaming Addiction Treatment Act. This bipartisan bill would end a redundancy in Federal law that restricts health providers from prescribing buprenorphine, a proven treatment for addiction.

To tackle this crisis, we must go beyond taking the needed steps of holding Big Pharma accountable and creating more drug courts. We must treat the addiction.

Madam Speaker, we cannot let the wrongheaded stigmatization of addiction undermine our capacity or our commitment to treating it.

Let's pass H.R. 2482.

BILLY JOEL'S 70TH BIRTHDAY

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

Mr. ZELDIN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to wish a very happy 70th birthday to Billy Joel, a resident of the greatest congressional district in America, the First Congressional District of New York.

He has sung about Allentown; he has sung about Vienna; but he never forgot where he came from. It is important, whether you are in politics, music, or business, to never forget where you come from.

He would sing songs about our bays, our beaches, our boaters, our fishermen, our restaurants, our media. He is someone who, to this very day, looks at Long Island as his home.

He has a concert tonight celebrating his 70th birthday with so many fans.

From everyone who lives in the First Congressional District, for all of Long Island, a very happy 70th birthday to a very special person.

Happy birthday to Billy Joel.

HONORING LARRY HANLEY

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

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Madam Speaker, it is with great sadness that I note the passing of Larry Hanley, the international president of the Amalgamated Transit Union.

He was a big man with a big heart and a passion for transportation—not just for what it meant for his members; although, he was their tireless champion. He had a bold vision for what his union meant, to enrich tens of millions of lives every day for people who use transit and another hundred million who benefit, even if they don't ride.

He started as a bus driver and rose through the ranks to become not just the Amalgamated Transit Union president, but one of the finest of American labor leaders.

We are sad for the loss for Larry's wife, Thelma; his daughter, Monica; son, Larry, Jr.; and almost 200,000 of his members.

We are grateful for the enormous contributions he made to enrich the lives of us all.

LEGISLATION TO KEEP AMERICA'S AGRICULTURE INDUSTRY MOVING

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

Mr. PENCE. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 2460, the first piece of legislation I have introduced as a Member of Congress and one that reduces the regulatory burden on the hardworking men and women of Indiana and America's transportation and agriculture community.

The Modernizing Agricultural Transportation Act of 2019 will ensure our truckers, farmers, and producers have the flexibility needed to keep America's agriculture industry moving.

The bill ensures that transportation and agriculture stakeholders are included in the rulemaking process so that relevant stakeholders can share their experiences and knowledge.

I am proud to lead this bipartisan effort with House Agriculture Committee Chairman COLLIN PETERSON of Minnesota.

Improving our infrastructure is not a partisan issue, and it is time that we act. Sixth District Hoosiers sent me to Washington to get things done, and that is exactly what I am doing.

I ask my colleagues to support H.R. 2460.

□ 1215

DELIVERING BETTER HEALTHCARE ACCESS TO CONSTITUENTS

(Ms. TORRES SMALL of New Mexico asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. TORRES SMALL of New Mexico. Madam Speaker, I rise to call attention to the challenges rural communities face to access basic healthcare.

In New Mexico, I have seen, firsthand, health challenges these areas face. They include expectant mothers who have to drive for hours, often across State lines, for every single prenatal appointment.

They include veterans who have to get on the bus in the middle of the night for a doctor's appointment in Albuquerque the next day.

It includes teenagers in crisis facing a long waiting list for a much-needed mental health appointment.

And it includes rural and community hospitals on the verge of closing their doors. This is what rural America faces.

Even with these hardships, we are often the first to be forgotten when legislators and healthcare experts discuss healthcare quality, access, and affordability.

So as Congress begins discussing how to decrease the cost of healthcare insurance, to lower the cost of prescription drugs, to provide mental healthcare, and protect millions of Americans with preexisting conditions, I urge consideration of the pressure points that rural communities face. That is how we deliver better healthcare access to all our constituents.

ACCESS TO QUALITY AFFORDABLE HEALTHCARE IS A FUNDAMENTAL RIGHT

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

Mr. CARSON of Indiana. Madam Speaker, May 4 marked 2 years since House Republicans passed their TrumpCare legislation to dismantle the Affordable Care Act. If passed, this reckless bill would have ripped away healthcare from millions. Thanks to Americans' tireless activism, this bill did not become law. But that wasn't the end of the crusade to protect our care.

This administration continues to sabotage the Affordable Care Act, implementing rules and gutting programs in a very cruel conspiracy to undermine it; and people with preexisting conditions are some of the most vulnerable in a very dangerous game.

Madam Speaker, the Affordable Care Act, with its strong protections, helped many of these Americans obtain health insurance for the very first time. But now, this administration is using a back-door guidance to allow junk insurance plans the ability to deny coverage to people with preexisting conditions.

That is why I am glad the House plans to vote on H.R. 986, which will stop this move and protect Americans living with preexisting conditions.

I will proudly vote for this bill.

GREAT LAKES RESILIENCY

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

Mr. MORELLE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to urge that any long-term infrastructure agreement reached between Congress and the President must invest in the resiliency of coastal communities.

Lake Ontario is already over 11 inches higher than average, and as rain falls and water levels continue to climb, my community and others like it are bracing for yet another season of devastating flooding.

We must take proactive steps to adjust to changing weather patterns, the impacts of Plan 2014, and improve our community's ability to withstand, recover, and adapt to weather-related events.

The Army Corps of Engineers will soon be conducting a study to develop a coastal resiliency plan, and it is imperative that any long-term infrastructure agreement include significant investments in these findings.

I look forward to working with my colleagues towards a comprehensive infrastructure package that makes these investments a reality and better protects my district and the Great Lakes coastline.

QUESTIONS OF THE RULE OF LAW AND THE CONSTITUTION

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

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Madam Speaker, this week the Nation has seen this Congress deal with the questions of the rule of law and the Constitution. But this Congress believes that our work is for the people and, at the same time, our oversight on issues of national security are immense and important.

Yesterday, I raised a question of military presence off the shores of Iran; for no explanation has been given to the United States Congress on the need for that presence.

And having been a Member of Congress during the Iraq war and, certainly, during the war in Afghanistan, committed to the men and women of the United States military, only Congress can declare war. This administration must advise and seek consent of Congress. But those of us who are concerned about national security, with the jurisdictional committees, must be briefed, and must be made aware to protect the American people.

So I stand here today to say the rule of law is important, but the national security of this country is important. No war without the involvement and engagement of the United States Congress.

We believe in peace and diplomacy.

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. Madam Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 357 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 357

Resolved, That at any time after adoption of this resolution the Speaker may, pursuant to clause 2(b) of rule XVIII, declare the House resolved into the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union 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. The first reading of the bill shall be dispensed with. All points of order against consideration of the bill are waived. General debate shall be confined to the bill and shall not exceed one hour equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Energy and Commerce. After general debate the bill shall be considered for amendment under the five-minute rule. The bill shall be considered as read. All points of order against provisions in the bill are waived. No amendment to the bill shall be in order except those printed in part A of the report of the Committee on Rules accompanying this 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 in the House or in the Committee of the Whole. All points of order against such amendments are waived. At the conclusion of consideration of the bill for amendment the Committee shall rise and report the bill to the House with such amendments as may have been adopted. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the bill and amendments thereto to final passage without intervening motion except one motion to recommit with or without instructions.

SEC. 2. At any time after adoption of this resolution the Speaker may, pursuant to clause 2(b) of rule XVIII, declare the House resolved into the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for consideration of the bill (H.R. 2157) making supplemental appropriations for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2019, and for other purposes. The first reading of the bill shall be dispensed with. All points of order against consideration of the bill are waived. General debate shall be confined to the bill and shall not exceed one hour equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Appropriations. After general debate the bill shall be considered for amendment under the five-minute rule. 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 report of the Committee on Rules accompanying this resolution, shall be considered as adopted in the House and in the Committee of the Whole. The bill, as amended, shall be considered as the original bill for the purpose of further amendment under the five-minute rule and shall be considered as read. All points of order against provisions in the bill, as amended, are waived. Clause 2(e) of rule XXI shall not apply during consideration of the bill. No further amendment to the bill, as amended, shall be in order except those printed in part C of the report of the Committee on Rules. Each such further 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 in the House or in the Committee of the Whole. All points of order against such further amendments are waived. At the conclusion of consideration of the bill for amendment the Committee shall rise and report the bill, as amended, to the House with such further amendments as may have been adopted. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the bill, as amended, and any further amendment thereto to final passage without intervening motion except one motion to recommit with or without instructions.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentlewoman from Florida is recognized for 1 hour.

Ms. SHALALA. Madam Speaker, for the purpose of debate only, I yield the customary 30 minutes to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. BURGESS), pending which I yield myself such time as I may consume. During consideration of this resolution, all time yielded is for the purpose of debate only.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. SHALALA. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members be given 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks.

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

There was no objection.

Ms. SHALALA. Madam Speaker, on Tuesday, the Rules Committee met and reported a rule, House Resolution 357, providing for consideration of H.R. 986, the Protecting Americans with Preexisting Conditions Act, under a structured rule.

The rule makes in order 12 amendments. The rule provides 1 hour of debate equally divided and controlled by the chair and the ranking member of the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

The rule also provides for consideration of H.R. 2157, the Supplemental Appropriations Act, under a structured rule. The rule self-executes a manager's amendment and makes in order 10 amendments to H.R. 2157.

Finally, the rule provides 1 hour of debate equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking member of the Committee on Appropriations.

Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of the two bills in this rule, H.R. 986, the Protecting Americans with Preexisting Conditions Act of 2019, and H.R. 2157, the Supplemental Appropriations Act.

H.R. 986 will ensure that the patient protections and benefits of the Affordable Care Act are protected. It will prevent this administration from doing administratively what they failed to do legislatively, make health insurance inaccessible for the, at least, 52 million Americans who live with preexisting conditions.

The administration is trying to coax States, through misuse of the 1332 innovation waivers, to make available plans that don't cover all of the essential health benefits that the ACA requires, or don't cover preexisting conditions, possibly with tax credits. This is consumer fraud. It is a misuse of taxpayer money.

The administration would make it possible for plans to deny coverage or charge higher premiums based on health status. Under their guidance, plans could have lifetime or annual limits. They would be able to charge higher rates to older people than the ACA allows and are not required is cover essential health benefits.

It will hurt consumers who think they are buying comprehensive health insurance and then find out that their plan doesn't cover whatever health crisis they may be facing.

The guidance from the administration is a back door to destroying the Affordable Care Act. H.R. 986 makes sure that that will not happen.

□ 1230

I also rise to support H.R. 2157. The disaster supplemental will provide $17.2 billion in disaster relief to communities across America, including my own State of Florida.

The House passed a similar bill in January, which the Senate failed to take up. Since January, there have been floods in the Midwest and tornadoes in Alabama, and we have included additional money to fund those disasters.

No American should wait for assistance while Congress squabbles. Seven months have passed since Hurricane Michael devastated the panhandle in Florida, including completely leveling Tyndall Air Force Base. It is time to pass both of these bills.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BURGESS. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman for yielding me the customary 30 minutes, and I yield myself as much time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, today, we are considering a bill that appropriates a little over $17 billion for disasters affecting all parts of the United States.

As Members of Congress, we are elected to serve the people, and part of that duty is providing emergency aid when disaster strikes. I am supportive of disaster relief, and we certainly could have provided this crucial aid months ago. At this time, our communities are still in need.

This is the third time that the House will consider a relief bill to address the same set of disasters.

On 20 December 2018, the House of Representatives passed a continuing

resolution to fund the government through February 8 that also included almost $8 billion of disaster relief funding, but this bill did not become law.

On January 16, 2019, the House passed a supplemental appropriations package that would have provided a little over $12 billion in aid. But at the last minute, during Rules Committee debate, Democrats added a short-term, full-government continuing resolution through a manager's amendment that did not include President Trump's request for border security funding. As a result, the government remained closed without providing a resolution to the problem.

It has now been 4 months since the House last considered providing disaster aid, long enough that additional disasters have struck our country, necessitating an increased number.

The bill before us seeks to provide relief funding for Hurricanes Michael and Florence, as well as continued support for Hurricanes Harvey, Irma, and Maria. The wildfires in California will be included in this supplemental, as well as the severe storms and flooding in multiple States, including Texas; the Alaska earthquake; Typhoons Yutu and Mangkhut in the Northern Mariana Islands and Guam; Tropical Storm Gita in American Samoa; volcanic eruptions in Hawaii; and devastating floods across the Midwest.

This third iteration of disaster relief legislation is similar to a bill passed by the House in January of this year, with an additional $500 million for the Department of Agriculture's Emergency Conservation Program to rehabilitate damaged farmland; $1.5 billion for the Army Corps of Engineers for projects and flood mitigation; and $1 billion for the Community Development Block Grant Disaster Recovery account for rebuilding houses, businesses, and public infrastructure. The bill also includes $600 million for disaster nutrition benefits in Puerto Rico as that island recovers from Hurricane Maria.

The President has expressed concern about Puerto Rico's management of the billions of disaster aid the island has already received. Senate Republicans are negotiating with the White House on a compromise, but Democrats have decided to continue pushing this legislation forward without engaging the other two parties that would be required in order for the bill to become law.

This bill also includes language prohibiting any funds from being used for the construction of a border wall. The crisis on our southern border is not a natural disaster; it is a humanitarian and security disaster, one that we can stop and take steps to prevent in the future. But the Democrats refuse to accept that our Customs and Border Protection and Immigration and Customs Enforcement officers are overwhelmed, that our Office of Refugee Resettlement facilities are near capacity, and that our immigration judges are facing years of backlogged cases.

This is a disaster that we can do something about now. Rather than negotiate in good faith, Democrats have chosen once again to bring up a bill that will not pass the Senate.

I am disappointed that these controversial provisions are included in the bill. It does beg the question: When are we going to get back to the business of legislating?

As an aside, I would note that the House adjourned yesterday at 2 o'clock in the afternoon, plenty of time to continue working on some of these problems. For whatever reason, we decided not to do that.

The second bill under consideration, H.R. 986, is supposed to protect Americans with preexisting conditions. It has a very catchy title. Despite that catchy title, the bill does nothing to enhance preexisting condition protections under the Affordable Care Act.

The first vote that Republicans called this Congress was a motion to require legislation protecting individuals with preexisting conditions. Rather surprisingly, the Democrats voted against that previous question, blocking the motion.

In 2017, as part of the proposed replacement for the Affordable Care Act, Republicans included legislation that would have preserved access for those with preexisting conditions. Again, this was not supported by House Democrats.

H.R. 986 eliminates healthcare choices for States by infringing upon the authority that was given to the Department of Health and Human Services under the Affordable Care Act. Section 1332 of the Affordable Care Act established the Waiver for State Innovation. This allowed States to waive certain ACA regulations in order to provide flexible coverage through new State healthcare programs.

The Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services was required to promulgate regulations for the granting of these waivers, maintaining that new State health programs stay within the guardrails provided by law.

My constituents of north Texas are consistently concerned about not having access to affordable healthcare. I take meeting after meeting with families who say they are suffering from the high cost of healthcare and prescription drugs, deductibles, and copays. Texans are struggling to afford their health insurance, and I am sure we are not the only ones experiencing these premiums and deductibles.

What good is health insurance if you are afraid to use it because you cannot afford your deductibles and copays? This is an issue that I would like to see us tackle, yet we are here today discussing a bill with a very misleading title that would take flexibility away from States.

During the Rules Committee hearing on Tuesday, we discussed innovative strategies for providing high-quality and affordable health insurance, expanding consumer choice, and some of the positive results for States that have implemented these waivers. In no way did we discuss removing ACA protections for people with preexisting conditions. In fact, I pointed out that the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services' Administrator Seema Verma stated in her remarks at the CMS National Forum on State Relief and Empowerment Waivers that ''a waiver cannot be approved that might otherwise undermine these protections.''

Yet Democrats have titled this bill ''Protecting Americans with Preexisting Conditions Act of 2019.'' This is clearly an attempt to coerce Members of Congress into voting for a bill that actually scales back the guidance recently issued for the application of State innovation waivers.

Energy and Commerce Committee Ranking Member GREG WALDEN offered an amendment to more appropriately title the bill ''This Bill Has Nothing to do with Protecting Americans with Preexisting Conditions Act.'' I hope this amendment will alert Members to the partisan wordplay of the Democrats when we should be focusing on improving the health insurance marketplace.

Taking flexibility away from States is one step closer to a single-payer, government-run healthcare system. This single-payer, government-run healthcare system would only further deteriorate our Nation's healthcare.

The Affordable Care Act was one step in that direction. While it is clear that the Affordable Care Act has proven to be nothing like affordable for Americans, section 1332 waivers would have allowed States the flexibility to employ innovation that works for their citizens.

To date, eight States—Alaska, Hawaii, Maine, Maryland, Minnesota, New Jersey, Oregon, and Wisconsin—have approved State innovation waivers, and seven have created their own reinsurance programs. Premiums in these States—and this is important—premiums in these seven States were almost 20 percent lower, on average, in the first year of enactment. Maryland saw the greatest percent change, with the average individual market premium coming down by more than 40 percent, 43.4 percent, to be precise.

Again, section 1332 of the Affordable Care Act explicitly gives the Department of Health and Human Services the authority to provide guidance surrounding these innovation waivers. As more States submit applications, the administration has learned more about what hurdles States must traverse in order to obtain these waivers.

One limit to a State's ability to apply for an innovation waiver is that the State must have already enacted a State law establishing authority to pursue and implement the waiver. For a State like Texas, where the State legislature meets only every 2 years, this can be a substantial barrier.

The recent Trump administration guidance provides clarity, stating that,

in certain circumstances, existing State legislation coupled with a duly enacted State regulation or executive order could satisfy this requirement.

This guidance, the 1332 guidance, removes some hurdles while maintaining the integrity of the coverage guardrails established by law. Those statutory requirements maintain that coverage must be as comprehensive as coverage would have been absent the waiver, provide cost-sharing to protect against excessive out-of-pocket spending, cover a comparable number of residents, and not increase the Federal deficit.

I would like to reiterate that this is a misleading bill title and that H.R. 986 will restrict healthcare choices for States.

Once again, we are using the valuable time on the floor of the United States House of Representatives to debate something that will not solve the issues of affordability in our Nation's healthcare system and really has no chance of becoming law. It is unfair to patients who are not going to the doctor because, on top of their monthly premiums, their deductible is so high that they cannot afford the visit.

We need a comprehensive solution to address the high patient out-of-pocket costs in our system. This bill moves us in the wrong direction. It will inhibit innovation and much-needed flexibility in our State insurance markets.

As a physician, I cannot support such a piece of legislation, so I will urge opposition to the rule.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. SHALALA. Madam Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. CASTOR), a distinguished member of the Energy and Commerce Committee.

Ms. CASTOR of Florida. Madam Speaker, I thank my colleague and friend from Florida for yielding the time.

Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of the rule and the two very important bills the House of Representatives will consider.

The first is H.R. 986 by my colleague, Representative KUSTER from New Hampshire, that will work to protect our neighbors who have preexisting health conditions, like cancer or heart disease.

Unfortunately, the Trump administration is trying to weaken those protections. They are doing so in the courts and through Congress. So it is very important that the House of Representatives pass into law protections for our neighbors with preexisting conditions.

In fact, the name of the bill is ''Protecting Americans with Preexisting Conditions Act.'' Passing this bill will help keep healthcare accessible and affordable for all Americans.

The second bill is also very important, H.R. 2157. It provides about $17 billion in disaster relief to Americans who need it, who have suffered through horrendous natural disasters.

It was October 10, 2018, when Florida took a direct hit from Hurricane Michael. It was one of the most powerful storms to make landfall in the United States. It slammed into the panhandle and caused tremendous damage and destruction.

To help meet disaster needs, the House of Representatives, the Democratic-led House, one of the first bills we passed was a disaster relief package on January 16, 2019. It passed by a wide margin with a bipartisan vote. Unfortunately, it ran into opposition from the Senate and the White House.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues now to come back together in a bipartisan way and use this bill to break the logjam in the Senate and keep the focus on our fellow Americans who need disaster assistance.

Disaster relief used to be bipartisan. We need to return to those days and pass it in a timely manner.

□ 1245

Mr. BURGESS. Madam Speaker, just a point of clarification. While our last vote was just after 2 p.m. yesterday, the House actually adjourned a little after 3 p.m. I did want to make that correction.

Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. MEUSER).

Mr. MEUSER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to speak against H.R. 986.

I think everyone in this Chamber can agree that individuals with preexisting conditions should be protected and that the American people should have access to affordable and quality healthcare. This bill falls short of achieving, or even making progress towards, these important goals.

This bill showcases a fundamental misunderstanding of section 1332 waivers, which allow States to pursue more creative and innovative strategies to provide their residents with access to high-quality health insurance. This bill actually rolls back the ability of States to innovate lower costs and expand coverage options for patients and families.

Additionally, this bill is disingenuous in suggesting that it is protecting individuals with preexisting conditions when section 1332 waivers already require States to do so. Rather than calling this the ''Protecting Americans with Preexisting Conditions Act,'' this bill would be more appropriately named the ''Don't Let States Innovate Act.''

Not surprisingly, this bill also neglects to address the grievous shortcomings of ObamaCare.

In my district, not a day goes by that I don't hear from constituents about the untenable costs of ObamaCare. It is no secret that ObamaCare has led to skyrocketing premiums and deductibles, offering anything but affordable care to the American people. However, the data clearly shows that States using section 1332 waivers to create their own reinsurance programs saw premiums drop by an average of nearly 20 percent.

We must make our country's healthcare system work better by supporting choice, access, and affordability. This bill forces our country on a pathway towards one size fits all, Big Government-centered healthcare. And this Democrat vision of a top-down healthcare system is one that I absolutely cannot support.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to vote ''no'' on the rule and the underlying bill.

Ms. SHALALA. Madam Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON LEE).

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman from Florida for yielding, and I thank her for her leadership.

Madam Speaker, the American people will insist that this legislation passes. My Republican friends, since my time in helping to pass the Affordable Care Act, have never offered a plan to ensure that America's wonderful citizens have good healthcare and that those with preexisting conditions, such as many of us, including myself and many of my constituents in Houston, Texas, are able to access healthcare.

Let me be clear on what this legislation does, as I thank Representative KUSTER for her leadership.

H.R. 986, of which I am strongly in support of, is a saving grace. What it does is it stops the Trump administration in their tracks from watering down an opportunity of flexibility, section 1332.

Here is what is going to happen if we do not pass this legislation:

We will stop the coverage of preexisting conditions, period;

There will be no protections;

You will see a rise in costs in healthcare;

Short-term plans will be thrown to the people and other plans that will destabilize the risk pool;

It will limit access to comprehensive coverage because the Trump guidance says: Just give access and don't worry about if the plan even allows you to be admitted into a hospital;

And finally, it will reduce benefits like maternity coverage, mental healthcare, and coverage of prescription drugs.

Is that what Americans want?

Every day, in my district, I am seeing people desperate for healthcare. There has been not one proposal coming here.

I rise as well to support the supplemental appropriations, because I have been to Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands. We need these resources.

But I have also seen the devastation of victims impacted by Hurricane Michael in Alabama, Florida, and Georgia; the damage in Nebraska, Missouri, South Dakota, Iowa, Kansas, and now in Houston, 10 inches of rain and flooding and more rain coming. I know that people who were impacted by Hurricane Harvey are still suffering.

This particular legislation, appropriations, is important. It is important, in particular, to ensure that we add more funding and that we shore up the infrastructure.

I submitted amendments that covered the idea of improving FEMA so that it would stay longer and it would have oversight to know whether it is helping people; to increase energy services so that we don't black out so that people are suffering; and to make sure we have the right kind of water.

There are many other elements to the appropriations bill which I hope to debate at a later time, but this rule should be supported.

Let me additionally go back to the H.R. 986 legislation and indicate that preexisting diseases cover things like sickle cell, which 1 in 13 African American babies are born with; triple negative breast cancer, which is the most deadly and causes immediate or short-term life to White women, Black women, Asian Pacific Islander, American Indian, and Alaska Native women; diabetes; and HIV/AIDS.

This is why H.R. 986 is important, Madam Speaker, and why the appropriations bill is important.

Madam Speaker, I rise in strong and unequivocal support for the rule governing debate on H.R. 986, the ''Protecting Americans With Pre-Existing Conditions Act of 2019'' as well as the underlying legislation and ask all Members to join me in supporting these legislative initiatives that combat the Trump Administration's ongoing efforts to take away health care from more than 100 million Americans and to make health care dramatically less affordable for those fortunate enough to be insured.

Another reason I strongly support this rule is that it makes in order H.R. 2157, the ''Supplemental Appropriations Act of 2019,'' which provides much needed and long overdue relief to Americans in Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands still suffering from the ravages of Hurricanes Maria and Irma, as well as relief to victims of Hurricane Michael which struck Alabama, Florida, and Georgia in October 2018 and to the victims of the Midwestern floods that have caused so much damage in Nebraska, Missouri, South Dakota, Iowa, and Kansas.

H.R. 986, rescinds this damaging, dangerous guidance immediately, and reinforces the ACA's vital protections for people with pre-existing conditions.

It also prevents the Secretaries of HHS and Treasury from promulgating any substantially similar guidance or rule in the future.

Section 1332 of the State Innovation Waivers included in the ACA has a clear statutory directive that states must maintain the level of benefits, affordability, and coverage provided to state residents by the ACA.

This Administration's 2018 Guidance allows states to simply demonstrate that a comparable number of residents will have access to comprehensive and affordable coverage, regardless of whether they actually enroll in that coverage, thereby allowing the Secretaries of HHS and Treasury to approve waivers that do not provide coverage that is as affordable or as comprehensive as under the ACA.

The ''Protecting Americans with Pre-Existing Conditions Act'' is a vital legislative measure that emphasizes the importance of not limiting coverage for individuals with pre-existing conditions or imposing lifetime limits on access to care.

Predatory practices such as this will prove to be devastating to communities across the nation, many of which, who will be affected are disproportionately communities of color.

The people receiving the life-sustaining medical protections under this provision will be cast aside and left with no way to cover the exorbitant healthcare costs that would otherwise be covered in through the Affordable Care Act.

Relenting on this protection will put a great number of my constituents and various communities across the nation at terrible risk.

Specifically, in the 18th Congressional District many of my constituents are disproportionally affected by several pre-existing conditions such as:

Sickle Cell Disease (SCD) affects approximately 100,000 Americans and occurs among about 1 out of every 365 Black or African-American births.

SCD occurs among about 1 out of every 16,300 Hispanic-American births.

And 1 in 13 Black or African-American babies is born with sickle cell trait (SCT).

During 2005, medical expenditures for children with SCD averaged $11,702 for children with Medicaid coverage and $14,772 for children with employer-sponsored insurance.

About 40 percent of both groups had at least one hospital stay.

The most common cancer in women, no matter your race or ethnicity.

The most common cause of death from cancer among Hispanic women.

The second most common cause of death from cancer among white, Black, Asian/Pacific Islander, and American Indian/Alaska Native women.

Diabetes is at an all-time high in the U.S. and continues to increase exponentially every year.

The CDC's Division of Diabetes Translation states that over 30 million Americans are living with Diabetes, over a quarter undiagnosed.

This trend continues in the state of Texas, where Diabetes is the 6th leading cause of death.

Nearly 12 percent of Texas is living with diagnosed Diabetes.

According to a collaboration report between the nonprofit Texas Health Institute, the State Demographer's Office and Methodist Healthcare Ministries of South Texas, one in three adult Texans are either diagnosed with diabetes, have diabetes but have not yet been diagnosed, or are at high risk for developing the disease within a decade.

Approximately 1.1 million people in the U.S. are living with HIV today.

About 15 percent of them (1 in 7) are unaware they are infected.

The Center for Disease Control (CDC) estimates that the decline in HIV infections has plateaued because effective HIV prevention and treatment are not adequately reaching those who could most benefit from them.

These gaps remain particularly troublesome in rural areas and in the South and among disproportionately affected populations like blacks/African Americans and Hispanics/Latinos.

The overall prevalence of CKD in the general population is approximately 14 percent.

High blood pressure and diabetes are the main causes of CKD.

Almost half of individuals with CKD also have diabetes and/or self-reported cardiovascular disease (CVD).

More than 661,000 Americans have kidney failure. Of these, 468,000 individuals are on dialysis, and roughly 193,000 live with a functioning kidney transplant.

Kidney disease often has no symptoms in its early stages and can go undetected until it is very advanced.

For this reason, kidney disease is often referred to as a ''silent disease.''

What is also concerning is the overwhelming number of constituents plagued by these diseases, are people of color, African American, Latino, and Native American.

H.R. 986 stopped the Trump Administration in its tracks from taking away health care from vulnerable Americans.

Madam Speaker, the Trump administration cannot be trusted to act in the best interests of the American people that is why I offered two amendments to H.R. 986, which would extend the prohibitions of the bill to (1) ban lifetime limits with respect to persons with pre-existing conditions and (2) prevent the Secretaries from taking any action that would reduce the affordability of comprehensive coverage for children under 26 with pre-existing conditions who are covered under their parents' policies.

I will soon be introducing legislation that will achieve these important objectives and protect vulnerable Americans from an uncaring Administration that is unceasing in its efforts to take away health care from vulnerable Americans.

Madam Speaker, H.R. 2157, the ''Supplemental Appropriations Act of 2019,'' provides much needed and long overdue relief to Americans in Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands still suffering from the ravages of Hurricanes Maria and Irma, as well as relief to victims of Hurricane Michael which struck Alabama, Florida, and Georgia in October 2018 and to the victims of the Midwestern floods.

I support this legislation and offered an amendment that would have provided additional funding for electricity delivery and necessary expenses related to the consequences of Hurricanes Harvey, Maria, Irma, and Super Typhoon Yutu including technical assistance related to electric grids.

As the representative of the Eighteenth Congressional District of Texas, which was ground zero for Hurricane Harvey, I regularly hear from constituents expressing their concern with ineffective and inadequate FEMA mechanisms put in place to help rectify the damage caused by natural disasters.

That is why I also offered an amendment to H.R. 2157 that would prohibit funds in the bill from being used to prevent the FEMA Administrator from monitoring the response given to disaster victims in order to ensure quality control or becoming aware of complaints regarding the response given to disaster victims and having in place a mechanism to address such complaints.

A third Jackson Lee amendment to H.R. 2157 would have provided a minimum of $1 million for wastewater and drinking water treatment works and facilities impacted by Hurricanes Harvey, Irma, and Maria.

Hurricane Sandy inflicted more than $70 billion in damages in 2012, and Matthew cost

the U.S. about $10.3 billion in 2016. With Harvey, an estimated 13 million people were affected, nearly 135,000 homes damaged or destroyed in the historic flooding, and up to a million cars were wrecked.

Hurricane Harvey ranks as the second-most costly hurricane to hit the U.S. mainland since 1900, causing more than $125 billion in damage.

Our residents need more money than for single-family home repairs, whether it is disaster recovery or general housing dollars and I will continue to stride on behalf of the neighborhoods and on behalf of hard-working homeowners who deserve these funds, so they can continue on with their lives and return to their homes.

Victims of natural disasters are entitled to know who to contact when issues related to FEMA arise and to be assured that their questions are answered, and complaints addressed.

Allocating funding for measures such as Electricity Delivery for necessary expenses related to the consequences of Hurricanes Harvey, Maria, Irma, and Super Typhoon Yutu, is vital to negate the effects of these catastrophic events from significantly worsening.

Hospitals, first-responders, and a number of other vital institutions that help our communities recover from the after-effects of natural disasters need access to electricity.

Moreover, with the severity of natural disasters and the ranging of their locations we must be proactive in our preparation for recovery.

Alternatively, water is the most essential recourse known to man.

A human can go for more than three weeks without food—Mahatma Gandhi survived 21 days of complete starvation—but water is a different story.

At least 60 percent of the adult body is made of it and every living cell in the body needs it to keep functioning.

Under extreme conditions an adult can lose 1 to 1.5 liters of sweat per hour and if that lost water is not replaced, the total volume of body fluid can fall quickly and, most dangerously, blood volume may drop.

We do not have the luxury of not preparing for hurricanes, floods, earthquakes, mudslides, tornados or other natural disasters.

With these events it is not a question of if, but when.

For these reasons, I urge my colleagues to support the rule and the underlying legislation.

Mr. BURGESS. Madam Speaker, I yield myself 30 seconds to respond before I yield to the gentleman from Iowa.

Madam Speaker, last Congress passed the first comprehensive, stand-alone sickle cell bill for as long as I can remember. There was a partial reauthorization in 2004, signed by President Bush, that was part of a tax bill.

But DANNY DAVIS' bill passed through our committee, passed through the Senate, and passed on the floor of the House in the previous Congress last year; and as a consequence, for the first time in four decades, new sickle cell therapies are coming through the National Institutes of Health.

Madam Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Iowa (Mr. KING).

Mr. KING of Iowa. Madam Speaker, I appreciate the gentleman from Texas yielding to me.

Madam Speaker, I came to the floor to highlight the disasters that we have in the Midwest.

I recall back in 2011 when the Missouri River was 11 miles wide at its widest and 5 to 6 miles wide most everywhere else, all the way through Iowa and down across Missouri. It was a secret flood because you couldn't drive there. You had to fly over to see it.

We have some of these similar circumstances this spring, although it has gotten a little more of the press. We had more water come down below Gavins Point than ever before. It wiped out a lot of ag land on the Iowa side and more so, even, on the Nebraska side.

We have critical infrastructure that has got to be reconstructed. We have got to protect some of these communities that have been nearly wiped out. This Corps of Engineers, in particular, has 41 breaches on the levees just on the Iowa side of the river.

I urge that we get to a conclusion and adoption of a final package on this disaster relief.

But I would point out, Madam Speaker, that this message from the White House said that Congress should not use natural disasters as a pretext to engage in unnecessary spending outside the agreed upon discretionary spending caps.

I am hopeful that this gets worked out between the House and the Senate. We need the relief, and we need it very soon.

Ms. SHALALA. Madam Speaker, I yield 30 seconds to the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON LEE).

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Madam Speaker, I happen to live and be in the area of the Texas Children's Hospital. I have obviously supported the legislation of DANNY DAVIS.

The point is that people with preexisting conditions, including sickle cell, will not have access to healthcare under the Trump guidance.

I am standing here not about the research, which is certainly beneficial, but about the fact that I am standing for those with sickle cell, which is a preexisting condition, to not be blocked from having good healthcare. That is why I rise to support H.R. 986, in order to ensure access to healthcare and not stopping preexisting conditions from being covered.

Ms. SHALALA. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Mexico (Mr. LUJÁN), the Assistant Speaker.

Mr. LUJÁN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to support the rule because, for the past 2 years, the Trump administration has relentlessly sabotaged the Affordable Care Act and attacked my constituents' access to care.

My Republican colleagues use a lot of smoke and mirrors to talk about these plans, so today I want to read straight from the Texas Department of Insurance website, texas.gov. This page is titled: ''What You Need to Know About Short-Term Health Insurance.''

Right there, the Texas Department of Insurance says: ''Know what the plan covers. It is important to ask what's covered and what's not. For example, short-term plans might not cover emergency care, maternity care, prescriptions, or certain other services. They might not cover care for accidents or health issues.''

Listen closely to this: ''These plans also do not have to cover preexisting conditions. If a company sells you a plan, it may deny a claim if it determines you had a related condition in the past.''

There it is in black and white on the Texas Department of Insurance website. These Trump junk plans discriminate against people with preexisting conditions.

Let me continue, because it gets better, to the third point, ''Other costs.'' Here the State of Texas specifies that ''short-term health plans often have lower premiums, but other costs may be higher.''

Let me translate. These Trump junk plans might be cheaper for us up front, but you will pay more money for less coverage on the back end.

That is why, today, I stand proudly with my Democratic colleagues for standing up to the Trump administration's harmful policies and for acting to protect healthcare for the 50 percent of Americans who have a preexisting health condition.

The Trump administration's destructive policies will force the American people to pay more money for less coverage. If you don't believe me, just go to the website yourself. This is unacceptable.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to vote ''yes'' on the rule and ''yes'' on ANN KUSTER's bill, H.R. 986.

Mr. BURGESS. Madam Speaker, I yield myself 2 minutes for the purposes of a response.

First of all, I am grateful that the Texas Department of Insurance does provide that disclosure and transparency. That is a good thing. In fact, Chairwoman ESHOO, the chairwoman of the Health Subcommittee, when we were hearing bills on limited-duration plans, actually had a bill that would require such disclosure. For whatever reason, it was pulled from the markup that we had that day. I was perfectly prepared to support it, but, again, for whatever reason, the chairman of the committee pulled the bill and we did not get to have that debate or markup.

I also need to point out that our discussion today is not on limited-duration plans. I rather expect that there will be an opportunity to debate limited-duration plans. It may come up as early as next week, and I look forward to that debate. But it is also important to point out that these plans in Texas were permitted under the previous administration for the duration of 1 year.

So, again, the State commissioner of insurance is exactly right. He put those caveats up there so people can know what they are purchasing. I do believe

that is important. I think that is an important aspect of the job of the Texas Commission of Insurance. I wish other State commissioners of insurance would behave in a similar fashion.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. SHALALA. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. DOGGETT), a distinguished member of the Ways and Means Committee.

□ 1300

Mr. DOGGETT. Madam Speaker, after so many failed attempts to repeal our access to healthcare, Trump and his Republican cohorts are finding new ways to take away coverage from millions of Americans who suffer with preexisting conditions.

Now, Republicans have hijacked the mechanism that was designed to promote State healthcare innovation to subvert that very innovation.

What they call ''innovation'' is finding new ways to destroy protections for preexisting conditions and to promote junk insurance plans that cover—well, they cover what you don't need most.

If you really need it, if it is for your medical condition, they are unlikely to cover it.

How outrageous.

A waiver of Federal regulations designed to encourage innovation that just waves goodbye to the safeguards that an estimated 40 percent of Texans with preexisting conditions really need.

So, while Trump continues to hide his tax returns, he cannot hide the fact that he is sabotaging the healthcare protections for millions of Americans.

After bankrupting his own businesses and leaving creditors at a loss for decades, Trump would bankrupt families with serious medical needs.

And it is almost a joke that he tells us he's got a great plan to solve all of our healthcare needs—he said it again at the White House this morning—but he is going to wait until after the next election to show us what his secret plan is, which sounds a lot like the failed plan that he advocated in the last election.

Let's just pass this bill and tear down the wall that Trump and his cohorts want to build between too many Americans and their doctors.

Mr. BURGESS. Madam Speaker, I yield myself 2 minutes.

Madam Speaker, I want everyone to be clear here. This bill today is actually repealing part of the Affordable Care Act.

Look, I didn't vote for the Affordable Healthcare Act. I argued against it, passionately—articulately, I might add—but what does the Affordable Care Act say?

Well, it describes the object of today's legislation, the so-called section 1332 waiver.

Section 1332 is a section of the Affordable Care Act. And section 1332 is titled ''Waiver for State Innovation. In general, a state may apply to the secretary for the waiver of all or any requirements described.''

And this is interesting. ''With respect to health insurance coverage within that State for plan years beginning on or after January 1, 2017.''

The way the law was written, none of these waivers were given during the years that President Obama was President.

They only became eligible—the Secretary only became able to provide these waivers January 1, 2017, which was the last 3 weeks of President Obama's administration.

So when people say, the comparison between the waivers given in the Obama years and the waivers given in the Trump years are vastly different, well, it is true because no waivers were available prior to January 1, 2017.

Look, the Secretary of Health and Human Services has heard the angst that people have trying to deal with the high premiums—premiums, $600, $700, $800 a month for an individual, a deductible of $6,000 to $7,000, and the coinsurance, which runs the bills up so that their annual out-of-pocket costs may be somewhere between $10,000 and $20,000.

Many people point out to me, they spend more for health insurance—not using anything, but just for the insurance—than they spend for their mortgage payment—not their mortgage insurance, but their mortgage payment.

But, please, let's do remember, 1332 is part of current law.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. SHALALA. Madam Speaker, I am delighted to hear a Member of the other party defend the Affordable Care Act by defending 1332, the waivers.

Let me say this: We are not eliminating the waivers. We are simply objecting to the guidance that was issued by the Department of Health and Human Services, arguing, essentially, that it is inconsistent with the congressional intent when the waivers were created.

Madam Speaker, I include in the RECORD a letter signed by 24 health organizations, including the Cancer Action Network, the American Lung Association, the American Heart Association, the Susan G. Komen Foundation, and others, urging Members to support H.R. 986.

MAY 8, 2019.

Re Letter of Support from 23 Patient and Consumer Advocacy Organizations for H.R. 986.

Hon. ANN MCLANE KUSTER,
House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR REPRESENTATIVE KUSTER: Our 24 organizations, representing the interests of the millions of patients and consumers who live with serious, acute, and chronic conditions, have worked together for many months to ensure that patient voices are reflected in the ongoing Congressional debate regarding the accessibility of health coverage for all Americans and families. Today, we write in strong support of your legislation to protect people with pre-existing conditions who receive coverage in the individual marketplace. The Protecting Americans with Pre-existing Conditions Act of 2019, H.R. 986, would require the Administration to rescind its Section 1332 State Relief and Empowerment Waivers Guidance, released on October 22, 2018 (1332 guidance). We are concerned about the impact that this guidance could have on the people we represent and applaud your introduction of this bill.

In March 2017, we identified three overarching principles to guide and measure any work to further reform and improve the nation's health insurance system. Our core principles are that health insurance coverage must be adequate, affordable, and accessible. Together, our organizations understand what individuals and families need to prevent disease, manage health, and cure illness. Our organizations are deeply concerned about how the new 1332 guidance will affect the individual marketplace's stability in states that choose to pursue some of the policies allowed under this guidance, including those that promote short term plans and other substandard coverage. We are pleased that this legislation represents a significant and meaningful step towards protecting all Americans from coverage that does not cover what they need to promote their health and well-being.

As you know, the 1332 guidance substantially erodes the guardrails governing coverage that people with pre-existing conditions such as cystic fibrosis, lung disease, cancer, cardiovascular disease, diabetes, rare disorders, pregnant women, and many others rely on in the individual marketplace. Of particular concern, the new guidance would allow states to let individuals use advanced premium tax credits to purchase non-compliant short-term, limited duration insurance plans—which could further draw younger, healthier people out of the risk pool for comprehensive insurance and drive up premiums for those who need comprehensive coverage. The guidance also eliminates protections for vulnerable populations, such as individuals with low incomes and those with chronic and serious health issues, by removing the requirement to safeguard those populations under any waiver. We are deeply concerned by this as these changes fundamentally alter the nature of the Section 1332 waiver program and jeopardize adequate, affordable coverage for people with pre-existing conditions in the individual market. Halting the implementation of this guidance will protect people with pre-existing conditions from the repercussions of these market destabilizing actions.

H.R. 986 represents a significant step towards protecting patients and consumers. Yet, we also recognize that there is much more that needs to be done to improve upon our current system of care, including making coverage more accessible and affordable. Up until this year, health insurance enrollment has steadily increased, and, with it, the promise of a more diverse risk pool and greater protection for people with serious health care needs. However, the recent reinterpretation of the guidelines is jeopardizing enrollment. Shortened enrollment periods, fewer resources for outreach and education and less funding for consumer navigators not only creates confusion for consumers but directly impacts the number of individuals who enroll in Marketplace coverage. Without Congressional action, these trends will make it harder for many to access coverage and will further contribute to the destabilization of insurance markets and result in higher premiums for many enrollees.

Making high-quality coverage and care more affordable is also a high priority for the people that we represent. Passage of legislation that expands access to and the level

of advance premium tax credits, fixes the family glitch, creates a nationwide reinsurance program, and reduces systemic health care costs could significantly ease the cost burden for people of all income levels who rely on the individual marketplace for coverage. We urge Congress to support legislation that maintains the quality of coverage while expanding access and affordability.

Again, thank you for your leadership on this critical issue for people with pre-existing conditions. We support your efforts to halt the implementation of the 2018 guidance, ensuring the guidance from 2015 remains intact and promoting stability in the individual marketplace. We urge members of Congress to vote for H.R. 986.

Sincerely,

Hemophilia Federation of America, National Health Council, Cystic Fibrosis Foundation, Epilepsy Foundation, March of Dimes, National Coalition for Cancer Survivorship, American Heart Association, Alpha-1 Foundation, American Liver Foundation, Susan G. Komen, National Hemophilia Foundation, WomenHeart: The National Coalition for Women with Heart Disease.

National Multiple Sclerosis Society, Muscular Dystrophy Association, Lutheran Services in America, American Lung Association, National Alliance on Mental Illness, National Patient Advocate Foundation, Arthritis Foundation, Leukemia & Lymphoma Society, American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network, National Organization for Rare Disorders, Pulmonary Hypertension Association, Cancer Support Community.

Ms. SHALALA. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia (Ms. NORTON).

Ms. NORTON. Madam Speaker, I thank my good friend for yielding.

Madam Speaker, the administration's guidance permitting junk plans to replace the Affordable Healthcare Act has fooled no one, and certainly not the millions with preexisting conditions and those who now enjoy essential health benefits.

The administration's true intent is clear from its support, in court now, as I speak, of a case to repeal the ACA in its entirety, including preexisting conditions.

Republicans, historically, have initially opposed virtually every form of coverage for the American people, including Social Security, but they have never succeeded in withdrawing or reducing benefits then in use. They will not succeed this time.

In my own District of Columbia, 106,000 residents with preexisting conditions would lose or risk losing or being denied or charged significantly more for health coverage.

The District, on its own, has succeeded in overcoming Republican attempts to weaken the ACA and now has reached virtually universal coverage, in spite of a specific attempt to block the city's successful efforts.

The administration's junk coverage is particularly untenable in allowing Federal subsidies of junk plans.

Republicans failed to overturn the ACA when they controlled majorities in both the House and the Senate. Plans that the administration has put forward to dismember the Act will not succeed either. Because of how insurance works, junk plans put all insured at risk of paying more for insurance.

Today, we intend to expose and defeat the administration's dangerous substitution for the Affordable Healthcare Act.

Mr. BURGESS. Madam Speaker, I yield myself 2 minutes for purpose of a response.

Look, it is not the Trump Administration that is taking money out of the Affordable Care Act and putting it to other purposes. It is clearly written into the law.

And, again, I didn't vote for this law. I voted against it. I argued against it, but the taking of advanced premium tax credits, cost-sharing reductions and small business tax credits under Section 36(b) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 under subpart (1)—blah, blah, blah—an alternative means by which the aggregate amount of such credits or reductions that would have been paid on behalf of participants in the exchanges established under this title had the State not received such a waiver, that amount shall be paid to the State for the purposes of implementing the State plan under the waiver.

So it is really pretty clear in the existing language of law. It is not the Trump Administration deviating funds, it was congressional intent. It was passed by this House of Representatives.

Again, I didn't vote for it. I wouldn't have defended it at the time. I didn't think it was a good idea then, probably not the greatest idea now. But the Secretary has this tool to use and he is responding to requests from people's constituents, do something about the high cost of my insurance, the high costs that I am required to spend in order to protect myself against the health catastrophe.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. SHALALA. Madam Speaker, I am prepared to close, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BURGESS. Madam Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Alabama (Mr. ROGERS).

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Madam Speaker, I thank my friend from Texas for yielding.

Madam Speaker, I rise in strong opposition to this rule. This rule demonstrates, once again, that the Democrat majority refuses to acknowledge, accept, or address the very real crisis at our southern border.

Numbers came out yesterday illustrating the magnitude of the crisis. CBP detained more than 109,000 migrants along the southwest border last month alone—a 591 percent increase compared with April of 2017.

In just the last 7 months, more than 1 percent of the total population of Honduras and Guatemala have migrated to the United States.

In total, over a half a million migrants have crossed our border since October of last year, approximately the population of Tucson, Arizona.

Smugglers and cartels continue to preach that now is the time to come to the U.S. These criminal organizations run an international smuggling organization filled with misery and abuse.

CBP has already rescued more than 2,000 migrants this fiscal year, pulling families out of the Rio Grande River and saving children who smugglers have abandoned.

Migrants that survive the smugglers often arrive in poor health, physically exhausted, and in need of urgent medical care.

The men and women of CBP are doing the best they can to respond to this humanitarian crisis, but they have run out of space to safely house and process unprecedented numbers of family units seeking entry into the United States.

Health and Human Services is on the urge of running out of funds to shelter vulnerable, unaccompanied children that are crossing our borders at levels 50 percent higher than just last year.

Last week, the President sent Congress an urgent request for supplemental appropriations to address this humanitarian crisis.

Ranking Member COLLINS and I filed an amendment to the supplemental, which would have provided $4.5 billion requested by the President.

It would have replenished critical funds needed to feed and shelter migrant families and unaccompanied children, provide urgent medical care and transportation services, and pay the growing cost of overtime for the men and women of DHS working on the front lines of this crisis.

Unfortunately, the majority refused to make our amendment in order, and in doing so they, again, refused to take action to address this crisis.

They stunningly refused to support the men and women of DHS, and most remarkably, they refused to provide the needed assistance to thousands of vulnerable migrants arriving at our border on a daily basis.

The majority's political dysfunction is disgraceful. I urge them to work with the President and Republicans in Congress to immediately resolve this humanitarian crisis.

Madam Speaker, I urge all Members to oppose this rule.

Ms. SHALALA. Madam Speaker, I continue to reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BURGESS. Madam Speaker, I do have one additional speaker.

Madam Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. WOODALL), who is a valuable member of the Rules Committee, and gave us a stirring history lesson on the ERISA plans and how the protection from preexisting conditions actually goes back to 1996.

Mr. WOODALL. Madam Speaker, I hope what I am getting ready to say, it turns out to be redundant, that we are going to hear it in the closings of both the gentlewoman from Florida and the gentleman from Texas.

We talk about this preexisting conditions' bill today as if it is going to help with preexisting conditions. As we have discussed already, it is not.

But the preexisting conditions issue is a very real issue. It is a very real issue for families all across the country, and it has been for a long time.

And undeniably, elections were won and lost this past cycle over a preexisting conditions issue based on the misinformation around it.

I don't know how we are advantaged as a community by continuing to perpetuate the misinformation. When we first tackled preexisting conditions in a serious way, we did it together in this institution.

I know, because it was a gentleman from my State, Madam Speaker, Speaker Newt Gingrich, who was sitting in that chair at the time.

It was 1996. Bill Clinton was sitting in the White House. Newt Gingrich was sitting here leading the United States House, and we came together, Republicans and Democrats, we passed the Health Insurance Affordability and Accountability Act that abolished preexisting condition worries for every single family with an ERISA-based plan. Those are the plans that the Federal Government controls.

So what I mean, Madam Speaker, is that for every single plan the Federal Government had dominion over, we eliminated preexisting conditions.

Medicare, no preexisting conditions.

Medicaid, no preexisting conditions.

ERISA plans, no preexisting conditions.

Collectively, that is about 250 million Americans.

What we didn't do was go into the area where the Federal Government had no dominion, which were State-regulated plans, and we said States should have the ability to regulate their own plans.

Now President Obama said, no, States had been moving too slow to help their constituency.

He ran on the platform of taking those plans away from State control; he won that debate. The Affordable Care Act implemented those conditions. And the bill today says, if states have an idea about how to protect families from preexisting conditions that is better than the one in the Affordable Care Act, we don't want to hear it.

□ 1315

There is one solution for preexisting conditions and it is the one that President Obama has implemented, no other. I think that is wrong.

Dr. BURGESS knows more about medicine than I will ever hope to know. He knows more about serving patients than I will ever hope to know.

Ms. SHALALA, as Secretary of Health and Human Services, knows more about healthcare than I will ever hope to know. I trust these folks to find solutions differently in Florida, and differently in Texas than we do in Georgia.

This bill does one thing and one thing only. It continues the debate from 1996, not about whether to help people with preexisting conditions, but about whether States have anything to add to the discussion. I am certain the State of Georgia does. I believe the State of Florida does. I know the State of Texas does.

If we defeat this rule and defeat this bill, it will allow those very best ideas to come out and not ideas about how to keep people down, Madam Speaker, but ideas about how to lift families up.

We have come together on those issues before, Madam Speaker, and we can do it again.

Ms. SHALALA. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I appreciate the comments of the gentleman from Georgia, and I have enjoyed the opportunity of working with him on the Rules Committee.

We are not objecting to what was done in 1996. We are saying to the States that they must cover preexisting conditions as part of a waiver, and they cannot undermine those conditions by imposing annual limits or charging more. The problem with the guidance is that it gives States the opportunity to propose cheap plans that, in essence, undermine preexisting conditions.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Madam Speaker, if we defeat the previous question, I will offer an amendment to the rule to move a resolution that reinforces the Republican's long-held views that every American should have preexisting condition protections.

On the opening day of the 116th Congress, House Republicans brought a measure to the floor that called on lawmakers to legislate on locking in protections for patients with preexisting conditions. Unfortunately, in a fit of partisanship, House Democrats blocked that effort. If Democrats were serious, they would not object to making a statement on behalf of the House of Representatives that we want to work together with the administration to protect patients with preexisting conditions.

Our position is simple and clear. Republicans stand ready to protect those with preexisting conditions in a manner that will withstand judicial scrutiny, and I hope our Democratic colleagues will join us in that effort.

Madam Speaker, if the previous question is defeated, House Republicans will move to immediately consider a resolution that maintains that no American should have their health insurance taken away or lose protections for preexisting conditions due to the Democrats in Congress enacting an unconstitutional law.

It would instruct Congress and the Trump administration to ask the Supreme Court for a stay in the Texas v. United States decision, should the Affordable Care Act be found unconstitutional.

It would instruct Congress to develop bipartisan legislation that guarantees that no American citizen can be denied health insurance coverage or charged more due to a previous illness or health status.

It includes commonsense consumer protections, provides more choice and affordable coverage than the Affordable Care Act, lowers prescription drug prices for patients, strengthens Medicare for current and future beneficiaries, and rejects the Democrats' radical one-size-fits-all, government-run, Soviet-style, top-down healthcare scheme that would only outlaw the employer-based coverage of more than 180 million Americans.

Madam Speaker, I suspect our Democratic colleagues will vote against considering this resolution, so I must ask: Why are Democrats opposed to making a statement that the goal of the House of Representatives of the United States is to work together to protect coverage for patients with preexisting conditions? If that is not the goal, then what might it be?

Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to insert the text of this amendment into the RECORD, along with extraneous material, immediately prior to the vote on the previous question.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. BURGESS. Madam Speaker, again, I would reiterate that neither bill under consideration today has a chance of becoming law.

While I support funding for disaster relief, the Democrats chose not to negotiate with the Senate and included controversial positions.

As a result, we would likely be considering a disaster relief bill yet another time, and our hard-hit communities will continue to struggle without relief.

Once again, despite the title of H.R. 986, this bill will have no impact on protections for preexisting conditions for Americans with those conditions. It will simply overturn a regulation—overturns part of ObamaCare—it overturns a regulation that allows States to innovate in the Affordable Care Act marketplace, and that provides flexibility and consumer choice to healthcare consumers.

House Republicans continue to support preexisting conditions protections and have offered solutions to give patients this assurance. Republicans stand ready to work with Democrats in a bipartisan manner to pass these protections into law and also provide desperately needed disaster relief.

I look forward to when we can all gather around the negotiating table. I urge a ''no'' vote on the previous question, a ''no'' vote on the underlying measures, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. SHALALA. Madam Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

It was only 10 years ago that people who lacked employer-provided insurance and had preexisting conditions could not find health insurance in many parts of this country, and those who could find health insurance, too often found that their plans were not comprehensive. They might not cover the type of cancer some buyers previously had, or they might have an annual or even a lifetime cap on coverage.

It was 2 years ago that this body passed a bill that stripped those protections, a bill that would make comprehensive health insurance out of reach for many Americans. Thanks to a courageous few, that bill did not become law.

Now that the administration has lost that battle to destroy the Affordable Care Act, they are trying to do it through guidance and through lawsuits.

H.R. 986 prevents the administration from enforcing guidance that would allow States to use taxpayer money to sell subpar health plans on the exchange.

The administration is taking the 1332 waivers, which are designed to allow States flexibility to lower health insurance costs, like through reinsurance, and using it to take away important consumer protections. The 1332 waiver requires high-quality, affordable health insurance while retaining the basic protections of the Affordable Care Act.

As the American Cancer Society notes: This administration guidance tips the scales in favor of insurance products that are inadequate to meet the needs of millions of Americans with preexisting conditions.

Madam Speaker, I also support H.R. 2157, which provides disaster assistance to communities from every nook and corner of this country who are waiting for our help.

When disaster hits this country, we come together and support each other. When tornados, and floods, and hurricanes strike, we help people quickly. It is an embarrassment that a disaster bill has not yet made it to the President's desk in this Congress.

Madam Speaker, I urge a ''yes'' vote on the rule.

The text of the material previously referred to by Mr. BURGESS is as follows:

AMENDMENT TO HOUSE RESOLUTION 357

At the end of the resolution, add the following:

SEC. 3. Immediately upon adoption of this resolution, the House shall proceed to the consideration in the House of the resolution (H. Res. 280), protecting the health care of all Americans, especially those with preexisting conditions. The resolution shall be considered as read. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the resolution to adoption without intervening motion or demand for division of the question except one hour of debate equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Energy and Commerce. Clause 1(c) of rule XIX shall not apply to the consideration of House Resolution 280.

Ms. SHALALA. Madam Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time, and I move the previous question on the resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on ordering the previous question.

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

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

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 9 of rule XX, the Chair will reduce to 5 minutes the minimum time for any electronic vote on the question of adoption of the resolution.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 227, nays 190, answered ''present'' 1, not voting 13, as follows:

[Roll No. 189]

YEAS—227

Adams
Aguilar
Allred
Axne
Barragán
Beatty
Bera
Beyer
Bishop (GA)
Blumenauer
Blunt Rochester
Bonamici
Boyle, Brendan F.
Brindisi
Brown (MD)
Brownley (CA)
Bustos
Butterfield
Carbajal
Carson (IN)
Cartwright
Case
Casten (IL)
Castor (FL)
Castro (TX)
Chu, Judy
Cicilline
Cisneros
Clark (MA)
Clarke (NY)
Clay
Cleaver
Clyburn
Cohen
Connolly
Cooper
Correa
Costa
Courtney
Cox (CA)
Craig
Crist
Crow
Cuellar
Cunningham
Davids (KS)
Davis (CA)
Davis, Danny K.
Dean
DeFazio
DeGette
DeLauro
DelBene
Delgado
Demings
DeSaulnier
Deutch
Dingell
Doggett
Doyle, Michael F.
Engel
Escobar
Eshoo
Espaillat
Evans
Finkenauer
Fletcher
Foster
Frankel
Fudge
Gabbard
Gallego
Garamendi
García (IL)
Garcia (TX)
Golden
Gomez
Gonzalez (TX)
Gottheimer
Green (TX)
Grijalva
Haaland
Harder (CA)
Hastings
Hayes
Heck
Higgins (NY)
Hill (CA)
Himes
Horn, Kendra S.
Horsford
Houlahan
Hoyer
Huffman
Jackson Lee
Jayapal
Jeffries
Johnson (GA)
Johnson (TX)
Kaptur
Keating
Kelly (IL)
Kennedy
Khanna
Kildee
Kilmer
Kim
Kind
Kirkpatrick
Krishnamoorthi
Kuster (NH)
Lamb
Langevin
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Lawrence
Lawson (FL)
Lee (CA)
Lee (NV)
Levin (CA)
Levin (MI)
Lewis
Lieu, Ted
Lipinski
Loebsack
Lofgren
Lowenthal
Lowey
Luján
Luria
Lynch
Malinowski
Maloney, Carolyn B.
Maloney, Sean
Matsui
McAdams
McBath
McCollum
McEachin
McGovern
McNerney
Meeks
Meng
Moore
Morelle
Moulton
Mucarsel-Powell
Murphy
Nadler
Napolitano
Neal
Neguse
Norcross
O'Halleran
Ocasio-Cortez
Omar
Pallone
Panetta
Pappas
Pascrell
Payne
Perlmutter
Peters
Peterson
Phillips
Pingree
Pocan
Porter
Pressley
Price (NC)
Quigley
Raskin
Rice (NY)
Rose (NY)
Rouda
Roybal-Allard
Ruiz
Ruppersberger
Rush
Ryan
Sánchez
Sarbanes
Scanlon
Schiff
Schneider
Schrader
Schrier
Scott (VA)
Scott, David
Serrano
Sewell (AL)
Shalala
Sherman
Sherrill
Sires
Slotkin
Smith (WA)
Soto
Spanberger
Speier
Stanton
Stevens
Suozzi
Takano
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Titus
Tlaib
Tonko
Torres (CA)
Torres Small (NM)
Trahan
Trone
Underwood
Van Drew
Vargas
Veasey
Vela
Velázquez
Wasserman Schultz
Waters
Watson Coleman
Welch
Wexton
Wild
Wilson (FL)
Yarmuth

NAYS—190

Abraham
Aderholt
Allen
Amash
Amodei
Armstrong
Arrington
Babin
Bacon
Baird
Balderson
Banks
Barr
Bergman
Biggs
Bilirakis
Bost
Brady
Brooks (AL)
Brooks (IN)
Buchanan
Buck
Bucshon
Budd
Burchett
Burgess
Byrne
Calvert
Carter (GA)
Carter (TX)
Chabot
Cheney
Cline
Cloud
Cole
Collins (GA)
Collins (NY)
Comer
Conaway
Cook
Crawford
Crenshaw
Curtis
Davidson (OH)
Davis, Rodney
DesJarlais
Diaz-Balart
Duffy
Duncan
Dunn
Estes
Ferguson
Fitzpatrick
Fleischmann
Flores
Fortenberry
Foxx (NC)
Fulcher
Gaetz
Gallagher
Gianforte
Gibbs
Gohmert
Gonzalez (OH)
Gooden
Gosar
Granger
Graves (GA)
Graves (LA)
Graves (MO)
Green (TN)
Griffith
Grothman
Guest
Guthrie
Hagedorn
Harris
Hartzler
Hern, Kevin
Herrera Beutler
Hice (GA)
Higgins (LA)
Hill (AR)
Holding
Hollingsworth
Hudson
Huizenga
Hunter
Hurd (TX)
Johnson (LA)
Johnson (OH)
Johnson (SD)
Jordan
Joyce (OH)
Joyce (PA)
Katko
Kelly (MS)
Kelly (PA)
King (IA)
King (NY)
Kinzinger
Kustoff (TN)
LaHood
LaMalfa
Lamborn
Latta
Lesko
Long
Loudermilk
Lucas
Luetkemeyer
Marchant
Marshall
Massie
Mast
McCarthy
McCaul
McClintock
McHenry
McKinley
Meadows
Meuser
Miller
Mitchell
Moolenaar
Mooney (WV)
Mullin
Newhouse
Norman
Nunes
Palazzo
Palmer
Pence
Perry
Posey
Ratcliffe
Reed
Reschenthaler
Rice (SC)
Riggleman
Roby
Rodgers (WA)
Roe, David P.
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rose, John W.
Rouzer
Rutherford
Scalise
Schweikert
Scott, Austin
Sensenbrenner
Shimkus
Simpson
Smith (MO)
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smucker
Spano
Stauber
Stefanik
Steil
Steube
Stewart
Stivers
Taylor
Thompson (PA)
Thornberry
Timmons
Tipton
Turner
Upton
Wagner
Walberg
Walden
Walorski
Waltz
Watkins
Weber (TX)
Webster (FL)
Westerman
Williams
Wilson (SC)
Wittman
Womack
Woodall
Wright
Yoho
Young
Zeldin

ANSWERED ''PRESENT''—1

Roy

NOT VOTING—13

Bass
Bishop (UT)
Cárdenas
Cummings
Emmer
Olson
Richmond
Rooney (FL)
Schakowsky
Swalwell (CA)
Visclosky
Walker
Wenstrup

□ 1352

Messrs. AMASH, ADERHOLT, KINZINGER, BUDD, BILIRAKIS, STIVERS, and KATKO changed their vote from ''yea'' to ''nay.''

Ms. SEWELL of Alabama changed her vote from ''nay'' to ''yea.''

So the previous question was ordered.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the resolution.

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

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

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. This is a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 227, nays 191, not voting 13, as follows:

[Roll No. 190]

YEAS—227

Adams
Aguilar
Allred
Axne
Barragán
Beatty
Bera
Beyer
Bishop (GA)
Blumenauer
Blunt Rochester
Bonamici
Boyle, Brendan F.
Brindisi
Brown (MD)
Brownley (CA)
Bustos
Butterfield
Carbajal
Carson (IN)
Cartwright
Case
Casten (IL)
Castor (FL)
Castro (TX)
Chu, Judy
Cicilline
Cisneros
Clark (MA)
Clarke (NY)
Clay
Cleaver
Clyburn
Cohen
Connolly
Cooper
Correa
Costa
Courtney
Cox (CA)
Craig
Crist
Crow
Cuellar
Cunningham
Davids (KS)
Davis (CA)
Davis, Danny K.
Dean
DeFazio
DeGette
DeLauro
DelBene
Delgado
Demings
DeSaulnier
Deutch
Dingell
Doggett
Doyle, Michael F.
Engel
Escobar
Eshoo
Espaillat
Evans
Finkenauer
Fletcher
Foster
Frankel
Fudge
Gabbard
Gallego
Garamendi
García (IL)
Garcia (TX)
Golden
Gomez
Gonzalez (TX)
Gottheimer
Green (TX)
Grijalva
Haaland
Harder (CA)
Hastings
Hayes
Heck
Higgins (NY)
Hill (CA)
Himes
Horn, Kendra S.
Horsford
Houlahan
Hoyer
Huffman
Jackson Lee
Jayapal
Jeffries
Johnson (GA)
Johnson (TX)
Kaptur
Keating
Kelly (IL)
Kennedy
Khanna
Kildee
Kilmer
Kim
Kind
Kirkpatrick
Krishnamoorthi
Kuster (NH)
Lamb
Langevin
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Lawrence
Lawson (FL)
Lee (CA)
Lee (NV)
Levin (CA)
Levin (MI)
Lewis
Lieu, Ted
Lipinski
Loebsack
Lofgren
Lowenthal
Lowey
Luján
Luria
Lynch
Malinowski
Maloney, Carolyn B.
Maloney, Sean
Matsui
McAdams
McBath
McCollum
McEachin
McGovern
McNerney
Meeks
Meng
Moore
Morelle
Moulton
Mucarsel-Powell
Murphy
Nadler
Napolitano
Neal
Neguse
Norcross
O'Halleran
Ocasio-Cortez
Omar
Pallone
Panetta
Pappas
Pascrell
Payne
Perlmutter
Peters
Peterson
Phillips
Pingree
Pocan
Porter
Pressley
Price (NC)
Quigley
Raskin
Rice (NY)
Rose (NY)
Rouda
Roybal-Allard
Ruiz
Ruppersberger
Rush
Ryan
Sánchez
Sarbanes
Scanlon
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schneider
Schrader
Schrier
Scott (VA)
Scott, David
Sewell (AL)
Shalala
Sherman
Sherrill
Sires
Slotkin
Smith (WA)
Soto
Spanberger
Speier
Stanton
Stevens
Suozzi
Takano
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Titus
Tlaib
Tonko
Torres (CA)
Torres Small (NM)
Trahan
Trone
Underwood
Van Drew
Vargas
Veasey
Vela
Velázquez
Wasserman Schultz
Waters
Watson Coleman
Welch
Wexton
Wild
Wilson (FL)
Yarmuth

NAYS—191

Abraham
Aderholt
Allen
Amash
Amodei
Armstrong
Arrington
Babin
Bacon
Baird
Balderson
Banks
Barr
Bergman
Biggs
Bilirakis
Bost
Brady
Brooks (AL)
Brooks (IN)
Buchanan
Buck
Bucshon
Budd
Burchett
Burgess
Byrne
Calvert
Carter (GA)
Carter (TX)
Chabot
Cheney
Cline
Cloud
Cole
Collins (GA)
Collins (NY)
Comer
Conaway
Cook
Crawford
Crenshaw
Curtis
Davidson (OH)
Davis, Rodney
DesJarlais
Diaz-Balart
Duffy
Duncan
Dunn
Estes
Ferguson
Fitzpatrick
Fleischmann
Flores
Fortenberry
Foxx (NC)
Fulcher
Gaetz
Gallagher
Gianforte
Gibbs
Gohmert
Gonzalez (OH)
Gooden
Gosar
Granger
Graves (GA)
Graves (LA)
Graves (MO)
Green (TN)
Griffith
Grothman
Guest
Guthrie
Hagedorn
Harris
Hartzler
Hern, Kevin
Herrera Beutler
Hice (GA)
Higgins (LA)
Hill (AR)
Holding
Hollingsworth
Hudson
Huizenga
Hunter
Hurd (TX)
Johnson (LA)
Johnson (OH)
Johnson (SD)
Jordan
Joyce (OH)
Joyce (PA)
Katko
Kelly (MS)
Kelly (PA)
King (IA)
King (NY)
Kinzinger
Kustoff (TN)
LaHood
LaMalfa
Lamborn
Latta
Lesko
Long
Loudermilk
Lucas
Luetkemeyer
Marchant
Marshall
Massie
Mast
McCarthy
McCaul
McClintock
McHenry
McKinley
Meadows
Meuser
Miller
Mitchell
Moolenaar
Mooney (WV)
Mullin
Newhouse
Norman
Nunes
Palazzo
Palmer
Pence
Perry
Posey
Ratcliffe
Reed
Reschenthaler
Rice (SC)
Riggleman
Roby
Rodgers (WA)
Roe, David P.
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rose, John W.
Rouzer
Roy
Rutherford
Scalise
Schweikert
Scott, Austin
Sensenbrenner
Shimkus
Simpson
Smith (MO)
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smucker
Spano
Stauber
Stefanik
Steil
Steube
Stewart
Stivers
Taylor
Thompson (PA)
Thornberry
Timmons
Tipton
Turner
Upton
Wagner
Walberg
Walden
Walorski
Waltz
Watkins
Weber (TX)
Webster (FL)
Westerman
Williams
Wilson (SC)
Wittman
Womack
Woodall
Wright
Yoho
Young
Zeldin

NOT VOTING—13

Bass
Bishop (UT)
Cárdenas
Cummings
Emmer
Olson
Richmond
Rooney (FL)
Serrano
Swalwell (CA)
Visclosky
Walker
Wenstrup

□ 1401

So the resolution was agreed to.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

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

Mr. ABRAHAM. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on the Judiciary be discharged from further consideration of H.R. 962, the Born-Alive Abortion Survivors Protection Act, 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. ABRAHAM. Madam Speaker, if this unanimous consent request 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.

PROTECTING AMERICANS WITH PREEXISTING CONDITIONS ACT OF 2019

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. PALLONE. Madam 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. 986, the Protecting Americans with Preexisting Conditions Act of 2019.

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

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 357 and rule XVIII, the Chair declares the House in the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for the consideration of the bill, H.R. 986.

The Chair appoints the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. GARCÍA) to preside over the Committee of the Whole.

□ 1407

IN THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Accordingly, the House resolved itself into the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for the 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, with Mr. GARCÍA of Illinois in the chair.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The CHAIR. Pursuant to the rule, the bill is considered read the first time.

General debate shall be confined to the bill and shall not exceed 1 hour equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

The gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PALLONE) and the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. WALDEN) each will control 30 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New Jersey.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Chairman, I rise to speak in favor of H.R. 986, the Protecting Americans With Preexisting Conditions Act, introduced by Representative KUSTER from our committee.

This legislation should not be necessary but, unfortunately, the Trump

administration continues to take actions that undermine the healthcare of millions of Americans, including the more than 133 million people with preexisting conditions.

Today, we are here because of the Trump administration's proposed guidance last October that would allow States to expand and prop up short-term junk insurance plans, even providing taxpayer subsidies for those plans. In order to take this action, the administration blatantly ignored the plain text of the Affordable Care Act and gutted standards that States must meet in order to test insurance reforms.

I believe the administration's action is illegal, but, sadly, this administration has never let the law get in the way of its goals. These efforts will, without a doubt, seriously undermine the health coverage of Americans with preexisting conditions.

A coalition of 24 national groups representing millions of Americans with preexisting conditions, including the American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network, the American Heart Association, and the American Diabetes Association, wrote a letter in strong support of H.R. 986, stating: ''The 1332 guidance substantially erodes the guardrails governing coverage that people with preexisting conditions such as cystic fibrosis, lung disease, cancer, cardiovascular disease, diabetes, rare disorders, pregnant women, and many others rely on in the individual marketplace.''

The patient organizations go on to say that ''these changes fundamentally alter the nature of the section 1332 waiver program and jeopardize adequate, affordable coverage for people with preexisting conditions in the individual market. Halting the implementation of this guidance will protect people with preexisting conditions.''

Mr. Chairman, by encouraging States to promote and expand short-term insurance plans, the administration is giving insurers the green light to directly discriminate against people with preexisting conditions; it is giving the green light to these plans to charge people with preexisting conditions more money; and it is giving these plans the green light to refuse to cover any treatment that is related to someone's preexisting condition.

The expansion of these junk plans will also undermine the insurance market, leading to higher premiums for people with preexisting conditions who need comprehensive coverage. This is not the way you protect people with preexisting conditions.

The Trump administration's guidance also undermines the ACA's promise of coverage of essential health benefits. The American people should not have to worry about whether their insurance plan covers prescription drugs, maternity and newborn care, mental health and substance use disorder services.

This guidance is also bad news for older Americans who could be charged a lot more for their insurance than what is allowed by the ACA.

In a nutshell, Mr. Chairman, this guidance is bad news for any American who wants access to quality and affordable health coverage that is there for them when they need it. Junk plans are just that—they are junk.

People shouldn't have to read the fine print to see what is and is not covered, and that is the hallmark of the Affordable Care Act. So that is why we must rescind the guidance.

I want to commend my colleague, Ms. KUSTER, for her great work on this important bill.

I do want to emphasize that H.R. 986 would not do anything to interfere with existing 1332 reinsurance waivers, which have bipartisan support and began under the Obama administration. My Republican colleagues continue to intentionally conflate these reinsurance waivers with the Trump administration's new 1332 waiver guidance from October of last year. H.R. 986 does not affect these reinsurance waivers.

I am disappointed that my Republican colleagues continue to make these arguments, but the bad faith is not surprising, given their terrible record on protecting people with preexisting conditions.

Mr. Chairman, this bill is necessary because of the ongoing assault by the Trump administration on our healthcare system. I urge my colleagues to join me in standing up for people with preexisting conditions and standing up for people who want access to affordable and quality healthcare.

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

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS,
Washington, DC, May 8, 2019.

Hon. FRANK PALLONE,
Chairman, Committee on Energy and Commerce, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN PALLONE: I am writing with respect to H.R. 986, Protecting Americans with Preexisting Conditions Act of 2019. As a result of you having consulted with us on provisions that fall within our rule X jurisdiction, and in recognition of the desire to expedite consideration of the measure, the Committee on Ways and Means agrees to waive formal consideration of H.R. 986.

The Committee on Ways and Means takes this action with the mutual understanding that we do not waive any jurisdiction over the subject matter contained in this or similar legislation, and the Committee will be appropriately consulted and involved as the bill or similar legislation moves forward so that we may address any remaining issues within our jurisdiction. The Committee also reserves the right to seek appointment of an appropriate number of conferees to any House-Senate conference involving this or similar legislation.

Finally, I would appreciate your response to this letter confirming this understanding, and would ask that a copy of our exchange of letter on this matter be included in the Congressional Record during floor consideration of H.R. 986.

Sincerely,

RICHARD E. NEAL,
Chairman.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND COMMERCE,
Washington, DC, May 9, 2019.

Hon. RICHARD E. NEAL,
Chairman, Committee on Ways and Means, House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN NEAL: Thank you for consulting with the Committee on Energy and Commerce and agreeing to discharge H.R. 986, Protecting Americans with Preexisting Conditions Act of 2019 from further consideration, so that the bill may proceed expeditiously to the House floor.

I agree that your forgoing further action on this measure does not in any way diminish or alter the jurisdiction of your committee or prejudice its jurisdictional prerogatives on this measure or similar legislation in the future. I would support your effort to seek appointment of an appropriate number of conferees from your committee to any House-Senate conference on this legislation.

I will ensure our letters on H.R. 986 are entered into the Congressional Record during floor consideration of the bill. I appreciate your cooperation regarding this legislation and look forward to continuing to work together as this measure moves through the legislative process.

Sincerely,

FRANK PALLONE, JR.,
Chairman.

Mr. WALDEN. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Chairman, I rise today to call out the mischaracterization of H.R. 986. The misleading title of this bill confirms the Democratic majority's position to score political points instead of governing. They claim their agenda is ''for the people.'' Well, this bill is ''for the politics.''

So let me be clear. This bill has nothing to do with protecting Americans with preexisting conditions. This bill has everything to do with eliminating healthcare options that would be affordable for Americans who can't afford health insurance today and choices for States.

Section 1332 waivers were first enacted under ObamaCare to provide States the opportunity to innovate and to provide their residents with affordable health insurance options. The Trump administration has simply updated the guidance for these 1332 ObamaCare waivers to make it easier for a State's plan to be approved.

This guidance does not—I repeat, does not—permit the Secretary to waive preexisting condition protections.

But, don't take my word for it alone. CMS Administrator Seema Verma confirmed it yesterday, in writing. ''To be very clear, the 2018 guidance does nothing to erode PPACA's preexisting condition provisions, which cannot be waived under section 1332,'' wrote Administrator Verma.

□ 1415

She went on to explain: ''Section 1332 does not permit States to waive Public Health Service Act requirements such as guaranteed availability and renewability of health insurance, the prohibition on using health status to vary premiums, and the prohibition on preexisting conditions exclusions. Furthermore, a section 1332 waiver cannot

be approved that might otherwise undermine these requirements. This administration stands committed to protecting people with preexisting conditions.'' Seema Verma, she is the Administrator.

It is not just Administrator Verma. I want to quote from the Trump administration statement of policy. ''If H.R. 986 were presented to the President, his advisers would recommend that he veto it,'' wrote the Trump administration in its ''Statement of Administration Policy.''

It goes on to say: ''The President has repeatedly made clear that this administration will protect people with preexisting conditions. The 2018 guidance in no way alters the guardrails in place for those with preexisting conditions, and it would not allow the administration to waive the requirements in place around preexisting conditions. The title of this legislation gives the misleading impression that it will enhance healthcare protections for Americans with preexisting conditions.''

Put simply, Mr. Chair, this cynically titled messaging bill is all about scoring political points and not legislating, which is what we should be doing.

You see, if Democratic Members actually cared about protecting individuals living with preexisting conditions, they would govern and lock in these important safeguards. Since Democratic leaders chose to put politics first, I offered an amendment to protect patients with preexisting conditions, to lock that into law.

Mr. Chair, this amendment wasn't presented to the House for a vote. In fact, it was never allowed out of the Rules Committee. That is a shame because we could be voting on it today. I have tried to bring that vote to the floor on numerous occasions, and I have been denied by the Democratic majority.

My bill is simple. It provides guaranteed issue and renewability, a ban on health status underwriting, and a ban on benefits exclusions, real preexisting condition protections Democratic Members say they support.

Guess what? It is titled the ''Pre-existing Conditions Protection Act.'' How ironic, except my bill does what the title says.

Let's vote on that bill, Mr. Chair.

Here is what it comes down to. The status quo is not working for many Americans. Healthcare costs are out of control. Patients and families are struggling to pay ever-increasing premiums, deductibles, and out-of-pocket costs.

There is work that we are doing. I just came from a meeting with the President of the United States in the Roosevelt Room talking about surprise billing. We are going to work together, Mr. PALLONE and I and others, to draft legislation to prevent that, to protect consumers.

We could do more here today than what this bill alleges to do. Republicans want to work toward healthcare solutions that will decrease costs, increase access, protect individuals with preexisting conditions, make the healthcare system work better for families and for patients, and actually be affordable.

We want to let our States innovate. These section 1332 waivers—originally, again, put forward under President Obama—known as State innovation waivers, they are working, Mr. Chair. Premiums have gone down in seven States by an average of 20 percent, down 20 percent.

In my home State of Oregon, we have been a real innovator for decades in the space of healthcare coverage and access and trying to get prices down. Our premiums, under this 1332 waiver that Oregon has, have gone down 6 percent in 2018, down 6 percent thanks to a State innovation waiver.

These waivers could work. States want to innovate. They care about their people and want to bring down costs. Instead of allowing more and more States to innovate and lower their healthcare costs, unfortunately, Democrats are of the mindset that Washington knows best, not our States. States can't be trusted, apparently. They want to limit the ability of States to innovate on behalf of their citizens.

This type of top-down, command-and-control, government-knows-best approach is what leads to policies like the Democrats' ultimate goal of a one-size-fits-all government takeover of healthcare.

A vote in support of their bill is a vote against innovation, lowering costs, my colleagues' constituents, State legislatures, Governors, State insurance commissioners, on and on and on. That is what my colleagues are doing if they vote for this.

A vote against the bill is actually a vote for the people.

Mr. Chair, I encourage my colleagues to oppose this partisan gimmick, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Chair, I yield 1½ minutes to the gentlewoman from New Hampshire (Ms. KUSTER), the sponsor of the bill.

Ms. KUSTER of New Hampshire. Mr. Chair, I thank Chairman PALLONE for yielding, and I thank him for his guidance and leadership on the Energy and Commerce Committee as we advanced critical legislation this week to stabilize the Affordable Care Act and drive down prescription drug costs for all Americans.

Mr. Chair, I rise today in support of my legislation, H.R. 986, the Protecting Americans With Preexisting Conditions Act.

As a patient with a preexisting condition myself, I rise today to stand with over 52 million Americans and over 200,000 Granite Staters who live with preexisting conditions every single day. They could have been denied access to healthcare prior to passage of the Affordable Care Act, and many were.

While we recognize that we need to strengthen and stabilize the ACA, we should equally accept the principle that nobody should be denied coverage because of a preexisting condition.

When you think about it, asthma, allergies, Alzheimer's, cancer, diabetes, just go right through the alphabet, having a child, even, any of these are preexisting conditions. In my home State of New Hampshire and across this country, opioid and alcohol addiction are preexisting conditions.

Every week, and again here today, we have heard Republicans on the House Energy and Commerce Committee say, ''Oh, of course we want to protect Americans with preexisting conditions.'' Yet, at every step, this administration is trying to sabotage the consumer protection guardrails that are in the ACA, including fighting in court for the total elimination of the Affordable Care Act with absolutely no replacement.

The CHAIR. The time of the gentlewoman has expired.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Chair, I yield the gentlewoman an additional 30 seconds.

Ms. KUSTER of New Hampshire. Mr. Chair, an important piece of the Affordable Care Act, section 1332, created the State innovation waivers, which provide States with flexibility in implementing the ACA as long as plans remain comprehensive, affordable, and accessible. However, the Trump administration recently issued guidance encouraging States to promote junk health plans through these waivers in order to circumvent essential health benefits and protections for preexisting conditions.

Mr. Chair, I urge my colleagues to vote ''yes'' on this bill.

Mr. WALDEN. Mr. Chair, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. WALBERG), a very important member of our Energy and Commerce Committee.

Mr. WALBERG. Mr. Chair, I thank the lead Republican for yielding.

Mr. Chair, I rise today in opposition to H.R. 986. I would give its titled name, but it is yet another misleading effort that has nothing to do with the title of the bill.

House Republicans fully support protections—and I will make it clear—for patients with preexisting conditions.

I know that my Democratic colleagues and friends want to continue using the mantra that works so well politically without fact, truth, or reality during the election. We have gone beyond that now.

Republicans support protections for patients with preexisting conditions. These patients deserve peace of mind and safeguards from being treated unfairly. That has always been a priority of ours, and it will continue to be, but that is not what the bill before us today would do.

H.R. 986 can be summed up in 3 words: Washington knows best. The bill eliminates flexibility at the State level, taking away options for States

to innovate and bring down healthcare premiums.

The high and rising cost of healthcare is a significant concern for patients and families in my district. We need to focus on solutions, not politics. We need to focus on solutions to provide relief from increasing costs, encourage choice and competition, expand access to quality care, and maintain—and I will make it very clear here again—important protections for patients with preexisting conditions.

We have the ideas to do that. We have the amendments that would put that forward and make this bill something important to people with preexisting conditions, but that is not being allowed today.

Let's stop playing political games with a bill title and a title like this and, instead, focus on patient-centered solutions.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Chair, I yield 1½ minutes to the gentlewoman from Colorado (Ms. DEGETTE), who chairs our Oversight and Investigations Subcommittee.

Ms. DEGETTE. Mr. Chair, I thank Chairman PALLONE for yielding.

Mr. Chair, I rise in strong support of the Protecting Americans with Preexisting Conditions Act.

Frankly, if my colleagues on the other side of the aisle were so firm in their commitment to protecting Americans with preexisting conditions, they would support this bill, because all it says is that section 1332 will not stop the protections that we have under current law.

The Trump administration guidance that allows States to undermine the preexisting condition provisions of the ACA is, frankly, in clear violation of congressional intent.

Let's be clear about something. When we say we are going to protect people with preexisting conditions, we actually mean it. That is exactly what this legislation does.

I would welcome support from my friends on the other side of the aisle.

According to the Kaiser Family Foundation, over 750,000 people just in my little State of Colorado would be at risk of losing their healthcare coverage if it wasn't for the protections of the ACA.

The administration's repeated attempts to take these protections away from people and deny them their right to obtain healthcare coverage is the difference for many of them between life and death.

We are not going to let this happen. This Congress is going to make sure that the goals of the ACA to give full healthcare coverage to every American, including people with preexisting conditions, is going to be preserved. We have come too far to turn back the clock now.

Mr. Chair, I am glad that we have this bill on the floor now. I thank my colleague, Ms. KUSTER, for sponsoring it, and I urge every Member of this body to support it.

Mr. WALDEN. Mr. Chairman, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. CARTER), our pharmacist on the Energy and Commerce Committee.

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Chair, I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Mr. Chair, I rise today in opposition to the so-called Protecting Americans with Preexisting Conditions Act.

Mr. Chair, this is a misnomer. A misnomer is defined as a wrong or inaccurate name or designation. That is what the title of this bill is. It is wrong.

I join my colleagues on the Republican side in supporting protections for people with preexisting conditions. In fact, it was one of the first votes in Congress that we took this year, and it was defeated by my colleagues across the aisle.

This bill, which is ironically, as I say, misnamed because it doesn't protect preexisting conditions, would take steps to roll back State efforts to innovate and lower premiums for Americans across the country.

One issue I often hear about from my constituents is the cost of healthcare coverage and the lack of options available under ObamaCare. These waivers would allow for new strategies to address the high premiums that so many people are facing.

In fact, of the States that created their own reinsurance programs, they saw, on average, a nearly 20 percent drop in premiums, one State seeing a drop as high as 43.4 percent.

As States continue to grapple with high insurance costs, they have looked to these innovative waivers for opportunities to bring about new ideas that help people, not remove options and opportunities.

We all know that there is an issue with affordability of insurance in many areas. It should be known that this isn't as though it is just more conservative States moving forward with these reinsurance programs. States like New Jersey, where the chairman is from, and Minnesota and Maryland have seen the benefits of this.

Mr. Chair, that is why I urge my colleagues to give States the flexibility they need to reduce premiums and to vote ''no'' on this legislation.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Chair, I yield 1½ minutes to the gentlewoman from Illinois (Ms. SCHAKOWSKY), who chairs our Consumer Protection and Commerce Subcommittee.

□ 1430

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Chairman, I believe that my colleagues on the other side of the aisle are standing up and saying what they would like to see, and that is to protect people with preexisting conditions. The problem with what they are telling the American people is that what they are proposing does not protect people with preexisting conditions.

I know when I first came to Congress as a woman, being a woman was a preexisting condition. There were a lot of things that weren't covered because we are women, until we passed the Affordable Care Act.

While the Republicans are talking about protecting such people, they are supporting a lawsuit, right now, that, once again, would undo all of the Affordable Care Act, sweeping out with them protections for preexisting conditions.

But the other key word to listen to is flexibility. They are talking about allowing up to 4 years of policies that States could enact that do not cover the whole panoply of things that the Affordable Care Act covers and could exclude even protection for preexisting conditions. That is not flexibility. That is taking away benefits from people.

You can sign up for one of these, what we call, junk policies and you are perfectly well, and then all of a sudden you have some kind of an illness that, guess what, is not covered, and won't be covered, because then you will have a preexisting condition.

The legislation Democrats have for you today would protect preexisting conditions, no questions, period, end of story.

Mr. WALDEN. Mr. Chairman, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. ARRINGTON) to speak on this matter.

Mr. ARRINGTON. Mr. Chairman, I rise to shed light on a very deceptive practice and the reason the American people refer to politics in Washington as ''the swamp.'' That is giving bills names that, not only have nothing to do with the legislation, but actually mislead the American people to believe it is something that it is not.

This Democrat bill being considered today, entitled the Protecting Americans with Preexisting Conditions Act, has absolutely nothing to do with preexisting conditions and protecting people with preexisting conditions.

This bill actually prevents a policy that allows States to have the freedom and flexibility to provide for their citizens' healthcare needs. Where they have exercised that flexibility, we have seen an average of 20 percent in the reduction of healthcare costs.

There are laws on the books, Mr. Chairman, passed by Democrats and Republicans alike, that prevent and punish people and companies who participate in such false advertising. In fact, there is a good reason the FTC has strong truth in advertising laws and strictly enforces them against misleading and deceptive practices, because it hurts people, it hurts consumers, and it actually, in this case, compromises the American people's trust.

Mr. Chairman, the American people are sick and tired of political games, they are tired of politicians and their duplicity, and they are tired of their elected representatives deceiving them. That is what this is.

Mr. Chairman, I encourage my colleagues to not vote for this bill that takes the American people as fools and

preys on their fears, and I encourage both sides to stand in opposition of this bill.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Chairman, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. HOYER), our majority leader.

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Chairman, I thank the chairman, Mr. PALLONE, for the extraordinary leadership he has shown on this issue and so many others, and for his being an original drafter and sponsor of the Affordable Care Act.

Sitting here, I was listening to speaker after speaker after speaker tell me that this doesn't protect preexisting conditions. Of course, it does. But those are people who not only didn't want to protect preexisting conditions, they wanted to repeal the whole bill. They wanted to kick 20 million people off health insurance. Give me a break. Their crocodile tears are not, hopefully, deluding anybody. They are against the Affordable Care Act. We get that. This administration has done everything they can think of to undermine the Affordable Care Act, which has an adverse effect on the ability of Americans to get health insurance at a price they can afford.

Mr. Chairman, over the past few years, congressional Republicans and the Trump administration have engaged in a dangerous campaign to repeal, undermine, and dismantle the Affordable Care Act. Now, depending upon how long they have been here, they may well have voted over 60 times to repeal the Affordable Care Act. All of it. Preexisting conditions and everything else.

Through executive actions and lawsuits, they have sabotaged the law and fueled uncertainty in health insurance markets in the process. They have a suit right now which wants to, effectively, repeal the entire Affordable Care Act that the Attorney General of the United States and the President of the United States are supporting.

Spare me these crocodile tears about how this bill doesn't protect preexisting conditions. It does. But they don't care whether it does or not.

They, the people, want to know that protections for those with preexisting conditions won't disappear. That tens of millions of Americans won't be made, effectively, uninsurable and lose their coverage.

There are very few of us in this Chamber or in the gallery who don't have some sort of preexisting condition. We, Democrats, are committed to making sure that that will not preclude people from getting health insurance.

In the first days of the Congress, we took action to do what the Trump administration's Justice Department has refused to do: defend the law in court. We are taking that action.

Instead, the Trump administration is seeking to overturn the entire law, including the ban on denying coverage for those with preexisting conditions.

Now, the Republicans did pass a bill, when they were in charge. They sent it over to the Senate. They had a big—and I know other people have talked about that—a big celebration at the White House, and the President embraced the bill. Some 10 days later, he said: No, it is a mean bill. The President of the United States embraced it, and, 10 days later, it is a mean bill.

Overturning the law means the end of popular provisions, like a ban on forcing women to pay more for the same coverage as men or allowing those under age 26 to be covered under their parents' policy.

The administration's lawsuit would also bring back out-of-pocket costs for preventive care and screenings. We want to encourage preventive care. Why? It saves money and saves lives. Most egregiously, it would kick 20 million Americans off health insurance coverage who were able to get covered because of the Affordable Care Act.

Last month, the House passed a resolution written by COLIN ALLRED, our new Member from Texas, condemning that lawsuit which would repeal the Affordable Care Act, and reiterating the importance of protecting Americans' access to quality, affordable care.

Yesterday, the House took another step by passing bipartisan bills, which Mr. PALLONE brought to the floor, to help speed up the process of bringing the cost of generic drugs down and not prescription costs up.

Today, we have a bill to overturn the Trump administration's guidance that sabotages the Affordable Care Act by allowing substandard plans. Are they cheaper? They are. But, in the end, they are much more expensive because the coverage is minimal.

The effect of such a rule is to drive up prices for those with preexisting conditions. That wasn't the intent of the Affordable Care Act, which aimed to make coverage affordable for all Americans.

Next week, we will continue focusing on healthcare by considering additional legislation to help Americans access quality, affordable coverage.

I urge my colleagues on both sides. Some of them have said they want to protect preexisting conditions. Some of them have said that. If they believed it, then they need to vote for this bill. They need to do something to protect those with preexisting conditions. Today's vote is their opportunity to do so.

I thank Representative KUSTER, who is on the floor with us today, for introducing this legislation, and, again, Chairman PALLONE for bringing it to the floor.

House Democrats will continue, as we pledged to do in this last campaign and as the people who voted for us are expecting us to do, to protect the Affordable Care Act, protect their ability to get insurance, notwithstanding a preexisting condition, protect their families, protect them, and make America better.

Mr. WALDEN. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume. I want to make a couple of comments to my friend from Maryland, and he is my friend. He is always quite poignant and eloquent in his remarks.

What we are debating here today is a bill that is misnamed that doesn't do what it says it is going to do. What we do know is that 1332 waivers work. My State took advantage of that 1332 waiver and reduced insurance premiums by 6 percent. The great State of Maryland—I was just looking at some data, Mr. Chairman—has about 181,500 in the enrollment year. They used a 1332 waiver. This year in the individual market their costs for premiums in the individual market percent decreased 43.4 percent.

Mr. HOYER. Will the gentleman yield? I would like to tell the gentleman why that happened in Maryland.

Mr. WALDEN. Mr. Chair, I bet he would. But we know, overall, 19.9 percent across the country, because we are able to take some of this money, put it together, and have a reinsurance program. Maine has done it, Maryland has done it, and Oregon has done it. These are things that work.

The complaint I get, Mr. Chairman, is people at home say, I may have access to coverage now, but I can't afford the premium, or, if I can afford the premium, I can't afford to get sick because the out-of-pocket costs are so high. They are now falling off. Later in the debate, I will share some data that has been published this week showing people who literally walk away from healthcare because they can't afford it. That should be our common mission and goal.

When it comes to protecting people with preexisting conditions, I introduced legislation—and tried to get a vote on it every chance I have had—that would lock into law preexisting condition protections, regardless of what this Federal lawsuit's outcome is in Texas. We should do that. That would be an easy vote. We could all vote for it. But Democrats won't let us bring it to the floor.

Mr. Chairman, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Oklahoma (Mr. KEVIN HERN).

Mr. KEVIN HERN of Oklahoma. Mr. Chairman, let's be honest, we are not here to solve a problem today. We are not here to change anything today. This bill will do nothing to help people with preexisting conditions.

Something not many people know about me is my family's history with spina bifida.

I had an older sister, about 13 months older than me, who died 2 hours after birth because of spina bifida.

My older sister, who will turn 50 later this month, has lived her entire life as a spina bifida survivor, spending the first 6 months of her life enduring many surgeries. My mother knew that my sister was going to be born with that very birth defect that took the life of her first child. My sister had her first daughter, Kristen, who was born with a devastating spina bifida condition. During the pregnancies, my

mother knew about my sister's birth defect and my sister knew of Kristen's condition. In spite of that knowledge, their lives were not aborted.

Kristen has a son who just turned 10. In spite of being in a wheelchair for her entire life of 30 years, Kristen has been an awesome mom to Daniel. Daniel will have an incredible story to tell about his life because his great-grandmother and his grandmother did not seek abortions to terminate the lives of their ''less than perfect'' children. He is alive today, and I am confident he will have an incredible impact on those around him.

These aren't nameless, faceless people we are talking about. This is my sister, my niece, and my family.

These preexisting conditions have had a massive impact on my life and the lives of my family. These messaging bills are pointless. People need help, not our talking points. Our goal should be success. We should aim to write legislation that has a shot to become law and will change people's lives for the better.

The aim of H.R. 986 is not to protect Americans with preexisting conditions, but to interfere with the President's ability to govern. These are real people and real problems that we are ignoring.

I believe that life is precious. Every life is worth protecting. We have a lot of work to do and it is time to stop talking and act. That is what we were elected to do here.

Mr. Chairman, the American people are tired of these political games.

□ 1445

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Chairman, I yield 1½ minutes to the gentlewoman from California (Ms. MATSUI).

Ms. MATSUI. Mr. Chairman, I rise today as a proud cosponsor of H.R. 986, the Protecting Americans with Preexisting Conditions Act, which prohibits the Trump administration from promoting the sale of junk insurance plans that do not fully protect Americans with preexisting conditions. Today, we are taking a critical step to reverse a damaging Trump administration policy.

With the Affordable Care Act, we sought to ensure that all people covered in the same area are charged the same premium as everyone else, regardless of their health status. Women cannot be denied coverage or charged more simply because they are women, and more Americans now have the freedom to start their own business or pursue work in the gig economy without fear of losing coverage for preexisting conditions. Coverage before the ACA was often tied to employer plans.

In California, we have taken a stance against the Trump administration's sabotage of the ACA by protecting consumers from the sale of junk plans, but not every State has followed our lead.

This legislation protects basic fairness and access to healthcare for all Americans, not just those living in States that have sought aggressive reforms, changes, and improvements to the law. We now have a real opportunity to protect and build on the ACA's success, and I am immensely pleased to be able to support such efforts on the floor today.

Mr. WALDEN. Mr. Chairman, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Kansas (Mr. MARSHALL).

Mr. MARSHALL. Mr. Chairman, the lengths that my colleagues across the aisle are willing to go to mislead the public and increase the political divide over healthcare is shameful and embarrassing. H.R. 986, which I refuse to call by its name, makes a mockery of Americans with preexisting conditions.

Mr. Chairman, I practiced obstetrics for over 25 years, and do you know what the most common preexisting condition is? It is pregnancy.

I came to Congress to protect people with preexisting conditions and to help patients. H.R. 986 just does the opposite. H.R. 986 prevents innovation. It drives the cost of healthcare up and will cause fewer people to have healthcare.

Let me be crystal clear about this, Mr. Chairman. This bill has absolutely nothing to do with people with preexisting conditions. That is why I am proud to join Congressman WALDEN and shed light on this deceptive bill that the Democrats are pushing.

Under current law, States do not have the authority to waive preexisting conditions using the section 1332 innovation waiver. It is that simple.

Section 1332 waivers are working, and contrary to the Democrats' claims, patients are raving about the 1332 waivers for reinsurance.

These waivers give States flexibility to provide Americans with affordable healthcare options. And in the seven States using these waivers, premiums have gone down by an average of 20 percent. They went down 20 percent, with Maryland achieving a 43 percent premium reduction.

So I stand here today to discuss the facts and not the fiction.

The 2018 guide from the President is making the process easier, helping States pursue innovation strategies that will help more people get coverage while delivering quality coverage people can actually afford and use.

Most of us, including the President, are working towards a better healthcare future for all Americans, where patients and families, not bureaucrats in Washington, are in control of their own healthcare decisions. I ask that my colleagues across the aisle stop the partisan politics and come together to develop real healthcare policy solutions.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Chairman, I yield 1½ minutes to the gentleman from Vermont (Mr. WELCH), a member of the committee.

Mr. WELCH. Mr. Chairman, I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Mr. Chairman, if we want to level with the American people, let's acknowledge something: We have a difference of opinion on healthcare.

When we passed the Affordable Care Act, it provided, for the first time, protections for people who have a preexisting condition.

Every single one of my colleagues on the Republican side voted against that and then spent the next several years—69 times—voting to get rid of the protection for preexisting conditions.

Then when they were in the majority, the first opportunity they had, they passed a bill out of the House to take away the protection for preexisting conditions.

And thank you to Senator John McCain for protecting the American people.

Every single opportunity to stand up and protect people who are sick, who lost their job but were sick and wanted to get insurance, you voted ''no''; we voted ''yes.''

You are talking now about waivers. I like waivers—we have benefited in Vermont—but not this waiver. If you pass this waiver, you are going to wave good-bye to the protection that we fought long and hard for for preexisting conditions.

We fought for your families. We fought for our families. We fought for all American families.

What kind of world is it if you are sick and you can't get healthcare? That is what is at stake now. That should never be in debate.

We will not back down on protecting people from preexisting conditions. We will not back down on assaults on Medicare. We will not back down on assaults on Medicaid.

Mr. Chairman, let us pass this bill and continue to protect Americans' healthcare.

The CHAIR. Members are reminded to address their remarks to the Chair.

Mr. WALDEN. Mr. Chairman, I would just say to my friend, the biggest assault on Medicare is the Democrats' proposal to do Medicare for All.

We know it will cost $32 trillion, double personal and corporate income taxes. I met with our hospitals yesterday: 40 percent reduction in their payments. They are not sure how they would survive. They told me most hospitals in America will go bankrupt under the Democrats' proposal.

Mr. Chairman, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from New York (Mr. REED), a member of the powerful Ways and Means Committee.

Mr. REED. Mr. Chairman, I rise today in opposition to the bill before us but, as the father of a type 1 diabetic, agree with the basis of the law of the Affordable Care Act that says preexisting conditions must be protected in every health insurance plan going forward. We should be celebrating together that that reform is now the law of the land, and I would hope my colleagues would take ''yes'' for an answer.

But what is being proposed today potentially jeopardizes that protection,

because what you are proposing today is to take away the ability of the States to comply with the law of the land to protect those preexisting conditions in a way that allows the States to innovate, to drive health insurance premiums down as the law protects those with preexisting conditions.

This is not a political game. You are talking about real Americans. You are talking about kids, like my son, who is a type 1 diabetic. And if this law, as proposed, becomes the law of the land, you potentially increase insurance premiums on millions of Americans because you take away that innovation ability of the States to deliver the protections of preexisting condition reform but lower premiums at the same time.

So I stand in strong objection to this political effort from my colleagues on the other side of the aisle, and rather than engage in politics, I join with the silent majority of Americans who say: You know what? Enough is enough of politics. Get to the real work of the people and lower healthcare costs for everyone.

Mr. WALDEN. Mr. Chairman, may I inquire as to how much time each side has remaining.

The CHAIR. The gentleman from Oregon has 9 minutes remaining. The gentleman from New Jersey has 16½ minutes remaining.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Chairman, I yield 1½ minutes to the gentlewoman from New York (Ms. CLARKE), the vice chair of the Energy and Commerce Committee.

Ms. CLARKE of New York. Mr. Chairman, I thank our chairman for yielding the time. I thank Congresswoman KUSTER for her leadership.

As vice chair of the Committee on Energy and Commerce and cosponsor of H.R. 986, I am proud to stand with my colleagues in support of the Protecting Americans with Preexisting Conditions Act of 2019.

Healthcare is a right. In the 21st century, everyone must have the right to the best quality and affordable healthcare insurance when they need it most.

This human right must not be only limited to healthy individuals, but, rather, the human right to healthcare must be available to every American who has ever been ill at any time or is born with a preexisting condition. No American should be penalized for a medical condition that started before the individual's healthcare coverage benefits went into effect.

Passage of the Protecting Americans with Preexisting Conditions Act would rescind the 1332 guidance issued by the Trump administration, which weakens coverage and undermines the Affordable Care Act's protections for people with preexisting conditions.

Our friends on the other side of the aisle made more than 70 failed attempts to replace and repeal the Affordable Care Act between 2011 and 2017.

Mr. Chair, we must do the right thing and enact legislation that strengthens the standards of quality healthcare, affordability, comprehensiveness, and coverage. Mr. Chairman, I urge my colleagues to vote ''yes'' on H.R. 986.

Mr. WALDEN. Mr. Chairman, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Chairman, I yield 1½ minutes to the gentlewoman from Michigan (Mrs. DINGELL).

Mrs. DINGELL. Mr. Chairman, I rise today to speak in support of protecting people with preexisting conditions.

Not that long ago, hardworking people who did everything right would be denied insurance coverage just because they had diabetes or asthma or they wanted to start a family.

We passed the ACA and ended discrimination against people with preexisting conditions. Millions of Americans were able to sign up for coverage for the first time in their lives, and millions who already had coverage knew it wouldn't be taken away from them.

Remember the stories of people's insurance being canceled as they were being rolled into operating rooms; that was the truth.

The ACA has done a lot of good. Could we work to improve it? Yes. And I will work with any Republican or Democrat on those efforts. But when this Congress and this administration attempt to roll back protections for people with preexisting conditions, I will always stand against those policies.

Mr. Chair, 2 years ago last week, House Republicans passed a bill to rescind the whole ACA and take healthcare away from 20 million Americans. Because Americans spoke up, that bill failed.

I am proud to cosponsor Representative KUSTER's bill. Healthcare should be affordable to every American.

Mr. WALDEN. Mr. Chairman, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Chairman, I yield 1½ minutes to the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. BEYER).

Mr. BEYER. Mr. Chairman, I rise today to speak in support of H.R. 986, the Protecting Americans with Preexisting Conditions Act.

Frankly, Mr. Chairman, I am confused. I serve on the Ways and Means Committee, and a few weeks ago, we had a long, lively hearing on the need to preserve the preexisting conditions created by the ACA. I was impressed that every member of the Ways and Means Committee, Democrat and Republican, spoke passionately about this protection—every one.

We emerged from that hearing with a clear, bipartisan consensus that we would never again condemn Americans who suffer from diabetes or cancer or heart disease or epilepsy to unaffordable insurance and perhaps an early death.

But today my Republican friends are ready to vote against the only bill this year to keep the Trump administration from gutting the preexisting exclusion. They argue that, no, this is not what CMS is trying to do, yet this is exactly what would happen with short-term insurance plans if the various States are given the opportunity to do so. That is why virtually every organization that protects human health supports this bill and is against the CMS action.

□ 1500

States want waivers. States want to innovate. This bill won't keep them from innovating or keep them from getting waivers. Remember what States did before the Affordable Care Act when there was no prohibition against higher costs for preexisting conditions or no insurance.

If what they say is, indeed, true, there is no harm voting ''yes'' for this bill. States will still be able to innovate, as long as they don't violate the preexisting conditions exclusion.

Mr. WALDEN. Mr. Chair, I continue to reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Chair, I yield 1½ minutes to the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON LEE).

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Chair, I thank the chairman very much for yielding.

Just a second on memory lane, for those of us who were here for the Affordable Care Act, dozens of our committees, including the Judiciary Committee, heard the pain of people whose family members had died because they had no access to healthcare and/or they had junk policies.

Mr. Chair, I rise today with the strongest of support for H.R. 986. I thank my good friend, ANN KUSTER, for her great leadership and indicate that since the Affordable Care Act—and I know that we are now looking at Medicare for All and many others. My view of it is yes, so that we all can have access to healthcare.

It is, in fact, sure that this bill that we now have, which is being attacked by the Trump administration in the Fifth Circuit right now because of my attorney general attacking the Affordable Care Act, Texas saw a national decrease of the uninsured from 14.8 to 8.8.

Now this legislation, which is to turn back the Trump guidance on the issue of waivers, is vital because we have lower costs for health insurance because of the ability for people to access and be taken care of with the Affordable Care Act when they have preexisting conditions.

Sickle cell, triple negative breast cancer, and diabetes all plague my constituency. Insulin costs are going through the roof. With this guidance that Trump has put in place, it will be worse. It will be compounded.

Rates will go up, and people suffering from preexisting conditions, including pregnancy, will not get policies at a low cost. They will not have comprehensive coverage that will include mental health. Certainly, they will see a reverse of them being able to have coverage for preexisting conditions.

That is the civil rights of healthcare. Preexisting conditions must be protected.

I rise to enthusiastically support H.R. 986, and I demand that the Trump administration stop taking away constitutional rights in everything and denying people their right to good healthcare. Enough is enough. Let us support this legislation.

Mr. Chair, I rise in strong support of H.R. 986, the ''Protecting Americans With Pre-Existing Conditions Act of 2019,'' which blocks the Trump Administration's efforts to give states the ability to weaken the Affordable Care Act's critical protections for Americans with pre-existing conditions.

On October 22, 2018, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS), HHS, and Treasury issued a guidance on Section 1332 of the ACA, which authorizes states to waive certain requirements of the law and experiment with health insurance reforms that could improve the well-being and health of their residents.

The ACA has a clear statutory directive that states must maintain the level of benefits, affordability, and coverage provided to state residents by the ACA.

Section 1332 requires states to meet four statutory ''guardrails'' simultaneously and demonstrate that the proposed waiver will provide comprehensive, affordable coverage to a comparable number of residents as under the ACA, without increasing the federal deficit.

But in the 2018 guidance, HHS and Treasury revised the agencies' interpretation of the statutory requirements, and significantly loosened the standards that states must meet in order to receive waiver approval, setting forth weaker requirements that must be met for the affordability and comprehensiveness guardrails and adopted a new definition of what classifies as coverage.

The 2018 guidance provided by the Trump Administration would allow states to simply demonstrate that a comparable number of residents will have access to comprehensive and affordable coverage, regardless of whether they actually enroll in that coverage, thereby allowing the Secretaries of HHS and Treasury to approve waivers that do not provide coverage that is as affordable or as comprehensive as under the ACA.

The 2018 guidance also allows states to receive waiver approval for proposals that direct the ACA's tax credit subsidies towards STLDI plans and other types of health insurance plans that do not provide protections for preexisting conditions.

H.R. 986 revokes and rescinds the October 2018 Section 1332 guidance and prohibits the Secretaries of HHS and Treasury from promulgating any substantially similar guidance or rule.

These improper waivers leave consumers with less comprehensive plans that do not cover needed services, such as prescription drugs, maternity care and substance use disorder treatment.

Another way the ''Protecting Pre-Existing Conditions and Making Health Care More Affordable Act of 2019,'' protects consumers is by prohibiting insurance companies from selling junk health insurance plans that do not provide coverage for essential medical treatments and drugs or cover people with pre-existing medical conditions.

As a member of Congress who voted against each of the dozens of Republican efforts to repeal the Affordable Care Act, I know first-hand how important and critical access to affordable, high quality, accessible health care available to everyone, including those with pre-existing conditions, to the well-being of American families.

Because of the passage of the Affordable Care Act, the national uninsured rate has been slashed from 14.8 in 2012 to 8.8 percent in 2018. Texas has long led the nation in rate of uninsured so the comparable rates are 24.6 and 15 percent, respectively.

Mr. Chair, I distinctly recall a candidate for the highest public office in the land saying ''Obamacare is a disaster'' and appealing for voters to support him with this question: ''What have you got to lose?''

The question deserves a response so I hope that person, who occupies the Oval Office, is listening to my answer.

The Affordable Care Act, or ''Obamacare,'' has been an unmitigated success to the more than 20 million Americans who for the first time now have the security and peace of mind that comes with affordable, accessible, high quality health care.

Mr. Chair, Tip O'Neill used to say that ''all politics is local'' so let me share with you how Obamacare has dramatically changed lives for the better for the people in my home state of Texas.

1.874 million Texans who have gained coverage since the ACA was implemented could lose their coverage if the ACA is entirely or partially repealed or invalidated.

1.1 million Texans who purchased high quality Marketplace coverage now stand to lose their coverage if Texas v. United States, No. 4:18–cv–00167–0 (N.D. Tex.), the lawsuit brought by Republican Governors, and now whole-heartedly supported and aided by the Trump Administration were to succeed.

508,000 kids in Texas who have gained coverage since the ACA was implemented are also at risk of having their coverage rolled back.

205,000 young adult Texans who were able to stay on a parent's health insurance plan thanks to the ACA now stand to lose coverage if the Republican Congress eliminates the requirement that insurers allow children to stay on their parents' plans until age 26.

646,415 Texans who received cost-sharing reductions to lower out-of-pocket costs such as deductibles, co-pays, and coinsurance are now at risk of having healthcare become unaffordable if the Republican Congress eliminates costsharing reductions.

10.28 million Texans who now have private health insurance that covers preventive services without any co-pays, coinsurance, or deductibles stand to lose this access if the Republican Congress eliminates ACA provisions requiring health insurers to cover important preventive services without cost-sharing.

913,177 individuals Texans who received financial assistance to purchase Marketplace coverage in 2016, averaging $271 per individual, are at risk of having coverage become unaffordable if the Republican Congress eliminates the premium tax credits.

1.1 million Texans could have insurance if all states adopted the ACA's Medicaid expansion; these individuals will not be able to gain coverage if the Republican Congress eliminates the Medicaid expansion.

Women in Texas who can now purchase insurance for the same price as men are at risk of being charged more for insurance if the ACA's ban on gender rating in the individual and small group markets is invalidated.

Before the ACA, women paid up to 56 percent more than men for their health insurance.

Roughly 4.5 million Texans who have preexisting health conditions are at risk of having their coverage rescinded, being denied coverage, or being charged significantly more for coverage if the ACA's ban on pre-existing conditions is struck down.

346,750 Texas seniors who have saved an average of $1,057 each as a result of closing the Medicare prescription drug ''donut hole'' gap in coverage stand to lose this critical help going forward.

1.75 million Texas seniors who have received free preventive care services thanks to ACA provisions requiring coverage of annual wellness visits and eliminating cost-sharing for many recommended preventive services covered by Medicare Part B, such as cancer screenings, are at risk of losing access to these services if congressional Republicans go forward with their plan to repeal the ACA.

The Affordable Care Act works and has made a life-affirming difference in the lives of millions of Americans, in Texas and across the country.

This is what happens when a visionary president cares enough to work with a committed and empathetic Congress to address the real issues facing the American people.

You want to know why the American people have Obamacare?

It is because Obama cared.

The same cannot be said about this Republican president and congressional Republicans who have made careers of attacking and undermining the Affordable Care Act's protections and benefits for the American people.

I urge all Members to vote for H.R. 986 and send a powerful message to the President and the American people that this House will not stand idly by as this Administration tries to take away health care from more than 130 million persons.

Instead, this House will resist by all constitutional and appropriate means, including opposing this Administration in the courts and by passing H.R. 986, the ''Protecting Pre-Existing Conditions and Making Health Care More Affordable Act of 2019.''

Mr. WALDEN. Mr. Chair, I continue to reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Chair, I yield 1½ minutes to the gentleman from Connecticut (Mr. COURTNEY).

Mr. COURTNEY. Mr. Chair, I thank the chairman for yielding.

Mr. Chair, after 2 years of the Trump administration trying and failing in Congress to repeal the Affordable Care Act, they have gone to plan B. Plan B is to use the administrative agencies, the Department of Health and Human Services, and the court system as a way of trying to accomplish what they could not accomplish through the House and the Senate in the 115th Congress.

Today, we are dealing with one of those efforts, which was an order that was issued in October of last year, issuing new guidelines for State waivers from the Affordable Care Act, repealing the ObamaCare guardrails that

made sure that patient protections would not be affected by such waivers—for example, protecting people with preexisting conditions; the elimination of lifetime caps on health insurance; and the protections that were built in for essential health benefits that defined real healthcare, not the cheap healthcare that was being sold before the ACA was enacted.

An intervening event occurred since last October. We had an election. It was the largest midterm turnout since 1914. We had a new majority that was elected with a plurality of 10 million votes, larger than any flip election in the past, any wave election in the past. The number one issue from the voters was healthcare and protecting their patient rights to affordable and comprehensive benefits.

Mr. Chair, we are here today debating an issue that the patient groups that represent people with chronic illnesses, with expensive illnesses like cancer, have stepped up across the board, saying vote for this legislation to overturn the Trump order that they are trying to get through but that they cannot get through the U.S. Congress. Vote for this bill.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Chair, may I inquire how much time remains?

The CHAIR. The gentleman from New Jersey has 9 minutes remaining. The gentleman from Oregon has 9 minutes remaining.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Chair, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Chair, I wanted to mention this issue of reinsurance. Some of the Republicans have brought up the fact that in the last few years under the Obama administration, actually before President Trump, certain States—I believe there are eight now, including my own—applied for 1332 waivers because they wanted to put in place reinsurance programs.

I want to assure everyone that those types of waivers that are granted for reinsurance would continue and that this legislation in no way impacts that. Keep in mind, we are not opposed to 1332 waivers.

But pursuant to the Affordable Care Act, which I helped draft, those waivers, when granted, have to maintain affordability and comprehensiveness of coverage and keep the same number of people insured as under the ACA.

When my State and others have applied for waivers for reinsurance programs, it is because the ACA reinsurance funding was discontinued at some point under the original bill. Those States want to, among other things, make sure that there is competitiveness in the marketplace by providing some kind of reinsurance or risk protection so that more insurers come into the marketplace in those States and create more competition and lower prices.

When you ask the Federal Government for a reinsurance waiver, you are still maintaining affordability, probably making things even more affordable because of competition. You are still maintaining the comprehensiveness of the coverage because you have to provide policies that have all the essential benefits. You are keeping the same number of people insured. In fact, what you are probably doing is having more people insured.

The difference between that and the section 1332 guidance that the Trump administration is now putting forth is that none of those things are guaranteed under the waivers that the Trump administration is proposing with their guidance.

For one thing, they are saying you can sell a junk plan that doesn't have hospitalization, that doesn't have essential benefits, so you violate the section 1332 provision.

You also end up having fewer people insured because the Trump administration says you don't have to have the same number of people covered. All you have to do is have access.

Lastly, affordability, sure, they will argue that somehow it is more affordable because a junk plan doesn't cost as much, but that is sort of a misnomer because the comprehensiveness of the coverage disappears.

I want everyone to understand, a State that applies to have reinsurance as part of their program and gets a waiver, that is in no way impacted by what we are proposing here today with Ms. KUSTER's bill. In fact, reinsurance reinforces the very things that the 1332 waivers are seeking to guarantee.

So that is a very false bit of information that my colleagues on the other side are trying to put out here today. I wanted to explain that.

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

Mr. WALDEN. Mr. Chair, I continue to reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Chair, I yield 1½ minutes to the gentlewoman from Michigan (Ms. SLOTKIN).

Ms. SLOTKIN. Mr. Chair, I rise today in support of the Protecting Americans with Preexisting Conditions Act.

For me, this issue is particularly personal. It is a major reason why I ended up coming here to Congress.

I believe that the sabotage, the attempts at legislating out protections for people with preexisting conditions, is something that is just out of touch with the American people, certainly in Michigan's Eighth Congressional District.

It is particularly personal to me because of my mom. My mom passed away in 2011 from ovarian cancer. When she was diagnosed, she did not have healthcare.

She had trouble with healthcare her entire life. She had breast cancer as a young 31-year-old mom, so for the rest of her life, she had a preexisting condition.

My parents divorced, and she lost her job. Because of that preexisting condition, she could not afford health insurance. She went 5½ years without a checkup and no gynecological exam.

We finally got her health insurance, my brother and I. It was $1,000 a month, with a $10,000 deductible, her highest bill in Detroit.

In 2009, without us knowing, she let it lapse. Two months later, she walked into an ER and was diagnosed with stage IV ovarian cancer.

I am sure my colleagues around the room know what it is like to have a loved one get a terminal diagnosis. Your life as you know it explodes.

That same week and that same month that our lives were exploding was the same week and the same month we spent filling out the paperwork for her to declare bankruptcy.

I think no matter whether you are a Republican, a Democrat, or an independent, it is essential that we support people with preexisting conditions, and I urge my colleagues to do so.

Mr. WALDEN. Mr. Chair, I continue to reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Chair, I yield myself such time as I may consume. I am still waiting for one of our other speakers.

Mr. Chair, I want to respond to my colleague, the ranking member, whom I respect a great deal. He has several times today, as well as in committee and as a representative at the Rules Committee, talked about this amendment that he has on preexisting conditions.

First of all, the reality is that the ACA guarantees people coverage with preexisting conditions. The problem here is not that we need to restate that, but that the section 1332 guidance that the Trump administration has proposed would undermine it.

On its surface, Mr. WALDEN's amendment appears to maintain protections for preexisting conditions, but, again, that is not the issue because he is not getting rid of the guidance that the Trump administration has put forward under 1332.

What does that mean? It means that even with his amendment, the Trump administration, under their guidance, would allow insuring companies to not offer basic services such as hospitalization, maternity coverage, mental health, and substance abuse disorders. Insurance companies would no longer have to offer these benefits to people with preexisting conditions who need those benefits.

Mr. WALDEN's amendment also does not include prohibitions on annual and lifetime limits, which are critical protections for individuals with preexisting conditions. These limits, which were commonplace prior to the ACA, are a threat to the life and health of individuals with serious medical conditions.

The Walden amendment would also allow insurance companies to charge women more than men and put a significant financial burden on older Americans.

We are not interested in these half measures that would leave Americans worse off.

Mr. Chair, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from California (Mr. HARDER).

Mr. HARDER of California. Mr. Chair, I rise today in support of my amendment. My legislation would simply require the Federal Government to issue an expert analysis of the impact of junk plans on mental healthcare access. People deserve access to mental healthcare, and we don't know how many people will lose that access if these junk plans become used more widely.

That is exactly what my amendment would tell us.

People who are struggling with depression, anxiety, schizophrenia, or substance use disorder deserve coverage. We are talking about real people in our communities who need help, and they should get it.

That is especially true because of the stigma surrounding mental health issues. If you tell your friends that you have cancer, they tell you to get help. If you tell your friends you have depression, they tell you to tough it out or go to the gym.

Without access to mental healthcare, a lot of people end up self-medicating. That is why we have to make sure that they are covered with real insurance, not junk plans.

□ 1515

These plans are a scam.

I heard a horror story from a woman in Stanislaus County about her family's experience with a junk plan before the Affordable Care Act. Her daughter went off to school and got cheap, university-sponsored insurance.

After a couple of years, she had a mental health issue present, but she was completely denied coverage for the treatment that she needed. Even though she paid premiums for years, she wasn't covered, and her family had to pay thousands of dollars out of pocket. Years later, they are still paying it off today, more than 10 years after her mental health episode.

That is a common story because only about half of these plans cover mental healthcare, and only about one-third cover substance use disorder, and that is a huge problem in the Central Valley, especially for young people.

It is in people's twenties that they start showing signs of a lot of mental health problems, and this often coincides with the development of substance use disorders. People who turn 26 have to get off their parents' insurance. They pick the cheapest thing they can find.

If we don't pass this amendment, millions of people who have similar stories will be denied coverage for mental health issues when they need it most.

That is a scam. That is what my amendment demands.

Mr. WALDEN. Mr. Chairman, how much time remains on each side?

The CHAIR. The gentleman from Oregon has 9 minutes remaining. The gentleman from New Jersey has 1 minute remaining.

Mr. WALDEN. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself the balance of my time.

Mr. Chairman, let me address a few issues. First of all, my friend my New Jersey—and he is my friend—referenced my amendment.

It is unfortunate that we can't debate my amendment on the floor, because the Democrats who control the Rules Committee wouldn't allow my amendment to be considered, nor would they allow us to bring a bill to the floor that I have authored that has more than 100 cosponsors that would make sure that preexisting conditions are protected in case the court decision in Texas goes against the ACA and wipes out those protections.

This would be an insurance policy in public law for people with a preexisting condition. We can do that today. If it has some shortcomings, then let's have a markup on this bill and work that out.

I care deeply about preexisting condition protection. I fought for it as a legislator. I helped create the high-risk pools in Oregon back in the late eighties and early nineties. I have supported it every step of the way.

Let me again quote from the Department of Health and Human Services. We asked them, and they wrote back to me, about protection for preexisting conditions. Seema Verma, the Administrator, said in her letter to me: ''To be very clear, the 2018 guidance does nothing to erode PPACA's preexisting condition provisions, which cannot be waived under section 1332.''

So they cannot do that. They cannot waive those protections under 1332.

''Section 1332 does not permit States to waive Public Health Service Act requirements, such as guaranteed availability and renewability of health insurance, the prohibition on using health status to vary premiums, and the prohibition on preexisting conditions exclusions. Furthermore, a section 1332 waiver cannot be approved that might otherwise undermine these requirements. This administration stands committed to protecting people with preexisting conditions.''

That is the head of CMS. It is her agency that approves 1332 waivers.

There have been no waivers so far approved under this guidance, and that is what she tells us in writing, period, because of the information that is being sent around.

We do know that seven States have taken advantage of the prior 1332 process, and it has yielded more affordable insurance premiums for American citizens.

Now, I find it curious. My State has been very progressive in these areas. When I was in the State legislature, I helped try to expand access to affordable healthcare. We had to come to Washington to get a waiver for the Oregon health plan and Medicaid, and we looked at all kinds of different ways to get access to affordable healthcare, and I have never let up on that.

I believe strongly in helping people with preexisting conditions. Like my colleagues on the other side of the aisle, my wife and I had a son who did not survive because of a heart condition. We dealt with all of these issues leading up to his birth and eventual death. So I am fully committed to protecting people with preexisting conditions.

What we are arguing about here is: Is health insurance affordable for Americans and are there better ways, using States as laboratories, to innovate and bring down costs of care and costs of insurance, because more of us are paying more out of our pocket than at any time in our history.

There was a very interesting story which I will put in the RECORD for everyone to read, data from the Kaiser Foundation this week that ran in a publication called Axios. I just want to share some of what they found about what is really going on if you get outside of the beltway here in Washington and talk to real people.

They evaluated people who had coverage under their employer, in this case, and had a chronic condition of some sort. It is not a small group.

About half of Americans who have employer coverage—so that is half of 158 million—report that 6 in 10 in that group report they or a family member skipped or postponed medical care or prescription drugs they needed because of the costs, or, in some cases, they tried a home remedy.

High deductibles make things worse. Among those with chronic conditions whose deductibles were at least $3,000 for an individual or $5,000 for a family, three-quarters, Mr. Chairman, 75 percent, report skipping or postponing some type of care; and about half, 49 percent, say they or a family member had problems paying medical bills or difficulty affording their premiums, deductibles, or copays in the last year.

So what States—including mine, including New Jersey, including Maryland, and including Maine and Alaska—did was say: Hey, Washington, D.C., give us just a little flexibility here. Let us come with up with plans that may be more affordable.

They did that under the prior rules, and rates went down, on average, 19.9 percent—some States more, some less.

Now, what happens when people can't afford to use their own insurance? Because that is happening with these deductibles and with these high levels, let alone the premiums.

The ripple effect on family budgets, according to the story in Axios, is a substantial share of people reported taking measures such as increasing credit card debt, 28 percent; using up most of their savings, 26 percent; getting an extra job, 19 percent; borrowing money from family or friends, 14 percent.

This is what we are trying to argue could be better taken care of. This is the issue that is being ignored by a Washington one size fits all.

So we protect people with preexisting conditions, 1332 waivers—that law

stays in effect—but we want to give States a little more flexibility to go after this to bring down the cost.

Now, my friend from New Jersey and I, Mr. Chairman, are working together on some of these drug reforms so we can get drug costs down.

I was at the White House today with the President on surprise billing, and I think we are going to work together on that issue, Mr. Chairman, so that no American consumer who follows the rules gets stuck with a surprise bill. What are you supposed to do, wake up in the middle of the operation and say: Hey, is everybody in this room still on my plan? If you play by the rules, you shouldn't get stuck unfairly with a surprise bill. We are going to find a solution.

My State came up with a way to do that already and other States have other ideas, but we are going to protect consumers there as well. We are going to drive down the cost of drugs, and we should continue to go after this issue of the high cost of healthcare because that is what Americans in my 20 townhalls—and I don't think anybody in the House has done more.

I have done 20 townhalls this year. In almost every one of them, they are asking: How do you get the costs down?

Mr. Chairman, 1332 waivers gave my State the opportunity to get costs down, and we should not impede that process.

We are going to debate a lot about these policies going forward, and if there are junk plans, then let's expose them for what they are, and let's pass Ms. ESHOO's bill from, I think, last Congress, which required more transparency and accountability so you don't have fraud and deception. Count me all in on that.

There is a lot more we can do to drive down costs.

My legislation—again, Democrats refused to bring up in committee or have on the floor—would make sure, regardless of any lawsuit, people with preexisting conditions can continue to get covered. So irrespective of the court decisions, they would get covered.

If my bill were allowed to be voted on in the House, I guarantee you, we might have some issues we need to work out. I am happy to do that. If it passed, it would become law. This President is firmly committed to protecting people with preexisting conditions, so we should do that.

We should also have a hearing on the Medicare for All bill that some on the other side are promoting. I have asked for that.

I know there was one in the Rules Committee, but Energy and Commerce is the committee of jurisdiction for most of that. We have not seen that hearing yet. I hope, in the future, we will, because we should know the impact of wiping out Medicare Advantage plans and Medigap plans.

I have been told TRICARE would go away, all private insurance would go away, and it would be a one-size-fits-all, government-run system. I am worried about the delay in access to care. I am worried about the access to the great, new innovative drugs and procedures that we would lose in America.

So, Mr. Chairman, I must oppose this underlying legislation. I remain committed to protecting people with preexisting conditions, as do my colleagues on the Republican side. Then we ought to focus together, Mr. Chairman, as a Congress to do the best thing for our constituents, which is to bring the greatest leverage possible to reduce unnecessary costs in the healthcare system in America.

Mr. Chairman, I ask my colleagues to oppose this bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself the balance of my time.

Mr. Chairman, the problem is that nothing that my colleague on the Republican side says about his amendment and nothing that is in Seema Verma's letter will help a person with preexisting conditions.

The bottom line is this 1332 guidance that the Trump administration has put forward allows junk plans to be sold so that people with preexisting conditions will not get the coverage they need. They can be charged more. They are not guaranteed that things like recisions and lifetime limits don't go back into place.

So the problem that we face is we can't allow people with preexisting conditions to suffer and not get coverage because they are going to be charged more or because they are not going to get the coverage they need by buying a junk plan.

If you really care about that and you want to make sure that people with preexisting conditions really are guaranteed good coverage and can afford their coverage, then you have to vote for Ms. KUSTER's bill. That is all we are saying here.

I am not saying that my colleague on the other side is not well meaning, but nothing he has said will protect the people with preexisting conditions from the problems with the Trump guidance. So I would ask my colleagues to support this bill.

Mr. Chairman, I include in the RECORD two letters from various nonprofit health organizations supporting the bill.

MAY 8, 2019.

Hon. GREG WALDEN,
Ranking Member,
House Energy & Commerce Committee,
Washington, DC.

DEAR RANKING MEMBER WALDEN: Our 35 organizations, representing the interests of the millions of patients and consumers who live with serious, acute, and chronic conditions, have worked together for many months to ensure that patient voices are reflected in the ongoing Congressional debate regarding the accessibility of health coverage for all Americans and families. In March 2017, we identified three overarching principles to guide and measure any work to further reform and improve the nation's health insurance system. Our core principles are that health care must be adequate, affordable, and accessible. Together, our organizations understand what individuals and families need to prevent disease, manage health, and cure illness. As the 116th Congress progresses, we welcome the opportunity to work with members on both sides of the aisle on solutions that will preserve coverage for individuals who are currently covered, extend coverage to those who remain uninsured, and lower costs and improve quality for all.

Prior to the Affordable Care Act (ACA), individuals who were in the most need of health insurance coverage—including older and sicker Americans and people living with pre-existing conditions—often found it difficult, if not impossible, to obtain health insurance that provided the coverage they needed. Many individuals were denied coverage due to their pre-existing conditions or were charged outrageous premiums and/or were left with inadequate benefit packages.

Without access to comprehensive health coverage they could afford, many patients with serious and chronic conditions were often forced to delay or forego necessary health care. Before the patient protections provided under the ACA, more than half of heart patients reported difficulty paying for their care and of those patients more than 40 percent said they had delayed care or had not filled prescriptions. Uninsured patients with diabetes were six times as likely to forgo necessary medical care than those with coverage. Uninsured patients were less likely to be screened for cancer and more likely to be diagnosed with later stage disease which is harder to survive and more costly to treat.

Individuals and families with pre-existing conditions rely on critical protections in current law to help them access comprehensive, affordable health coverage that meets their medical needs. Unfortunately, the arguments of the plaintiffs and the recent change of opinion by the Department of Justice in the Texas v. U.S. case continue to represent a serious threat to these protections. We are troubled by the argument made by the plaintiffs and DOJ that the court must invalidate the entire ACA due to Congress' repeal of the individual mandate, as many provisions of the ACA directly protect people with pre-existing conditions.

Our organizations appreciate that members of Congress share our concerns about the potential impact of Texas v. U.S. on people with pre-existing conditions. Several bills have been introduced in response to this case, from H. Res. 14, which authorized the Speaker, on behalf of the House of Representatives, to intervene in the case of Texas v. United States, to S. 1125, the Protect Act, and H.R. 692, the Pre-existing Conditions Protection Act of 2019.

Some of these bills—including S. 1125 and H.R. 692—attempt to provide protection to people with pre-existing conditions should the ACA be invalidated. We recognize and appreciate the sponsors' efforts, and know that in many cases, in response to stakeholder feedback, sponsors have revised previous drafts of these bills to offer additional protections for consumers, including those with pre-existing conditions. However, we remain concerned that the policies outlined in these bills fall far short of the comprehensive protections and coverage expansion included in current law.

As you are aware, current law requires issuers to comply with a set of provisions that work together to promote adequate, affordable, and accessible coverage for people with pre-existing conditions. A holistic approach that includes—but is not limited to—community rating, guaranteed issue, essential health benefits, cost-sharing limits, a

prohibition of lifetime and annual limits, allowing young people to stay on their parents' insurance to age 26, the ban on pre-existing condition exclusions, and other important provisions protect people with serious health care needs from discriminatory coverage practices and promote access to affordable coverage. Medicaid expansion also brought coverage to millions of Americans who were previously uninsured, many of whom went without vital care. These policies are inextricably linked and repealing any of them threatens access to critical care for people with life-threatening, disabling, chronic, or serious health care needs.

We hope that you will keep these critical patient protections and the interlocking functions of current law that safeguard coverage for consumers, patients, and individuals with pre-existing conditions at the front of your mind during the 116th Congress. We are grateful that Congress is committed to exploring both immediate and long-term approaches that can be taken to shore up and strengthen the individual insurance market and we remain ready and willing to work with Congress to achieve that goal and provide all Americans with the health care they need and deserve. If you have any questions about this letter, please contact Katie Berge, Federal Government Relations Manager for the American Heart Association.

Sincerely,

United Way Worldwide, COPD Foundation, Hemophilia Federation of America, Susan G. Komen, Family Voices, American Heart Association, National Health Council, Epilepsy Foundation, March of Dimes, ALS Association, National Hemophilia Foundation, National Coalition for Cancer Survivorship, Alpha-1 Foundation, American Liver Foundation, National Multiple Sclerosis Society, WomenHeart: The National Coalition for Women with Heart Disease, American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network.

Muscular Dystrophy Association, National Patient Advocate Foundation, Leukemia & Lymphoma Society, Lutheran Services in America, National Kidney Foundation, American Lung Association, Cystic Fibrosis Foundation, American Diabetes Association, National Psoriasis Foundation, National Alliance on Mental Illness, Adult Congenital Heart Association, Arthritis Foundation, Chronic Disease Coalition, Immune Deficiency Foundation, Cancer Support Community, National Organization for Rare Disorders, Pulmonary Hypertension Association, Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation.

MAY 8, 2019.

Re Letter of Support from 23 Patient and Consumer Advocacy Organizations for H.R. 986.

Hon. ANN MCLANE KUSTER,
House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR REPRESENTATIVE KUSTER: Our 24 organizations, representing the interests of the millions of patients and consumers who live with serious, acute, and chronic conditions, have worked together for many months to ensure that patient voices are reflected in the ongoing Congressional debate regarding the accessibility of health coverage for all Americans and families. Today, we write in strong support of your legislation to protect people with pre-existing conditions who receive coverage in the individual marketplace. The Protecting Americans with Preexisting Conditions Act of 2019, H.R. 986, would require the Administration to rescind its Section 1332 State Relief and Empowerment Waivers Guidance, released on October 22, 2018 (1332 guidance). We are concerned about the impact that this guidance could have on the people we represent and applaud your introduction of this bill.

In March 2017, we identified three overarching principles to guide and measure any work to further reform and improve the nation's health insurance system. Our core principles are that health insurance coverage must be adequate, affordable, and accessible. Together, our organizations understand what individuals and families need to prevent disease, manage health, and cure illness. Our organizations are deeply concerned about how the new 1332 guidance will affect the individual marketplace's stability in states that choose to pursue some of the policies allowed under this guidance, including those that promote short term plans and other substandard coverage. We are pleased that this legislation represents a significant and meaningful step towards protecting all Americans from coverage that does not cover what they need to promote their health and well-being.

As you know, the 1332 guidance substantially erodes the guardrails governing coverage that people with pre-existing conditions such as cystic fibrosis, lung disease, cancer, cardiovascular disease, diabetes, rare disorders, pregnant women, and many others rely on in the individual marketplace. Of particular concern, the new guidance would allow states to let individuals use advanced premium tax credits to purchase non-compliant short-term, limited duration insurance plans—which could further draw younger, healthier people out of the risk pool for comprehensive insurance and drive up premiums for those who need comprehensive coverage. The guidance also eliminates protections for vulnerable populations, such as individuals with low incomes and those with chronic and serious health issues, by removing the requirement to safeguard those populations under any waiver. We are deeply concerned by this as these changes fundamentally alter the nature of the Section 1332 waiver program and jeopardize adequate, affordable coverage for people with pre-existing conditions in the individual market. Halting the implementation of this guidance will protect people with pre-existing conditions from the repercussions of these market destabilizing actions.

H.R. 986 represents a significant step towards protecting patients and consumers. Yet, we also recognize that there is much more that needs to be done to improve upon our current system of care, including making coverage more accessible and affordable. Up until this year, health insurance enrollment has steadily increased, and, with it, the promise of a more diverse risk pool and greater protection for people with serious health care needs. However, the recent reinterpretation of the guidelines is jeopardizing enrollment. Shortened enrollment periods, fewer resources for outreach and education and less funding for consumer navigators not only creates confusion for consumers but directly impacts the number of individuals who enroll in Marketplace coverage. Without Congressional action, these trends will make it harder for many to access coverage and will further contribute to the destabilization of insurance markets and result in higher premiums for many enrollees.

Making high-quality coverage and care more affordable is also a high priority for the people that we represent. Passage of legislation that expands access to and the level of advance premium tax credits, fixes the family glitch, creates a nationwide reinsurance program, and reduces systemic health care costs could significantly ease the cost burden for people of all income levels who rely on the individual marketplace for coverage. We urge Congress to support legislation that maintains the quality of coverage while expanding access and affordability.

Again, thank you for your leadership on this critical issue for people with pre-existing conditions. We support your efforts to halt the implementation of the 2018 guidance, ensuring the guidance from 2015 remains intact and promoting stability in the individual marketplace. We urge members of Congress to vote for H.R. 986.

Sincerely,

Hemophilia Federation of America, National Health Council, Cystic Fibrosis Foundation, Epilepsy Foundation, March of Dimes, National Coalition for Cancer Survivorship, American Heart Association, Alpha-1 Foundation, American Liver Foundation, Susan G. Komen, National Hemophilia Foundation, WomenHeart: The National Coalition for Women with Heart Disease.

National Multiple Sclerosis Society, Muscular Dystrophy Association, Lutheran Services in America, American Lung Association, National Alliance on Mental Illness, National Patient Advocate Foundation, Arthritis Foundation, Leukemia & Lymphoma Society, American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network, National Organization for Rare Disorders, Pulmonary Hypertension Association, Cancer Support Community.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Chair, I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Chair, I want to voice my support for H.R. 986, the Protecting Americans with Preexisting Conditions Act of 2019.

This legislation will rescind the administration's October 2018 Section 1332 waiver guidance, which is an essential step to protect preexisting conditions and prevent the loss of comprehensive coverage plans. We will ensure that our constituents will be able to access the essential health benefits guaranteed under the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act.

As representatives of Americans from all corners of our country, we have a responsibility to protect the most vulnerable in our communities. We must ensure that our constituents, many with pre-existing conditions, are not placed at risk of losing their health insurance coverage or fall victim to plans which fail to offer essential health benefits.

As the first registered nurse elected to the United States Congress, I am proud to safeguard the healthcare of my constituents and all Americans through my support of the Protecting Americans with Preexisting Conditions Act of 2019.

I urge my colleagues to support this legislation.

Ms. CASTOR of Florida. Mr. Chair, I rise today to stand up for my neighbors—including those with preexisting conditions—by supporting H.R. 986, the Protecting Americans with Preexisting Conditions Act. Health care in American should be affordable and accessible to all. Passage of the Affordable Care Act in 2010 ensured that our neighbors with a preexisting condition, like asthma, heart disease or cancer, would no longer be denied insurance.

It is unfortunate that the President and Republicans in Congress have made it their mission to sabotage the affordable health care of hardworking families, including gutting protections for people with preexisting conditions and take away affordable, quality health care from millions of Americans. I am cosponsoring the Protecting Americans with Preexisting Conditions Act to safeguard Americans from the Trump administration's efforts to undo the affordability and comprehensiveness of our

health care. H.R. 986 will overturn the Trump administration's expansion of Section 1332 waivers that were originally included in the Affordable Care Act to give states flexibility to experiment with insurance reforms that could improve the health and well-being of citizens. Unfortunately, the administration would instead use those waivers to weaken standards put in place to protect the health of Americans—especially our neighbors with preexisting conditions.

H.R. 986 would end the administration's push of Americans into sub-par and deceptive junk plans that many times exclude coverage for preexisting conditions. These plans do not provide basic benefits or financial protection standard and would return patients to the days when they would discover only when they get sick or God forbid get a cancer diagnosis that their plan imposes unreasonable limits on coverage and excludes vital benefits. They discriminate based on age, health status and gender.

Democrats will not allow the Trump administration and Congressional Republicans to drive premiums higher in the individual market and rip coverage away from those that need it the most. I want to thank my colleague Rep. KUSTER for helping lead this charge and I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 986 and support our neighbors with preexisting conditions.

The CHAIR. All time for general debate has expired.

Pursuant to the rule, the bill shall be considered for amendment under the 5-minute rule, and shall be considered as read.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 986

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 ''Protecting Americans with Preexisting Conditions Act of 2019''.

SEC. 2. PROVIDING THAT CERTAIN GUIDANCE RELATED TO WAIVERS FOR STATE INNOVATION UNDER THE PATIENT PROTECTION AND AFFORDABLE CARE ACT SHALL HAVE NO FORCE OR EFFECT.

Beginning April 1, 2019, the Secretary of Health and Human Services and the Secretary of the Treasury may not take any action to implement, enforce, or otherwise give effect to the guidance entitled ''State Relief and Empowerment Waivers'' (83 Fed. Reg. 53575 (October 24, 2018)), and the Secretaries may not promulgate any substantially similar guidance or rule.

The CHAIR. No amendment to the bill shall be in order except those printed in part A of House Report 116–51. Each such amendment may be offered only in the order printed in the report, by a Member designated in the report, shall be considered 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.

AMENDMENT NO. 1 OFFERED BY MR. LANGEVIN

The CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 1 printed in part A of House Report 116–51.

Mr. LANGEVIN. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Page 3, insert after line 5 the following:

SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

Congress finds the following:

(1) On October 24, 2018, the administration published new guidance to carry out section 1332 of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (42 U.S.C. 18052) entitled ''State Relief and Empowerment Waivers'' (83 Fed. Reg. 53575).

(2) The new guidance encourages States to provide health insurance coverage through insurance plans that may discriminate against individuals with preexisting health conditions, including the one in four Americans living with a disability.

(3) The implementation and enforcement of the new guidance weakens protections for the millions of Americans living with preexisting health conditions and jeopardizes Americans' access to quality, affordable health insurance coverage.

Page 3, line 6, redesignate section 2 as section 3.

The CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 357, the gentleman from Rhode Island (Mr. LANGEVIN) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Rhode Island.

Mr. LANGEVIN. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Chairman, Americans with disabilities have always faced significant barriers to healthcare. A decade ago, an insurer could charge a family an exorbitant amount to cover a child, merely because the child had asthma. An insurer could tell an amputee that they would cover her medical equipment except for treatment related to her amputated limb. Or an insurer could flat-out deny coverage to the victim of an accidental shooting at the age of 16 simply because he had a spinal cord injury.

Essentially, insurers could legally discriminate against individuals with disabilities and face no consequences. That is absolutely outrageous, Mr. Chairman.

Then Congress finally passed the Affordable Care Act and started to bring those barriers down. For the first time, people with preexisting health conditions, including the one in four Americans living with a disability, no longer had to worry about whether they would be denied comprehensive health insurance.

□ 1530

Coverage of essential health benefits meant a mother with a traumatic brain injury could obtain rehabilitative services and learn how to walk, a man with Parkinson's could access medication to control his tremors, or a child with a vision impairment could visit an eye doctor to prevent further vision loss.

This access to healthcare is vital because, when Americans with disabilities are healthy, they can stay active with their families, pursue fulfilling careers, and engage in their communities.

Unfortunately, the Trump administration is, once again, working to raise barriers to health coverage instead of working to eliminate them. The administration's October 2018 guidance encourages States to allow insurers to offer short-term, limited-duration plans that do not have to provide coverage of preexisting conditions or essential health benefits.

This means insurers offering these junk plans can discriminate against disabled individuals by charging astronomical prices, excluding necessary treatments from coverage, or denying an individual health insurance altogether.

This is outrageous. If you are having deja vu, it is because this is exactly what was happening to Americans with disabilities before the passage of the Affordable Care Act.

The amendment that I am offering today makes clear exactly what people with disabilities have to lose if States act on the administration's guidance.

I have spent my near two decades in Congress championing efforts to eliminate barriers to access and integration for people with disabilities and helping my fellow Americans understand their great potential.

But, fundamentally, none of that matters if people with disabilities are not healthy because insurers deny them coverage to treat their conditions.

The damage from the administration's guidance would be borne disproportionately by the disabled community, my community, and my amendment makes that clear.

Whether someone is born with a disability, develops a disability, or becomes disabled due to an accident, that disability—I assure you—happened by chance, not by choice.

Even the healthiest 30-year-old today could be in a car accident tonight and wake up with a lifelong disability tomorrow; and, if that 30-year-old had one of these junk plans, much of the cost of that care would fall on his or her own shoulders, and they would be on their own.

I had hoped that, 9 years after the passage of the Affordable Care Act, I would no longer have to come here and defend the idea that quality, affordable healthcare is a right and not a privilege. But, once again, here we are.

Mr. Chairman, I support my friend Congresswoman KUSTER's underlying legislation, and I ask my colleagues to support my amendment to make clear the damage the Trump administration's guidance would cause to people with disabilities.

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

Mr. WALDEN. Mr. Chairman, I claim the time in opposition to the amendment.

The CHAIR. The gentleman from Oregon is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. WALDEN. Mr. Chairman, I would just say that section 1332 does not permit States to waive preexisting condition protections, period. And I would,

again, cite the guidance from the CMS director, Ms. Seema Verma, where she states that. And that will be in the RECORD.

Again, I think what we are trying to do here is give States more flexibility to bring down the cost of health insurance, while following these guidelines as outlined.

As I mentioned earlier in the debate, high deductibles are pricing people out of coverage, and by that, I mean they are walking away from getting the care that they need because they can't pay for it; or they are driving up their credit card debt, wiping out their savings, they are having to take another job, they are borrowing money from others.

So, what the Trump administration is trying to do is build on what the Obama administration created, 1332 waivers, that have, frankly, been very successful in many, many States.

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

Mr. LANGEVIN. Mr. Chairman, I just want to, in reference to the gentleman from Oregon's comments, state that the plans under the Obama administration were supposed to be very short in duration, for a 3-month period, while individuals sought more comprehensive, appropriate health coverage according to their needs.

It wasn't supposed to be a replacement for a good quality, affordable healthcare plan that would cover preexisting conditions and essential health benefits to identify problems early on, a potential lifelong or a very serious illness with long-term health consequences that could potentially even lead to losing one's life.

They took what was supposed to be a stopgap, and now they are trying to make that a permanent plan. That is just wrong.

The CHAIR. The time of the gentleman from Rhode Island has expired.

Mr. WALDEN. Mr. Chairman, I yield back the balance of my time.

The CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Rhode Island (Mr. LANGEVIN).

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT NO. 2 OFFERED BY MR. BROWN OF MARYLAND

The CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 2 printed in part A of House Report 116–51.

Mr. BROWN of Maryland. Mr. Chair, I have an amendment at the desk.

The CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Page 3, line 17, insert after the period the following new sentence: ''Nothing in the previous sentence shall be construed to affect the approval of waivers under section 1332 of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (42 U.S.C. 18052) that establish reinsurance programs that are consistent with the requirements under subsection (b)(1) of such section (42 U.S.C. 18052(b)(1)), lower health insurance premiums, and protect health insurance coverage for people with preexisting conditions.''.

The CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 357, the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. BROWN) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Maryland.

Mr. BROWN of Maryland. Mr. Chair, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Chair, I rise in support of the underlying bill that will preserve protections for hundreds of thousands of Marylanders and Americans who, like me, have a preexisting condition.

And I rise in support, of course, of my amendment to protect States which are acting to strengthen their insurance marketplaces, lower premiums, and expand access to high-quality care by preserving their reinsurance programs that they have established.

For more than 2 years, the President, in concert with Republicans in Congress, have tried every trick in the book to undermine the Affordable Care Act. They tried repealing it, taking it to the courts, and now want to allow States to gut protections for those the Affordable Care Act helped most.

These attacks jeopardize healthcare for Americans with chronic conditions like asthma, high blood pressure, and diabetes and threaten to bankrupt thousands of families with a loved one who has fallen ill due to no fault of their own.

It is not just bad policy. It is fundamentally cruel.

That is why, in the face of this onslaught by the Trump administration to make the Affordable Care Act less effective, we must provide States with every tool in the toolbox to keep premiums down, while preventing the Trump administration from giving States the power to gut essential protections.

I firmly believe that States should have the power and flexibility to innovate and find healthcare solutions that work best for them. The Affordable Care Act always envisioned a critical role for States.

States design their own exchanges, shape their Medicaid programs, and take the lead in enforcing patient protections and reviewing rate increases.

These waivers took on new importance after President Trump and the Republican Congress failed to repeal ObamaCare and, instead, sought to undermine the Affordable Care Act by eliminating the requirement to obtain health insurance, ending cost-sharing payments for low-income individuals, passing regulations that encouraged short-term and junk insurance, and defunding advertising and outreach during open enrollment.

This sabotage has caused more families to pay higher premiums and made fewer people able to get the high-quality care they deserve.

States acted to counteract these efforts by establishing reinsurance programs and applying for State innovation waivers.

Reinsurance programs protect insurers from very high, unpredictable medical expenses incurred by their Members.

Alaska, Minnesota, Oregon, Maine, Wisconsin, New Jersey, and my own State of Maryland have all received Federal approval to establish reinsurance programs.

These are the very programs my amendment seeks to protect. These programs work and meet the shared goal of making health insurance affordable and accessible to all Americans, including those with preexisting conditions.

Reinsurance programs have been able to cut premiums by 20 percent, on average, and save the Federal Government nearly $1 billion.

Maryland saw the biggest savings, lowering individual premiums by more than 43 percent. These lower premiums will help entice younger and healthier individuals to get insurance, making healthcare more affordable for everyone.

While we have a President in the White House and Republicans in Congress who have made healthcare prohibitively expensive and stripped protections for those who need it most, it is imperative that this Congress protect our partners at the State level who are working with us to protect healthcare for all Americans.

My amendment will protect these innovative reinsurance programs and encourage more States to adopt them.

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

Mr. WALDEN. Mr. Chairman, I claim the time in opposition to the gentleman's amendment.

The CHAIR. The gentleman from Oregon is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. WALDEN. Mr. Chairman, I am not necessarily opposed to his amendment, but I do think it is important to talk about the issues that really matter when it comes to affordable healthcare.

Again, when we talked about giving States the authority to innovate and to protect their citizens, we are for that. I come from a State that pioneered the Oregon Health Plan.

I was there. I created a select committee when I was the Republican majority leader of the Oregon House, when we finally got the waiver from the Federal Government after a couple of years to actually implement the Oregon Health Plan. It was very creative about how to hold down healthcare costs and expand coverage and do all those things. We have worked on a lot of different issues over the years.

What we did with the President today, I think, is really important and, that is, looked at this issue of surprise billing: If you follow all the rules, you go to a hospital that is in your network, and let's say some provider gets sick in the night and they substitute somebody else who doesn't turn out to be in your network and then, weeks later, you get an astronomical bill through no fault of your own.

There was a parent down there whose daughter had had, I think, some sort of

surgery, and the physician, on the way out, said: Oh, by the way, I want you to do just a little urine test here. We are going to run an analysis.

So she did, left, and, a period of time later, got a bill for $17,000.

Her dad is a doctor and said: How did this happen?

Well, it turned out whoever did the test was not in the network of her insurance. She didn't know.

What are you going to do? You have had whatever surgery she had, and on the way out the doctor says: Hey, by the way, give us a little sample. I just want to run a test because I have got you on this drug, and I want to make sure it is all working right.

Then a $17,000 bill arrives a couple of months later.

They were there with the President today in the Roosevelt Room at this bipartisan event. And her dad negotiated. He couldn't say what level, but it was certainly not what the insurer would have paid.

Do you know what the insurer would have paid for that, in network? A hundred bucks. He said you can probably get the test done now for $25.

A $17,000 bill arrives.

This is what is happening to Americans who have insurance, and that is why we have got to deal with the surprise billing issue. It is why we have to squeeze the juice out of the middle of the healthcare delivery system.

We do all these great innovations. And Republicans led the effort on the 21st Century Cures Act.

We met with Dr. Francis Collins yesterday, the extraordinary leader of NIH; the longest-serving President-appointed—under Obama—NIH director in the history of our country.

Because of what we put forward to dramatically increase investment in NIH—Republicans led that effort, FRED UPTON, but joined with DIANA DEGETTE, a Democrat out of Colorado, and a bunch of us—they are now finding cures.

Dr. Collins said yesterday they have identified now 6,500 genetic diseases where they now can figure out, I'll say, the misspelling of the DNA code.

Some of my colleagues may have seen on ''60 Minutes'' Dr. Collins talking about that they think they found a cure for sickle cell anemia. They found a misspelling—one letter misspelled in that big chain of DNA—that they were able to go in with our new technology—some of it is a result of what we have done collaboratively here—and change, alter, that letter.

And they have these people now that there is no evidence of sickle cell in their blood platelets.

There are 6,500 diseases that they now know the misspelling. Now they have got to figure out how to train your body, using immuno technology, to have your own cells turned on in a little different way and go after these diseases.

These are remarkable advances in lifesaving medicines and treatments.

□ 1545

We, I think, as a country, have to figure out how we pay for that, if each one of these is individualized.

Our system is antiquated and doesn't deal with this effectively. We are going to have to figure that out because a lifesaving cure isn't going to cure a life if people can't afford to get the medicine.

We also need to drill down on telehealth and telemedicine.

One of our colleagues today was talking about mental health services. My district is bigger than any State east of the Mississippi, unless you have to count Lake Michigan with Michigan, which, of course, you do. So telehealth really matters, and we are getting great results for our veterans and for our citizens using telehealth. But our providers don't often get paid for the service they provide over telehealth. Why? That is something we have to address.

You go one thing after another after another here, where we should be spending our valuable legislative time solving the problems that real Americans run into every day of the week: How do I pay the bill? You tell me I have insurance, and I do, and I pay a record—I don't know whose premium under ObamaCare went down $2,500 a month, but I will talk about this more.

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

Mr. BROWN of Maryland. Mr. Chair, I join my colleague, the gentleman from Oregon, in acknowledging the great work that is happening in the States of Oregon, New Jersey, and Maryland in establishing these reinsurance programs. It is my amendment that seeks to protect these very strong programs, so I urge my colleagues to support this amendment.

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

The CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. BROWN).

The question was taken; and the Chair announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mr. BROWN of Maryland. Mr. Chair, I demand a recorded vote.

The CHAIR. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, further proceedings on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Maryland will be postponed.

AMENDMENT NO. 3 OFFERED BY MS. PRESSLEY

The CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 3 printed in part A of House Report 116–51.

Ms. PRESSLEY. Mr. Chair, I have an amendment at the desk.

The CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

In section 2, insert '', including any such action that would result in individuals losing health insurance coverage that includes the essential health benefits package (as defined in subsection (a) of section 1302 of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (42 U.S.C. 18022(a)) without regard to any waiver of any provision of such package under a waiver under such section 1332), including the maternity and newborn care essential health benefit described in subsection (b)(1)(D) of such section'' after ''(October 24, 2018))''.

The CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 357, the gentlewoman from Massachusetts (Ms. PRESSLEY) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Massachusetts.

Ms. PRESSLEY. Mr. Chair, I rise today in support of my amendment to H.R. 986, the Protecting Patients with Preexisting Conditions Act.

Quality, affordable healthcare is a fundamental human right, period. No one should have to face financial ruin while they are fighting for their life.

When people are using GoFundMe pages to pay their medical bills, when parents are burying their children who ration their insulin to pay their student loans, we know that we are in the midst of a moral crisis. Yet, we must contend with an administration that is determined to roll back these rights and protections.

Each of us has loved ones whose lives are put in conditional jeopardy when we erode protections for preexisting conditions. These efforts put lives at risk, and we are here today to fight back.

In my district, the Massachusetts Seventh, half the residents are living with preexisting conditions. Families are struggling with some of the highest per capita healthcare costs in the Nation, even as they live in the shadow of some of the best healthcare institutions in the world.

In my district, travel 3 miles from Back Bay to Roxbury, and life expectancy drops 30 years—30.

Since its implementation, the ACA has provided critical protections for the nearly 3 million residents of Massachusetts living with preexisting conditions.

Our families, our neighbors, our communities are depending on us to uphold the lifesaving protections for people with preexisting conditions. We can do that today by passing H.R. 986.

Mr. Chair, my amendment to H.R. 986 affirms that women's healthcare isn't optional. It is an essential benefit every plan must cover. At a time when more than 67 million American women and girls are living with a preexisting condition, we cannot—no, we will not go backward.

At a time when life expectancy is declining because of gun violence, opioid use, and a maternal mortality crisis, we cannot afford to compromise on these essential services.

Before the ACA, Mr. Chair, typical insurance plans considered maternity care a luxury benefit, and women consistently paid more for primary care than men. In fact, women who have given birth, had a C-section, or were living with HIV or a previous breast cancer diagnosis could be considered to

have preexisting conditions and denied coverage.

Thanks to the ACA, many women who were previously uninsured gained health coverage, including vital access to preventative care.

This administration's cruel and dangerous guidance would weaken these provisions and allow insurers to sell skimpy plans that can exclude coverage like maternity care and pediatric services.

The ACA is our floor, not our ceiling. We must continue to fight for universal healthcare. We must continue to push for a healthcare system that meets the needs of the people we represent, a healthcare system that sees all people, hears all people, and cares for all people in a way that promotes safety, dignity, and respect. I urge my colleagues to support this amendment.

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

Mr. WALDEN. Mr. Chair, I claim the time in opposition, although I am not necessarily opposed to the gentlewoman's amendment.

The CHAIR. Without objection, the gentleman from Oregon is recognized for 5 minutes.

There was no objection.

Mr. WALDEN. Mr. Chair, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. PRESSLEY. Mr. Chair, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. WALDEN. Mr. Chair, I appreciate the gentlewoman's comments and her amendment. I don't intend to oppose her amendment, but I do want to pick up on something she said that is really important.

The gentlewoman mentioned opioids. In the last Congress, when I chaired the Energy and Commerce Committee, I helped lead the bipartisan effort to produce 60 pieces of legislation dealing with the opioid crisis, to help those who were addicted get the assistance they need, to get resources into our communities to help medical advancements to find non-opioid-related medical treatments, and to stop fentanyl from coming into our country.

I didn't get the opportunity, but I hope the President and his team will continue to raise this issue with the Chinese leadership when they come because a lot of this illicit fentanyl is being produced in China and then coming to the United States.

Dr. BURGESS, who was our chair of the Subcommittee on Health and is now the top Republican, I think went up to the chairman's district in New Jersey and viewed one of the international mail processing facilities. At least, it was in New Jersey. I don't know its precise location.

Together we said, working with the Trump administration's FDA Commissioner, we have to do more at these mail processing facilities to stop fentanyl from coming in.

By the way, fentanyl is like 100 times more potent than morphine. If you had a salt shaker and put out, I don't know, 10, 15 grains of salt and ingested that, if it was fentanyl, it would kill you.

We said let's put more resources toward stopping illegal fentanyl from coming into the United States, and we are doing that now. We are beefing that up.

It comes in through Mexico as well. It is both China and Mexico. It is creating pockets of death in our communities. Especially in some of our urban areas, we have seen where it gets mixed in with heroin to give even a higher high or whatever. Then you see groups of people who take this, not knowing it has been jacked up with fentanyl, and you have a whole group that dies.

The most insidious discussion or incident I heard about was a parent who I got to know a little bit, whose daughter, he told me, self-medicated occasionally with heroin, and she died in college.

When they did the autopsy, they figured out she had been given 100 percent fentanyl. It wasn't a mix with heroin, Mr. Chair.

The tragedy of that was, he felt that her supplier knew she was an occasional user so had low tolerance and, basically, probably killed her to prove to his other buyers that he had the most potent stuff on the street.

A colleague of ours, Mr. KATKO, who was a prosecutor before he came to the Congress, he and I were having a discussion on this matter. He said he prosecuted a case just like that. That is how evil this stuff is.

As we look at the whole panoply of issues about healthcare, mental health services, addiction services, stopping these things from coming in, we can find a lot of common ground.

Republicans supported protections for preexisting conditions before the ACA, during the ACA, after the ACA today. We did. Same with putting kids on your policies at 26. We agreed with those principles.

But the ObamaCare act was rammed through this House and the Senate, and we weren't even allowed to bring any of the 90-some amendments we offered to the floor. We were completely shut out of that process. It was a horrible process, and it shouldn't be repeated.

I hear a lot about how we voted to repeal it a bazillion times. Well, you know what? If you go through and dissect those votes, there were a whole bunch of Democrats that voted with us. The President at the time, President Obama, signed some of that legislation because even he admitted there were problems in the ACA.

Going forward, I hope we can address the big problem in America, which is high-cost insurance, high deductibles, but, moreover, the high cost of healthcare itself because it is pretty hard to go home and explain why things cost what they do today.

We have to get around the high cost issue. The access issue, that is where earlier I talked about telehealth and telemedicine. There is a lot of work we will do together.

Unfortunately, this is a mislabeled bill today. The laws governing 1332 waivers prohibit what the majority is concerned about. But I don't have opposition to this amendment.

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

The CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentlewoman from Massachusetts (Ms. PRESSLEY).

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT NO. 4 OFFERED BY MR. HARDER OF CALIFORNIA

The CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 4 printed in part A of House Report 116–51.

Mr. HARDER of California. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Add at the end the following:

SEC. 3. GAO REPORT ON AFFECT OF STATE INNOVATION WAIVERS ON COVERAGE OF INDIVIDUALS AND ON MENTAL HEALTH HEALTH CARE TREATMENT.

Not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General of the United States shall submit to Congress a report on the number of individuals expected to lose access to health insurance coverage (as defined in section 2791 of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 300gg–91)) if section 2 were not enacted and waivers under section 1332 of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (42 U.S.C. 18052) were approved under the guidance described in such section 2. Such report shall include an analysis of the expected effect such waivers approved under such guidance would have on mental health care treatment.

The CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 357, the gentleman from California (Mr. HARDER) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California.

Mr. HARDER of California. Mr. Chair, I rise in support of my amendment.

As I stated in my previous remarks, my amendment would simply require the Federal Government to issue an expert analysis of the impact of junk plans on mental health access.

People deserve access to mental healthcare, and we need to know how many people will lose that access if these junk plans become used more widely.

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

Mr. WALDEN. Mr. Chair, I claim the time in opposition to the gentleman's amendment.

The CHAIR. The gentleman from Oregon is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. WALDEN. Mr. Chair, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. HARDER of California. Mr. Chair, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. WALDEN. Mr. Chair, I appreciate the gentleman's amendment.

Look, we all care deeply about getting mental health services into our community. In fact, under Republican leadership on the Energy and Commerce Committee a few years ago, we

rewrote America's mental health laws for the first time since John Kennedy signed the last bill into law before he was tragically assassinated in Texas. It was a lot of work, but it was bipartisan work.

Not only did we look at those mental health laws that were on the books, because what happens around here is somebody comes up with a new idea, so you put a new program in place, and you give an authorization. Maybe it gets funded, maybe it doesn't. A year goes by. Somebody has a new idea. Put another one on the books. Nobody ever goes back and looks at what worked and what didn't.

So our colleague, Dr. MURPHY, at the time, who is a psychologist and a terrific leader in this area, really drove this review and said, look, we have to help kids with mental illness, and we need to help adults.

We could deal with a lot of the violence in America if you got people care. It is not that everybody with mental illness goes violent, but we do know that mental health services help people in every way and that the programs we had—we had a lot of them—weren't funded, weren't funded properly, or didn't work. Some worked better than others.

We had this comprehensive review in the Energy and Commerce Committee of these different programs the Federal Government has. Then we said, going forward—kind of what you are trying to do with this GAO report in a little different way—let's measure the efficacy of the programs we do have.

□ 1600

Let's find out what is working in our communities, and then let's get aid into our communities directly. Let's cut out the middle bureaucracy and get assistance, financial assistance into our communities.

So we passed that. That is now the law of the land. And I think last year we were able to get money into that, finally, and I hope we can do more going forward, because we know that—I am being a little sarcastic here, but it is an extraordinary finding. Guess what? Your brain and your physical body are connected. Who knew, right? And we have all known that.

So I supported the effort to get the same treatment under insurance for mental health as physical health because they are completely connected. So going forward, we have got to make sure that that bond is strengthened, not weakened, and that people continue to get help for mental health.

I am a big believer in that. I know it works. It is fascinating to see, with the whole genome project, now they can do a genetic test and figure out which mental health drug will work in your body or my body. We didn't know that before, and now they can figure out which one will actually work for you or me or whomever.

I hope we have lifted the stigma on people needing mental health services. We are just a big bag of chemicals, and things get out of balance. So I hope that we have lifted that as we did, I believe, on addiction.

There are a lot of people, and over time people evolve their views and get better understandings, and I think over time we realized that people with drug addictions—especially this came out through our opioids work—weren't necessarily criminals. They weren't to be shunned from society.

What we learned in the course of our work on opioids was, when I talked to parents whose kids had a high school football injury or something and the doctor gave them a painkiller, all of a sudden, this stuff is so addictive, a few treatments and they are hooked, and then they need more and more and more and more.

I always remember my friend Mr. RUSH from the Chicago area, when we were talking about treatment for opioids, said: That is great you are doing that. When the people I represented had issues in terms of crack cocaine and all, you just called them druggies and you put them in prison.

That affected what we wrote and how we legislated, and we moved away from calling it treatment for opioids to people with substance abuse because we realized we needed to think broader as a country and as a Congress, and we did that and we changed the law. All that now is law to deal with opioids and mental health services.

So, Mr. Chairman, I don't have an objection to this amendment, but there is a lot we have done and a lot more we need to do, and I will talk about some of the things we need to do going forward.

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

The CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. HARDER).

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT NO. 5 OFFERED BY MR. WALDEN

The CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 5 printed in part A of House Report 116–51.

Mr. WALDEN. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk. I believe it is No. 5, printed in House Report 116–51.

The CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Beginning on page 3, line 4, strike ''Protecting Americans with Preexisting Conditions Act of 2019'' and insert ''This Bill Actually Has Nothing to do with Protecting Americans with Preexisting Conditions Act''.

The CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 357, the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. WALDEN) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Oregon.

Mr. WALDEN. Mr. Chairman, I would just say, in terms of this amendment, it is just trying to make the point that the bill we have before us today is not as described or labeled. In our opinion, it is more about politics and gotcha politics than it is about the underlying issue.

We know from the Department of Health and Human Services, they have made it clear in the letter from the Director who would approve these waivers that she believes that the underlying law protects people with preexisting conditions and all the other things I talked about earlier, that they can't waive that law—they cannot.

So I would enter into the RECORD again, Mr. Chairman, as part of my remarks, her comments about the guidance, the 2018 guidance, and where she says it does not erode ObamaCare's preexisting condition provisions. She is the one in charge of this. That is what she is saying.

But I want to talk about something else she says in this letter about premiums and the costs to people getting their insurance. She says: ''Under the PPACA''—or ObamaCare or the Affordable Care Act, however you want to describe it—''we have seen dramatically higher premiums and decreased options for millions of consumers, in large part due to the law's overly prescriptive mandates and excessive Federal Government takeover of areas traditionally left under State oversight.''

She points out: ''In 2019, the average monthly premium for a benchmark plan for a family of four on HealthCare.gov is now over $1,500, which can easily exceed a family's mortgage.''

Continuing with her letter to me, she said: ''There are many areas of the country with far higher monthly premiums. For example, a of 60-year-old couple living in Grand Island, Nebraska, making $70,000 a year, will need to pay over $3,000 per month for the lowest cost silver plan available. That is almost $38,000 per year for a plan with an $11,100 deductible.''

Now, think about that, Mr. Chair. This is a couple that is making $70,000 a year. They are 60 years old. They live in Nebraska, and $3,000 a month in premiums, over $3,000, and an $11,000 deductible. That is over $48,000, and they only make $70,000 a year.

This is happening in America today. Heck, it is happening in Nebraska right now. So what we are saying is people are walking away.

She goes on to say: ''For millions of Americans, coverage this expensive is not a realistic option, and many choose to go without coverage at all. In fact, after average premiums rose by 21 percent, 1.3 million unsubsidized people walked away from the market in 2017.''

Those are the people we need to be helping. There is a lot more we need to be doing. I will put the rest of this in the RECORD. But I think everybody knows we are just trying make a point with this amendment.

Mr. Chair, I ask unanimous consent to withdraw my amendment.

The CHAIR. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Oregon?

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Chair, I object.

The CHAIR. Objection is heard.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Chair, I claim the time in opposition to the amendment.

The CHAIR. The gentleman from New Jersey will suspend.

The gentleman from Oregon is recognized.

Mr. WALDEN. Mr. Chairman, just to clarify, from a parliamentary standpoint, I was just going to withdraw the amendment, but if the gentleman wants to speak on it, I can ask unanimous consent to withdraw it after he speaks.

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

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Chairman, I claim the time in opposition to the gentleman from Oregon's amendment.

The CHAIR. The gentleman from New Jersey is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Chairman, it disturbs me, I guess, that my colleague on the other side, whom I greatly respect, keeps mentioning this letter from Seema Verma, the CMS Administrator.

Nothing that she says in her letter is in any way going to change the guidance that she and the Trump administration have put forward that would undermine people with preexisting conditions' ability to get good insurance if this guidance is allowed to continue and States get waivers pursuant to the guidance, because of, again, the issue of affordability.

You see, the problem is that the 1332 waivers, the way they are set out in the ACA, have certain guardrails, if you will, to prevent waivers that would allow for junk insurance and other policies that would undermine people with preexisting conditions from getting good insurance.

Those guardrails say that any kind of waiver has to guarantee affordability, has to guarantee comprehensive coverage, the essential benefits package, robust coverage, and also not reduce the number of people who are insured.

This guidance that Seema Verma and the Trump administration have put forward does exactly the opposite, because it allows insurance to be sold, if a State seeks to do so, that would eliminate, for example, hospitalization or eliminate mental health coverage or eliminate coverage for maternity care.

Now, if you are someone with preexisting conditions and they eliminate coverage for your preexisting condition, that relates to your preexisting condition, you might as well not even have insurance, and that is why we say it is junk. It lets a waiver be granted that would allow the insurance companies of that State to charge more based on age, based on sex. I mean, the list goes on.

So Seema Verma can send out all the letters she wants, but it doesn't mean anything.

I like to say, you know, one of the things that disturbs me most, also, is we on the Democratic side, myself and some of the other chairmen of some of the other committees, sent a letter and a request, because it has been pointed out repeatedly that Seema Verma has been putting out contracts up to $4 million a year to basically promote herself, and that is being investigated right now as we speak.

So, again, I don't like to say bad things about people, but the bottom line is she is in no position to be telling us what is in this guidance. This guidance is going to hurt people with preexisting conditions, and there is no way that she is going to get around it.

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

Mr. WALDEN. Mr. Chairman, I would just suggest that it was Seema Verma who is the head of CMS who issued the guidance, so I think she is in a position to have a say about what she believes the guidance allows or doesn't.

To be clear, to quote her letter again: ''The 2018 guidance does nothing to erode the PPACA's preexisting condition provisions.'' That is what she is saying.

So I think that letter is important. She put it in writing. She has said that repeatedly, and so I take her at her word. I do. I include her letter in the RECORD.

CENTERS FOR MEDICARE & MEDICAID SERVICES,
Washington, DC, May 7, 2019.

Hon. GREG WALDEN,
Ranking Member, House Committee on Energy and Commerce, House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR REPRESENTATIVE WALDEN: Thank you for your continued interest in new state flexibility available under guidance recently issued interpreting section 1332 of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (PPACA) (the 2018 guidance). Working within the limitations of the PPACA, this 2018 guidance is an important element of the Administration's actions to expand options and lower costs for patients around the country. I wanted to take this opportunity to set the record straight and reaffirm this Administration's commitment to lowering healthcare costs, increasing consumer choices, and protecting our most vulnerable citizens, including those who have pre-existing conditions.

To be very clear, the 2018 guidance does nothing to erode the PPACA's pre-existing condition provisions, which cannot be waived under section 1332. Section 1332 does not permit states to waive Public Health Service Act requirements such as guaranteed availability and renewability of health insurance, the prohibition on using health status to vary premiums, and the prohibition on pre-existing conditions exclusions. Furthermore, a section 1332 waiver cannot be approved that might otherwise undermine these requirements. This Administration stands committed to protecting people with pre-existing conditions.

Under the PPACA, we have seen dramatically higher premiums and decreased options for millions of consumers, in large part due to the law's overly prescriptive mandates and excessive Federal government takeover of areas traditionally under state oversight. In 2019, the average monthly premium for a benchmark plan for a family of four on HealthCare.gov is now over $1,500, which can easily exceed a family's mortgage. There are many areas of the country with far higher monthly premiums. For example, a 60-year-old couple living in Grand Island, Nebraska, making $70,000 a year, will need to pay over $3,000 per month for the lowest cost silver plan available. That's almost $38,000 per year for a plan with an $11,100 deductible. That's over half their income.

For millions of Americans, coverage this expensive is not a realistic option, and many choose to go without coverage at all. In fact, after average premiums rose by 21 percent, 1.3 million unsubsidized people walked away from the market in 2017, the last year the prior administration oversaw open enrollment. While these higher premiums force some people to go uninsured, coverage is generally not optional for people with a pre-existing condition and so, without a subsidy, someone with a pre-existing condition must face the full burden of the PPACA's skyhigh premiums. This Administration has not forgotten the people facing this hardship.

Section 1332 of the PPACA provides the discretion to approve a section 1332 state waiver plan if the following four statutory guardrails are met: affordability, comprehensiveness, coverage, and federal deficit neutrality. Section 1332 allows states to develop new healthcare programs and solutions that would be not permissible without a section 1332 waiver.

Unfortunately, guidance issued under the prior Administration in December 2015 (the 2015 guidance) regarding section 1332 waivers had the effect of significantly restricting the innovation states could pursue. The prior Administration imposed a one-size-fits-all approach to these waivers, making it difficult for states to address the specific needs of their residents.

In October, the Administration issued guidance under section 1332 of the PPACA to provide states with significant opportunities to chart a different course for their markets through expanded flexibility. Section 1332 and the 2018 guidance ensure that consumers who wish to retain coverage similar to that provided under the PPACA can do so, but they empower states to take steps to stabilize their markets and allow more affordable coverage options that may be more attractive to individuals and families priced out of the current market, including people with pre-existing conditions.

Over the past two years, this Administration has approved seven section 1332 waivers authorizing reinsurance programs to help fund claims for people with high healthcare costs. These reinsurance programs provide much needed premium relief for people in the market and, in particular, for people with pre-existing conditions without other coverage options. These section 1332 waivers were all approved under the prior, more restrictive 2015 guidance. I believe, given the expanded flexibility discussed in the 2018 guidance, states will be able to develop additional healthcare programs and solutions that work for their residents.

As you know, some have criticized the state flexibility offered under the 2018 guidance, claiming that states will pursue section 1332 waivers that undermine their own individual market risk pools and make coverage more expensive for their own residents with pre-existing conditions. Again, I want to make clear that a section 1332 waiver cannot undermine coverage for people with pre-existing conditions. Moreover, any section 1332 waiver will need to carefully account for any impact on the individual market risk pool and guarantee that access to coverage is at least as comprehensive and affordable as would exist without the waiver.

So, if a state seeks to pursue the use of more affordable options, such as catastrophic plans or short-term limited duration plans, under a section 1332 state waiver plan, the state must ensure access to coverage that is overall as affordable and comprehensive for people who remain in the individual market risk pool.

Thank you again for your shared interest in bringing down healthcare costs and protecting our fellow Americans with pre-existing conditions. We remain focused on improving our nation's health care system by empowering states to innovate and develop new solutions to expand access to affordable and high value coverage options, and we look forward to working with you to achieve these goals. Should you have questions, please contact the CMS Office of Legislation.

Sincerely,

SEEMA VERMA.

Mr. WALDEN. Now, Mr. Chair, I was willing to withdraw the amendment. That takes unanimous consent, and I just would attempt to do that again. I don't know if my colleague cares about that or not.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Chair, I have no objection.

Mr. WALDEN. Mr. Chairman, so we can move on to the other amendments, I ask unanimous consent to withdraw the amendment.

The CHAIR. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Oregon?

There was no objection.

The CHAIR. The amendment is withdrawn.

The Chair understands that amendment No. 6 will not be offered.

AMENDMENT NO. 7 OFFERED BY MR. HOLDING

The CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 7 printed in part A of House Report 116–51.

Mr. HOLDING. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Page 3, beginning on line 4, strike ''Protecting Americans with Preexisting Conditions Act of 2019'' and insert ''Insert Politically Punchy Title That Doesn't Reflect the Bill Substance Act''.

The CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 357, the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. HOLDING) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from North Carolina.

Mr. HOLDING. Mr. Chairman, I believe my amendment speaks for itself.

My friends on the other side of the aisle are playing political games with their bill trying to convince the American people that it would accomplish something that it would not. I have offered a title that accurately reflects the political grandstanding that my Democrat friends are effecting today.

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

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Chairman, I claim the time in opposition to the amendment.

The CHAIR. The gentleman from New Jersey is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Chairman, just to back up what I said previously about the implications for this Trump administration and Seema Verma's guidance that they put forward with regard to 1332, I want to read a section from a letter that was sent by 23 patient and consumer advocacy organizations in support of H.R. 986, the bill that is before us. These organizations include the Heart Association, the Lung Association, the Epilepsy Foundation, et cetera. This goes back to the guardrails.

As I said, under 1332, in the ACA, there are guardrails that say that any waivers have to guarantee affordability, have to guarantee comprehensiveness of coverage, and have to, at the same time, not reduce the number of people with insurance.

Nothing that Seema Verma or anything on the other side that is being said is suggesting in any way that, under this guidance, those principles wouldn't be violated. In fact, they would be violated.

So this is what these 23 patient and consumer advocacy organizations say about the Trump guidance waiver: ''This gross misinterpretation of the guardrails will have real consequences for patients, steering people into substandard coverage, such as short-term, limited-duration plans and association health plans, which often do not cover the full range of benefits and services that patients rely on to manage their conditions.

''Further, policies that could be implemented under this new interpretation could fundamentally alter the risk pool for a State's individual marketplace, making comprehensive coverage unaffordable for patients who rely on it and jeopardizing the stability of the State's marketplace. The resulting lack of access to care could have devastating short- and long-term consequences for the millions of patients we represent.''

□ 1615

The bottom line is this is going to dramatically hurt people with preexisting conditions if they try to buy insurance that will cover the maladies that they want to cover, and they need to have covered.

Again, I don't understand, Mr. HOLDING and, previously, Mr. WALDEN have these amendments that really have nothing substantive to say. All they do is talk about changing the title because they are trying to ridicule what Democrats are trying to do here, which is to guarantee that people with preexisting conditions are protected.

I don't want to get upset, but I think that it is kind of inappropriate, when here we are trying to guarantee people with preexisting conditions are protected—even Republicans on the other side are saying that is important to them—and, instead of having a serious debate about this, they put forward amendments that change the title to ridicule what we are trying to do. It is just unfortunate that we are at that point now, but that is where we are.

Madam Chairman, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. HOLDING. Madam Chair, I yield to the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. WALDEN).

Mr. WALDEN. Madam Chair, I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Madam Chair, I just want to say that I, too, wish we were debating my legislation that I tried to offer the first of the Congress and was refused the opportunity to bring it to the floor. That would lock into statute preexisting protections for people who have preexisting conditions.

This court case is pending. We could get a ruling tomorrow. Somewhere in the last couple of months, Congress could have acted to put in statute a separate law that would be there, irrespective of the decision of the judge, or judges as it goes through its process, that could wipe out all of the ACA and could wipe out preexisting condition protections. We could do that, except their Committee on Rules put these amendments in order to debate on the floor, but not the amendment that actually protects people with preexisting conditions. So it is not my fault—we don't control of the Rules Committee—that my serious amendment about protecting people with preexisting conditions was not made in order. I don't control the Rules Committee. The Speaker does, and others.

When we talk about affordability, remember the example that Seema Verma points out, in Grand Island, Nebraska, a couple making $60,000 a year, 60 years old, $38,000 for the plan, and $11,000 deductible. How is that affordable? It is not.

I want our States to innovate. Do you know what, if a State doesn't want to innovate, it doesn't have to. And if they violate the rules, they are not going to get their waiver.

But what we do know is that when States have innovated, like mine, like the gentlemen from Wisconsin and Alaska, they have seen reductions in premiums and full-throated coverage. I want innovation. I don't want to price people out of the market.

Mr. HOLDING. Madam Chair, this bill before us today makes no structural changes to improve access to or delivery of care. It would limit healthcare choices and stifle State level innovation that has proven to lower premiums. This bill does not help those with preexisting conditions, but it does attempt to confuse them and encourage more political dysfunction to the detriment of the American people.

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

Mr. PALLONE. Madam Chair, my colleagues on the other side started out this debate on these amendments by basically saying they wanted to substitute the title rather than talking about the substance. Now, my colleague, the ranking member, starts talking about the lawsuit that would—I think he is talking about the lawsuit that would repeal the Affordable Care Act.

Again, my colleagues on the other side are not looking to protect people with preexisting conditions, they are not looking to protect anybody, because now they are saying that it is a

good idea to repeal the Affordable Care Act. So we are back to the basic debate about whether or not we should have the Affordable Care Act, which until President Trump came along and started sabotaging the bill, 97 percent of Americans had health insurance, an all-time high in the history of this country.

So, okay, that is fine. Now we are going to say that they want to repeal the Affordable Care Act once again. This is what this is all about on their side of the aisle: repeal the act, move to court to try to get the courts to declare the act unconstitutional, no effort to worry about the millions and millions of Americans who have gotten coverage because of the Affordable Care Act.

I really don't know what else I can say at this point, but at least they revealed their true motive, which is simply to repeal the whole bill.

Once again, I guess there is not much to say here, other than to say that I would urge my colleagues to reject this amendment. Let's get back to talking about the substance of the bill that is before us, which would guarantee that there are protections for people with preexisting conditions.

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

The Acting CHAIR (Ms. UNDERWOOD). The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. HOLDING).

The question was taken; and the Acting Chair announced that the noes appeared to have it.

Mr. PALLONE. Madam Chair, I demand a recorded vote.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, further proceedings on the amendment offered by the gentleman from North Carolina will be postponed.

AMENDMENT NO. 8 OFFERED BY MS. PORTER

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 8 printed in part A of House Report 116–51.

Ms. PORTER. Madam Chair, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

In section 2, insert '', including any such action that would result in a decrease in the number of such individuals enrolled in coverage that is at least as comprehensive as the coverage defined in section 1302(a) of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (42 U.S.C. 18022(a)) compared to the number of such individuals who would have been so enrolled in such coverage had such action not been taken'' after ''(October 24, 2018))''.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 357, the gentlewoman from California (Ms. PORTER) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from California.

Ms. PORTER. Madam Chair, I rise today to offer an amendment to the Protecting Americans with Preexisting Conditions Act.

This bill would prevent the Trump administration from allowing States to use waivers to provide junk health plans that reduce coverage and decrease cost sharing provisions.

In the Affordable Care Act, section 1332 waivers were created to provide States flexibility to implement innovative plans that would expand coverage, reduce costs, and provide more comprehensive benefits.

Our States can be incubators for opportunity and these waivers allow them the opportunity to improve access to affordable, quality services in groundbreaking ways. But, last year, the Trump administration released guidance that would allow States to use these waivers to take care away from the individuals who need it most, and that is unacceptable.

Because of the Affordable Care Act, 3,826,000 Californians have gained health coverage. In my home district, the 45th District of California, more than 338,000 people have a preexisting condition, many of whom gained coverage or received more affordable coverage because of new protections established under the Affordable Care Act.

This Sunday is Mother's Day. Having given birth, being a mother, is a preexisting condition, a factor that used to contribute to higher insurance costs for most of the women we will celebrate this weekend. We can't go back to the days when being a woman was enough to let an insurance company charge you more for basic healthcare.

My amendment will prohibit the administration from issuing any waivers that would let States craft healthcare plans that would reduce the number of individuals enrolled in comprehensive plans that are compliant with our country's current healthcare laws.

This bill preserves waivers that provide States with flexibility. This bill encourages States to provide innovative plans. But what this bill does is make sure that those waivers can be used for their original intent: expanding care and decreasing costs.

Madam Chair, I urge my colleagues to support my amendment, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. WALDEN. Madam Chair, I seek time in opposition to the gentlewoman's amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Oregon is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. WALDEN. Madam Chair, I would like to point out a couple of things.

One, I have introduced legislation to protect people with preexisting conditions. I did that because I knew this lawsuit is pending. We can argue about the ACA and the lawsuit and all that, but the long and short of it is that if the court rules the ACA gets thrown out as unconstitutional, which may happen, people with preexisting conditions would be exposed, and I don't want that to happen. That is why I introduced legislation.

I would be honored if we could take that up in the Energy and Commerce Committee that I used to chair and put it on the House floor. I tried to bring it here as an amendment and it was denied by the Democrat majority, so we can't even have a debate here about it. If it is not everything it should be, then I am happy to work with people to try and make it as durable and robust as it needs to be. So that is one.

When we talk about insurance—and there is kind of silence on the other side—2.5 million Americans since President Trump have gotten healthcare insurance through their employer. We have one of the most robust economies most Americans have ever seen: 3.2 percent, I think, GDP growth the first quarter. Some have said, you need fairy dust to do that. Well, that is not true. You need good economic policy. We have that in America: the lowest unemployment for African Americans, Hispanic Americans, all Americans. Incredible numbers, incredible growth. As a result, people are getting off government subsidized healthcare, or fully funded healthcare, onto private health insurance, which Democrats want to wipe out. One hundred and fifty-eight million Americans get their health insurance through their employer or through their union.

And when it comes to the Affordable Care Act, that is what put in place the big cuts that are coming to our hospitals, the DSH cuts, that I held off as chairman of the Energy and Commerce Committee. We passed legislation to prevent the DSH cuts from hitting our disproportionate share of hospitals, those that deal with more lower income folks. We are going to have to do that again. Because ObamaCare says you got to hit your hospital with a big cost increase, if you will, or take away a subsidy.

The Cadillac tax. I met with building trade folks in my State. These people bargained away, potentially, wages for better benefits. And then along comes ObamaCare, the Affordable Care Act, that says: Oh, by the way, if you have got too generous a plan, according to the government, you are going to have to pay a 40 percent tax on that plan. And, by the way, it was never indexed for inflation. And guess what, healthcare costs continue to go up and premiums go up.

More and more Americans' health insurance is going to fall into this so-called Cadillac tax. There will be a 40 percent tax on those plans. The working men and women, who are part of a union or in the private sector and who have good, generous healthcare benefits, the Federal Government, the Democrat-driven plan that is totally partisan passed, it says, we are going to whack you with a 40 percent tax. How fair is that, Madam Chair? I don't think it is. We have kept that tax from taking effect as Republicans. We will see what this Congress does.

But, moreover, we fully funded our community health centers. We, under Republicans, funded the children's health insurance program, a Republican creation, for a decade. I led that

effort. Most Democrats consistently voted against funding children's health insurance time and time again. It had never been funded for more than 5 years ever in its history. One hundred and twenty-two thousand, seven hundred Oregonian kids and pregnant moms get their health insurance through CHIP. It is a marvelous program. Republicans led the effort, because I did it. We first tried to get 5, then 6, and then eventually we got 10 years funded. That is locked into law.

We need to go back and fund our community health centers. I told people that if I were chairman, my palms would be getting a little sweaty now at the list of things we need to get done—I am looking at my friends.

In Oregon, in my district, I think we had 63 delivery sites and 12 community health centers. We fully funded those centers at a record level in the last Congress, because I believe fully in that network of the delivery of healthcare. It is extraordinarily important. We should be doing that today, but we are not.

We have got the National Health Service Corps, special diabetes programs for Indians, special diabetes programs for type I diabetes, teaching health centers, personal responsibility education programs, sexual risk avoidance education grants, and family-to-family health information centers. We have demo programs, increased access to dental healthcare services, and delay in authority to terminate contracts for Medicare Advantage plans. We have protection for recipients of HCBS against spousal impoverishment. We have demonstration of approved community behavioral health clinics, Medicaid funding for territories, delay in effective date for Medicaid amendments related to beneficiary liability settlements, DSH allotment, and money follows the person. All those expire at the end of this fiscal year. We have real work we need to get done, Madam Chair.

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

□ 1630

Ms. PORTER. Madam Chair, I yield 1 minute to the distinguished gentlewoman from California (Ms. PELOSI).

Ms. PELOSI. Madam Chair, I thank the gentlewoman for yielding, and I thank her for the constructive amendment and for her exceptional leadership as a leading Member of an outstanding freshman class.

I also thank Congressman PALLONE, chairman of the full committee, for giving us the opportunity to bring to the floor historic legislation that will make a tremendous difference in the lives of the American people.

Today, with the Protecting Americans with Preexisting Conditions Act, Democrats are honoring their promises to the American people.

Madam Chair, our Democratic majority ran on the promise to protect American families' quality, affordable healthcare.

We have now voted three times to oppose the GOP healthcare lawsuit, but every time, with every vote, House Republicans reveal their inconsistency and complicity with the administration's assault on people with preexisting conditions and every American's healthcare.

It was interesting to listen to the distinguished ranking member of the committee express his views when the fact is that, 2 years ago, House Republicans voted to gut protections for people with preexisting conditions and take away millions of families' healthcare, and they then threw a party to celebrate.

They went down to the White House and celebrated: We have taken away the preexisting conditions benefit.

The American people resoundingly rejected the Republicans' attack on their healthcare and their financial security, yet the GOP is plowing full steam ahead with their monstrous campaign to sabotage the Affordable Care Act and take away healthcare.

Just last week, the administration doubled down on its demands that the courts throw out every protection and benefit provided by the Affordable Care Act.

Again, over and over, we have had bills on the floor to invite the Republicans to join us in rejecting that Republican attack. Overwhelmingly, they have rejected that.

Today, again, we can celebrate that we are protecting Americans with preexisting conditions and honoring that promise we made to the American people, as I said.

The bill reverses a dangerous part of the Trump administration's reckless sabotage campaign, blocking cynical guidance to States. Here is what they do: dismantle protections for people with preexisting conditions and push families into junk plans that discriminate against people with preexisting conditions and do not cover essential benefits.

In fact, you are paying for nothing.

The Trump guidance puts lives on the line, not only sabotaging the healthcare law but the health of millions of Americans who rely on it.

Nearly 30 national groups representing people with preexisting conditions have spoken out, including the American Cancer Society, Cancer Action Network, American Heart Association, American Diabetes Association, American Lung Association, National Alliance on Mental Illness, Susan G. Komen, and many more.

They write, ''This dangerous action could take us back to the days when people with preexisting conditions were openly discriminated against and blatantly denied access to lifesaving care.''

These organizations, I want Ranking Member WALDEN to hear because he seemed to have been distracted, all these organizations for cancer, diabetes, heart, lung, mental health, all of that, they write, ''This dangerous action could take us back to the days when people with preexisting conditions were openly discriminated against and blatantly denied access to lifesaving care.''

We thank all the groups and families—including the sick little children, the Little Lobbyists—for their courage to speak out and show that this is a fight not just about legislation but about lives. Nothing is more eloquent than the stories that they tell, and many have told their stories here.

They had 10,000 events around the country to stop the Republicans' sabotage on healthcare, much of it from people with preexisting conditions, especially children born with preexisting conditions.

This bill that we have today is just the beginning. In the coming weeks, House Democrats will bring forth more bold legislation to reduce the price of prescription drugs, to empower States to build better exchanges, and to block junk plans and reverse the GOP's enrollment sabotage.

Senator MCCONNELL said that he is the grim reaper. He wears that as a badge of honor.

He is the grim reaper. He is going to kill any House legislation for the people, saying that he will bury our bills in the Senate graveyard, effectively. That is really not a very hopeful political agenda, the grim reaper.

I have news for him. Legislation to protect the preexisting condition benefit and many of the other pieces of this agenda are alive and well among the American people, and they will make their voices heard.

The American people want action, and the special interest GOP Senate needs to stop standing in their way, Leader MCCONNELL.

I urge a strong vote for this legislation for the people.

I commend the gentlewoman for her very important amendment. She said being a mom was a preexisting condition. As the mother of five, it is 6 years to the day when I talked to the insurance company about my bad back.

They said: Why would we even insure you? You are a poor risk, having had children.

I said: That is funny you say that. I thought it was a show of strength on my part to have five children. Are you calling that something that would be a barrier to my getting insurance?

I want to emphasize, as we approach Mother's Day, how important this particular amendment is to help moms and their families.

Madam Chair, I urge a ''yes'' vote on Congresswoman PORTER's important Mother's Day amendment.

Ms. PORTER. Madam Chair, I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentlewoman from California (Ms. PORTER).

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT NO. 9 OFFERED BY MR. PAPPAS

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 9 printed in part A of House Report 116–51.

Mr. PAPPAS. Madam Chair, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

In section 2, insert '', including any such action that would, with respect to individuals with substance use disorders, including opioid use disorders, reduce the availability or affordability of coverage that is at least as comprehensive as the coverage defined in section 1302(a) of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (42 U.S.C. 18022(a)) compared to the availability or affordability, respectively, of such coverage had such action not been taken'' after ''(October 24, 2018))''.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 357, the gentleman from New Hampshire (Mr. PAPPAS) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New Hampshire.

Mr. PAPPAS. Madam Chair, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Chair, I thank my colleague from New Hampshire, Representative KUSTER, for offering this legislation that will safeguard healthcare protections for the 130 million Americans with preexisting conditions.

The amendment I am offering today would ensure that we don't take any steps backward in our fight against this Nation's opioid epidemic.

For people in my home State of New Hampshire, the Affordable Care Act is a lifesaving law. It is the best tool we have to combat the opioid crisis. As I travel around my district, I hear heartbreaking stories of those lost and those still fighting hard.

I also hear from constituents who, on a regular basis, can't fathom where they would be without coverage for their substance use disorder.

I am here today on behalf of constituents like Phil Spagnuolo from Laconia. As Phil fought to recover from substance use disorder, he took comfort in knowing that he could rely on coverage that was affordable and accessible to him in the midst of the greatest medical challenge of his life.

Thanks to the Affordable Care Act, Phil has gone from jail to treatment and recovery to serving as a leader in the recovery community, coaching and advocating for those grappling with addiction.

New Hampshire is incredibly proud of his story and his example, and it is all made possible because of the ACA and its basic protections.

The collective impact of substance use disorder coverage has expanded treatment and recovery opportunities in New Hampshire and across the country.

Unfortunately, far too many still do not access this kind of lifesaving care. We still lose 130 Americans each and every day in their battle with opioid addiction.

The scope of this crisis is simply immense. No region, no community, no family has been spared.

Despite the alarming statistics, the administration issued guidance that would allow insurance companies to discriminate against Americans with preexisting conditions, including the 19.7 million Americans like Phil with a history of substance use.

That is why I am offering this amendment today, to strengthen the underlying legislation and prohibit any further actions to reduce the availability or affordability of coverage for those battling substance use disorder.

We should be working together to open the doors to those most in need, not shutting them because of politics.

I urge the adoption of this amendment, and I reserve the balance of my time, Madam Chair.

Mr. WALDEN. Madam Chair, I seek time in opposition to the amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Oregon is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. WALDEN. Madam Chair, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. PAPPAS. Madam Chair, I am willing to close if the gentleman from Oregon is, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. WALDEN. Actually, I believe I get to close, don't I?

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Oregon has the right to close.

Mr. WALDEN. That is what I thought.

Madam Chair, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. PAPPAS. Madam Chair, this is a critical issue. This is an important piece of legislation. I, for one, don't trust this administration to get it right.

They have tried every trick in the book they can to repeal the Affordable Care Act outright legislatively and to undermine it administratively. They have gone to the courts to take away critical protections from Americans who need them most. I, for one, am not going to stand for it.

The people of New Hampshire and of this country, we are ensuring that we get this right for them. It is very critical for those suffering from substance use disorder that we ensure those important protections remain on the books so that people can access care.

There is no more important tool in our toolbox than ensuring that people have health insurance to take care of their substance use disorder. That is why I brought forward this amendment today.

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

Mr. WALDEN. Madam Chair, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Section 1332 already requires that the State plan will provide coverage that is at least as comprehensive as the essential health benefits, including mental health and substance use disorder services. That is already required, including behavioral health treatment, and would provide coverage to at least a comparable number of its residents. That is already in the 1332 requirements.

I appreciate the gentleman's passion for dealing with the opioid epidemic. I led the effort that brought together Republicans and Democrats. We passed 60 different pieces of legislation. I think 57 of them, by the time we were done working together, passed unanimously in this House.

We bundled them up into H.R. 6 because we all know the Senate can't handle 57 or 60 different pieces of legislation, but they could handle one. The work we did here and the work they did there ended up in, I would argue, the Nation's most comprehensive legislation to address a drug problem our country has ever had. And that is our law.

The President of the United States, who was just disparaged here on the House floor, helped lead this effort because he passionately cares about the issue of addiction. He lost a brother, I believe, to alcoholism.

He was a leader, and his team were leaders, in this effort we put together on opioids. He invited Republicans and Democrats to the White House for the bill signing. Mrs. Trump helped organize all of that.

This legislation is comprehensive on opioids. It wasn't part of the ACA. You see, we can work together and improve underlying laws. We can address major problems facing the country when majorities want to do that. We did it last Congress under my leadership, and it was Republicans and Democrats. We didn't start out agreeing on some of these matters, but we ended up there, with just a couple of exceptions.

I sent my friend, Madam Chair, the chairman of the Energy and Commerce Committee today, a comprehensive list of kind of what we learned in the final phase of our investigation into how America ended up in the place it was with opioids. There are some additional recommendations that I hope and assume we will get to out of that investigative report that we concluded at the end of the year. Hopefully, we will get there.

I believe we need to do oversight on the legislation we passed. I have always felt that about bills we passed. We need to go take a second look.

□ 1645

What is working? What is not? We are not going to get it right the first time, and we always know there is more to do, and we need to do more on what was H.R. 6 in the last Congress, our opioids legislation.

Madam Chair, I am not opposed to the gentleman's amendment, and you have to say you are in order to get the time, I guess, but I am not.

I am fully committed to making sure that people with substance abuse disorders continue to get the help they need in our communities. That is what our whole legislative thrust was about last Congress and will remain there. As I say, section 1332 already requires that in these plans.

Again, remember what we are talking about here is States coming to the Federal Government saying: We have a

better idea to fill a gap, so people have affordable insurance. That is what a waiver is under 1332. And, I guess, I have more confidence in my State than others must have in theirs, but I think from my own experience, Republicans and Democrats work together in Oregon to get health insurance out, and coverage out, and expand access to care. I have always continued to try to do that.

I have faith that my State would do this. These plans we will hear more about next week, but they are regulated by State insurance commissioners. I am not in the school that says all of those people are bad and we are the only ones with a great idea. I want innovation. I want it from the States, and I want to drive down costs of healthcare while improving access and delivery of services.

So I am not opposed to the gentleman's amendment. I do hope we can address these issues of fully funding our community health centers, our National Health Service Corps, and these diabetes programs which we reauthorized and funded in the last Congress, and which we need to do again. They are called the Special Diabetes Program for Indians and Special Diabetes Program for type 1 diabetes.

We have got to get after that, too, Madam Chair. We have to find the money to do it. It is not easy. I know we have a lot of other things. I just wish we were doing those sorts of the things today because these programs expire in September, and we don't have that many legislative days left.

Hopefully, we can move on to the things I know we can agree on and find solutions for, and that we do it sooner rather than later.

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

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from New Hampshire (Mr. PAPPAS).

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT NO. 10 OFFERED BY MR. ROUDA

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 10 printed in part A of House Report 116–51.

Mr. ROUDA. Madam Chair, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

In section 2, insert '', including any such action that would result, with respect to vulnerable populations (including low-income individuals, elderly individuals, and individuals with serious health issues or who have a greater risk of developing serious health issues), in a decrease in the availability of coverage that is at least as comprehensive as the coverage defined in section 1302(a) of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (42 U.S.C. 18022(a)) with coverage and cost sharing protections required under section 1332(b)(1)(B) of such Act (42 U.S.C. 18052(b)(1)(B))'' after ''(October 24, 2018))''.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 357, the gentleman from California (Mr. ROUDA) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California.

Mr. ROUDA. Madam Chairwoman, 9 years ago our Nation took a monumental step forward to address the needs of millions of Americans with a preexisting condition. Before the passage of the Affordable Care Act, individuals across the country were denied coverage or charged higher premiums due to their medical history.

While I came to Washington to protect our healthcare, the Trump administration has continued its assault on the Affordable Care Act. In this case, the administration is trying to use an ACA provision designed to give States the ability to test new insurance reforms that could improve the wellbeing of their residents, but, instead, that provision is being used to undermine protections for people with preexisting conditions and the coverage of essential health benefits, all in an effort to prop up junk, short-term insurance plans.

Today, we will stand up to that assault on America's healthcare by passing H.R. 986, to nullify these efforts. We must be clear that any future administrative actions by this administration or any other administration should not harm the vulnerable populations that the Affordable Care Act was designed to protect.

To that end, my amendment would prohibit any future rule or guidance from diminishing the Affordable Care Act that would result in reduction in the availability, affordability, and comprehensiveness for people with preexisting conditions, the elderly and low-income individuals.

My amendment would affirm these critical guardrails that protect the care of so many Americans across our country and help strengthen and uphold the principles of this landmark law.

I would like to thank Chairman PALLONE, Chairman NEAL, and their respective staff for their assistance with this amendment.

I ask my colleagues to join me in supporting this amendment to ensure that this and future administrations do not undermine the healthcare of vulnerable populations.

Madam Chair, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. WALDEN. Madam Chairwoman, I seek time in opposition to the gentleman's amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Oregon is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. WALDEN. Madam Chair, I am not opposed to the gentleman's amendment, but I am happy to speak on it.

Again, section 1332 already requires that the State plan, the one they submit, will provide coverage that is at least as comprehensive as the essential health benefits, including mental health and substance use disorder services, including behavioral health treatment, and will provide coverage to at least a comparable number of its residents.

Madam Chair, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. ROUDA. Madam Chairwoman, we are at a crossroads in our country. When we look at the global stage, there are approximately 200 countries, of which 40 are industrialized, developed countries. Of those 40 industrialized, developed countries, 39 of them have universal healthcare. Only one does not, the wealthiest, greatest country in the history of the world. That is why we have tens of millions of individuals in our country without insurance.

We know that preexisting conditions have to be covered because when we look at the fact that this country spends 18.5 percent of its GDP on healthcare, almost double what these other industrialized, developed countries spend, you would think the United States of America has the healthiest people in the world.

Madam Chairwoman, that is not the case. I am sad to report that most critical criteria when looking at Americans' healthcare, we are in the bottom quartile, even though we spend 18.5 percent of our GDP. We know that the inability to pay healthcare costs is a leading cause of involuntary bankruptcy and homelessness.

Preexisting conditions is the underlying reason for those two things. That is why we must make sure that we protect affordable healthcare in the United States through the act, and make sure that preexisting conditions are covered today and tomorrow for future generations.

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

Mr. WALDEN. Madam Chairwoman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Chair, I just want to go back to what is going on in America's healthcare costs and look at some of what is going on elsewhere around the world.

First of all, I would draw the Member's attention to the Kaiser Foundation report that Axios reported on about people who have health insurance and still can't afford to use it. They talked about just over half of those with employer coverage have some sort of chronic disease, so they have health insurance. But the deductibles which are at $3,000 to $5,000 are so high that three-quarters of the people reported skipping or postponing some type of care. Half, 49 percent, said that a family member had a problem paying medical bills or difficulty affording their premiums, deductibles, or copays in the last year.

What we are trying to do is help those people in the individual market, and we would love to help those people in the market that employer-provided health insurance is in as well, and put downward pressure on pricing, and go after the cost of healthcare from one end to the other.

Now, the gentleman from California, I believe, has talked about going to a, I guess, government-run, single-payer system. I have got two veterans that work virtually full time helping veterans in Oregon's Second District get access to a similar sort of system. You know of it as the VA. Think about the problems we have with that government-run, single, sort of, payer-operated system.

If you get in, I have veterans saying: It is great. I have got coverage. But it is people who have to wait 6 months to get eyeglasses at one point, or they can't get in to get their surgery done. And we are working with thousands of veterans that have to come to their Member of Congress to be able to get access to the healthcare they were promised when they put on the Nation's uniform.

We have that system in place, and it has incredible problems in wait time, so I had to create the Choice Program and everything else.

Then I was intrigued by a story about a woman in Nova Scotia who is 33 years old. She is under one of those systems my friend wants for us, I guess. After three trips to the emergency room, they just never would believe her and her problem and see her, and she couldn't get access to doctors. When she finally did, her anal cancer had progressed to stage III.

Now, at 33, she is in menopause, she writes. She had a Facebook post recently wanting to meet with the Premier to explain how broken their healthcare system is.

We all know stories about Canadians who come across the border who can afford to get their healthcare done here because they can get it done sooner. We all know of stories in other countries where they have global budgets, and when they run out, you are done. I have had people tell me the little secret is: Get sick before June because they are going to run out and you won't get in. That is what is going on around the world.

And I think, in many measures, when people are especially sick, if they have the money, they come to the United States for care. They go to MD Anderson Cancer Center, and they go to the Mayo Clinic.

Those are the folks who come to America. What I want is the MD Andersons and the Mayo Clinics, and the Oregon and Health & Science Universities to be affordable and available to all Americans.

We had a hearing today—I think it was pretty good—on drug pricing, following up on what I did 2 years ago looking at the manufacturers, the PBMs, the distributors, and the insurers. Everybody wants a piece of this. Everybody is getting a chunk. The result is, we have a healthcare system that costs too much. So let's go figure that out.

That is what innovation is about, and that is what our States can do in their wonderful laboratories. Some of them will do really good things, and some of them will make mistakes and learn from it. We should pick the best from among the States. That is what we are looking for here in these 1332 waivers is some flexibility for our States to innovate.

I believe our States and my colleagues—and by the way, Oregon is completely Democrat controlled—but they care about citizens of the State of Oregon, and so does the insurance commissioner, and they are only going to ask for permission for a plan that will be better than what the Federal Government is trying to jam down their throat in a one-size-fits-all.

So I don't object to the gentleman's amendment. I think we can do better by harnessing great innovation. We do it in medicine, and we do it everywhere else. We have competitive insurance products for a lot of other things we buy, and I would like to see more options, more choice, more transparency in healthcare, and more consumer involvement.

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

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. ROUDA).

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT NO. 11 OFFERED BY MR. MALINOWSKI

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 11 printed in part A of House Report 116–51.

Mr. MALINOWSKI. Madam Chair, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

In section 2, insert '', including any such action that would, with respect to individuals with preexisting conditions, reduce the affordability of coverage that is at least as comprehensive as the coverage defined in section 1302(a) of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (42 U.S.C. 18022(a)) compared to the affordability of such coverage had such action not been taken'' after ''(October 24, 2018))''.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 357, the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. MALINOWSKI) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New Jersey.

Mr. MALINOWSKI. Madam Chairwoman, there are many problems in our healthcare system. We have heard about a number of them today, but we are here for one simple, specific reason, because of the guidance that the administration issued last year that allows States to expand the availability and duration of junk, short-term insurance plans.

Now, the administration and its defenders will not say this because it has become politically impossible to do so, but these plans are cheaper precisely because they deny coverage to people with preexisting conditions and for, what any reasonable person would agree are essential benefits, like maternity care and prescription drugs.

That is what they mean when they use the euphemism ''flexibility.'' Will these plans take hold? Here is what happens, in plain language, if you have a preexisting condition. You have a choice. Either stay in your ACA plan and see your premiums rise as healthy people move to cheaper, junk insurance, or you sign up for a junk plan yourself and risk getting gouged when the services you need aren't covered.

You end up with a two-tiered healthcare system in America: one for healthy people, and one for sick people. Now, the underlying bill rescinds that guidance. The amendment I have submitted would prohibit the administration from taking any other action that would reduce the affordability of comprehensive coverage for Americans with preexisting conditions.

□ 1700

Now, this would not in any way prevent States from using section 1332 waivers to make healthcare better and more affordable. Many States, as we have heard, have done so in ways that have lowered health insurance premiums without, in any way, undermining protections for people with preexisting conditions.

Yes, section 1332 has a clear directive that States must maintain the benefits, affordability, and coverage provided by the ACA, but it is clear that the administration has disregarded these standards and could do so again to remove protections for vulnerable groups, to promote expansion of health plans that are not compliant with the ACA, and to take other steps that would increase costs, especially for women and older adults.

This amendment, along with the overall bill, makes sure that we keep our promise to the American people. It makes clear that, when we say we are going to protect everyone with a preexisting condition, that is not an empty slogan that means whatever we want it to mean. Those words mean something, that every American deserves quality health insurance, and no American should be forced to pay more for good coverage because of a preexisting health problem.

Madam Chair, that is what H.R. 986 and my amendment guarantee. I urge my colleagues to support both, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. WALDEN. Madam Chair, I claim the time in opposition to the gentleman's amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Oregon is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. WALDEN. Madam Chair, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. MALINOWSKI. Madam Chair, I will close by saying there is no question whatsoever what the administration intends to do. They have been trying from day one, from January 2017, to repeal the Affordable Care Act and its essential protections for the American people.

The only thing that has changed is that it has become politically impossible for anyone in America to say that

you are opposed to protecting people with preexisting conditions, and so a war against healthcare protections is being covered up by a war against the English language.

Everyone says, ''We are for preexisting conditions,'' yet every single step the administration and its supporters take is designed to weaken those protections. This amendment and the underlying bill say that you can't do that anymore. They guarantee, going forward, that the ACA's protections are respected and that any experimentation by the States will have to be consistent with those protections.

Madam Chair, I urge my colleagues' support for the amendment and the bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. WALDEN. Madam Chair, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Chair, I do not oppose this amendment because this amendment does not do anything the law already, I think, requires.

Section 1332 does not permit States to waive preexisting condition protections. Section 1332 already requires that the State plan will provide coverage that is at least as comprehensive as the essential health benefits and will provide coverage and cost-sharing protections against excessive out-of-pocket spending. That is what the underlying law already does.

We have the assurance from the CMS Administrator saying, once again, to be clear: ''The 2018 guidance does nothing to erode the PPACA's preexisting condition provisions, which cannot be waived under section 1332.''

She is the one who makes the decision.

By the way, I would just point out that no State has come to the Trump administration under this new authority that we are aware of and said: ''Please approve our plan.''

Junk plans—and we will hear more about that term of art. By the way, those junk plans were allowed for under the Obama administration and under the ACA. At that time, they were only allowed for 3 months. There seemed to be a lot of interest in a variety of options for citizens to take advantage of that covered their needs.

So the Trump administration said, well, if they are good for 3 months, what if we extend them to 12 months or just at 12 months? That is what they did. They were junk plans under Trump; they were wonderful options under Obama. It is the same set of plans.

You can always go on the exchange, and you can always find other coverage that fits your need. We are trying to not have just one plan that nobody can afford. That is what you are seeing in this situation that Ms. Seema Verma put forward, Madam Chair, the head of the CMS, the Administrator for the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services.

She uses, as an example, this situation in Grand Island, Nebraska. It is not Oregon; it is Nebraska. A $70,000-a-year, 60-year-old couple are paying $38,000 a year for their insurance with an $11,100 deductible. Now, how is that affordable? Does anybody in here think that is a great idea?

That is what you are saying: Don't innovate. We have got it covered. The ACA has it covered. There is no need for innovation here, nothing to see. The plan works great.

Then we know, from the Kaiser Foundation study, people are saying: I can't afford it. So I will jack up my credit card, and I will wipe out my savings.

All this is going on. The ACA did not solve every problem. It expanded coverage. You can't help but do that, spend that much money. States like mine took full advantage of it. But we are left with these pockets and problems in America that I think States could assist us in if we gave them expanded authority under 1332 waivers to say: Hey, guess what, Washington? We have a better idea here. Here it is. Take a look at it, and make sure it fits the Federal guidelines and law, but let us innovate.

Oregon did that. Under the prior 1332 approval process, insurance rates went down 6 percent; Wisconsin down 10.6; New Jersey, 15; Maryland, 43; Maine, 9.4; Minnesota, 20; Alaska, 34.7. Using this sort of ''Mother May I'' approval, that is what you have to do.

I remember when Oregon did the Oregon health plan. I was in the State legislature then, and we had to plead and beg with the administration at the time to get approval to try and experiment on Medicaid coverage to expand coverage and improve access to care. We couldn't do it without Mother Washington, Father Washington, or Brother Washington, whoever, back here, saying: Yeah, okay. We will let you try that.

We should be in partnerships with our States.

By the way, States can pass a law and say: We are not going down this path. They have every right to do it. New Jersey has done it, and California has done it: None of these short-term duration plans, we are not going to be a part of that.

Every State has that right. But there are a lot of States that look at their citizens and say: $38,000 a year for your insurance and $11,000 for your deductible; you are making $70,000; you are 60 years old. That is not working real well either. So maybe we can find a product that would work for you and help you out.

So we are talking about a range of options and choices. America has always done well and markets do better when we have more choices. That is what we are talking about here.

The gentleman's amendment I don't object to at all. I think it is the underlying law as described by the head of the Department who would have to approve all these 1332 waivers.

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

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. MALINOWSKI).

The question was taken; and the Acting Chair announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mr. MALINOWSKI. Madam Chair, I demand a recorded vote.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, further proceedings on the amendment offered by the gentleman from New Jersey will be postponed.

AMENDMENT NO. 12 OFFERED BY MS. WILD

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 12 printed in part A of House Report 116–51.

Ms. WILD. Madam Chair, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Page 3, line 16, insert after ''2018)),'' the following: ''including any such action that would result in higher health insurance premiums for individuals enrolled in health insurance coverage that is at least as comprehensive as the coverage defined in section 1302(b) of such Act (42 U.S.C. 18022(b)),''.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 357, the gentlewoman from Pennsylvania (Ms. WILD) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Pennsylvania.

Ms. WILD. Madam Chair, I rise today to offer an amendment to H.R. 986, the Protecting Americans with Preexisting Conditions Act of 2019.

My amendment would put an end to the rising cost of premiums. It is an amendment that should be met with overwhelming bipartisan support and without opposition.

Specifically, my amendment would prohibit the administration from taking any further action that would result in higher premiums for Americans who need comprehensive coverage.

This administration has unilaterally made healthcare more expensive and less accessible for the American people by taking actions that run contrary to the spirit and purpose of the ACA. That has resulted in higher premiums and reduced enrollment.

In 2017, the administration stopped cost-sharing payments that helped reduce out-of-pocket costs for low-income Americans. This action alone increased premiums by 20 percent and raised costs for families not receiving subsidies.

In 2018, the administration issued new section 1332 guidance that allows States to raise healthcare costs for people with preexisting conditions. This 2018 guidance also gave a green light to insurance companies to expand junk plans that don't cover essential health benefits. We know that pulling people out of the pool only makes insurance premiums more expensive for those with preexisting conditions.

Also, in 2018, the administration slashed funding for consumer enrollment assistance and outreach. Their

goal: reduced healthcare enrollment; the result: higher premiums.

Just last month, the administration finalized a rule that would increase limits on total out-of-pocket costs for millions. The administration moved forward with this even though the rule itself noted that all commenters on this topic expressed opposition to or concerns about the proposed change.

This past Monday, the administration released a notice seeking comment on a proposal that would reduce eligibility for Medicaid and cut premium tax credits for millions.

It is time to say ''no'' to future attempts to sabotage working Americans' healthcare.

Madam Chair, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. WALDEN. Madam Chair, I claim the time in opposition to the gentlewoman's amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Oregon is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. WALDEN. Madam Chair, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. WILD. Madam Chairman, my amendment is about fairness. Patients should not face increased premiums at the whim of appointed government officials, especially for essential health benefits like emergency services, maternity, newborn, pediatric care, mental health and substance abuse treatment, prescription drugs, laboratory services, and preventive and wellness services for chronic disease management.

From malicious lawsuits aimed at striking down the ACA in its entirety and, along with it, the protections for preexisting conditions to ending the practice of public advertisement of enrollment period and educating the people about the complexities of health insurance, it has become clear that Congress must reclaim its legislative authority and ensure that this administration faithfully executes the spirit of this law.

The ACA is the law. The Constitution gives Congress the power to make laws and requires the executive branch to faithfully execute the laws that Congress passes.

We all heard Republicans on the campaign trail last year say that they would protect coverage for preexisting conditions and help drive down our premiums. This is their chance to fulfill those campaign promises with concrete action.

Action, not words, is what the American people demand, and it is what they deserve. Let's make that commitment a reality by adopting this amendment, passing this bill, and pushing the Senate to take it up so that we can get it signed into law.

In closing, Madam Chair, this is about standing up for the dignity of working families in the most basic and fundamental sense. It is about saying that every child, woman, man, and family in this country deserves the same certainty of being able to afford high-quality healthcare.

Our people deserve better. We need to stop the political gamesmanship, and we need to focus on people across our country who need good, affordable healthcare right now.

This is also our chance to remind this administration and future administrations that Congress makes the laws, and the executive branch doesn't get to fool around with the implementation just to see it fail for political reasons.

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

Mr. WALDEN. Madam Chair, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Chair, let's talk about this amendment.

I have talked earlier about all the things that need to be reauthorized—community health centers, special diabetes programs, all of that which I know the committee is aware of and I hope we begin marking. I wish we were dealing with that today.

I heard from the gentlewoman about Republicans and preexisting conditions and ''Where is your plan?'' It is sitting up in the Rules Committee because your party would not allow my amendment to do that and to be brought to the floor for debate today. I don't control the Rules Committee. It is 2 to 1 by the majority. It is just the way it works around here, and I respect that.

But you allowed my amendments that were more in jest about the false nature of the title of the bill to be debated but not the substantive amendment I offered which does protect people with preexisting conditions in case the lawsuit were to prevail and ObamaCare is thrown out. But, no, we couldn't have that debate.

I have asked for my bill to be considered in the committee of jurisdiction. That hasn't happened either.

I have also asked for the Democrats' one-size-fits-all takeover of healthcare, Medicare for All, however you want to describe it, that we have a hearing in Energy and Commerce. That hasn't happened either. We are the committee of jurisdiction.

You talk about working people. It is ObamaCare that puts a 40 percent tax on union plans and employer plans that exceed a certain level of costs, and they don't index it. Now, I don't know where the gentlewoman is on the Cadillac tax, but I want to repeal it. I never voted for it.

□ 1715

So, if they want to enshrine the Affordable Care Act in its entirety and make no changes, then I guess they are for a 40 percent tax on the kind of insurance plans that my building tradespeople negotiated to get—and other unions—instead of getting wage increases.

We have delayed that.

And when we look at the cuts in the Affordable Care Act coming at our hospitals in rural areas that serve lower-income areas, the DSH payments, we put off those cuts to our hospitals—last cycle—under Republican leadership. And we are going to face that question in this Congress under Democrat leadership.

So, a vote to delay those DSH cuts again—if one does that—is voting to repeal or delay part of ObamaCare.

I hear 60, 70 votes to do these things to ObamaCare—repeal the CLASS Act, which was a long-term health insurance program that was destined for failure, and even President Obama signed its repeal.

I can go through a whole list of things that got repealed. We are the only ones who ever get tagged with voting to repeal.

As far as our commitment to preexisting conditions protection: It is real, it is robust, and it was always in everything we did.

Yeah, I know what the political rhetoric was. I have run campaigns. I have been around that. I know how you can nuance around. But we always protected people with preexisting conditions—always, period, hard stop. Protected people with preexisting conditions, in what came out of my committee and came across this House floor, they were always covered—always.

So I hear the political rhetoric, but I know the facts. See, I am an old journalism major, and I believe in facts.

The facts of the matter are that 1332 waivers have given our States an opportunity to give our citizens an affordable health insurance plan, not one that I guess they will defend—$38,000 a year in premiums, $11,000 a year in deductibles, copays, out-of-pocket costs.

How is that working for anybody?

And shouldn't that 60-year-old couple in Nebraska have a chance to have a better plan option? Nope, guess not. Washington is going to decide it all for you. Write your check: 38 grand. That is for the premiums. And $11,000 in out-of-pocket costs, your deductibles. Then maybe you can get something covered, right?

Well, what is left? We know from this Kaiser study I have cited earlier that was in Axios: People wipe out their savings. They put it on their credit cards. They borrow from their friends. Or they simply don't get coverage.

That is the world they want to freeze-frame and leave in place. That is not what the Republicans are for. We want innovation. We want choice. We believe in our States having the opportunity to innovate and do it even better, not to go back to the old ways. No. That is not what we are for. I know that is what Democrats want to label us as being for, but it is not true.

And we have proven results in opioids; Community Health Centers; the longest funding for Children's Health Insurance Program in the history of the United States of America, under Republican leadership—10 years.

We are the ones, Republicans, who led the effort to invest in medical research at unprecedented rates under

what FRED UPTON put forward and what Newt Gingrich put forward.

Mr. WALDEN. Madam Chair, I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentlewoman from Pennsylvania (Ms. WILD).

The question was taken; and the Acting Chair announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Ms. WILD. Madam Chair, I demand a recorded vote.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, further proceedings on the amendment offered by the gentlewoman from Pennsylvania will be postponed.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE ACTING CHAIR

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, proceedings will now resume on those amendments printed in part A of House Report 116–51 on which further proceedings were postponed, in the following order:

Amendment No. 2 by Mr. BROWN of Maryland.

Amendment No. 7 by Mr. HOLDING of North Carolina.

Amendment No. 11 by Mr. MALINOWSKI of New Jersey.

Amendment No. 12 by Ms. WILD of Pennsylvania.

The Chair will reduce to 2 minutes the minimum time for any electronic vote after the first vote in this series.

AMENDMENT NO. 2 OFFERED BY MR. BROWN OF MARYLAND

The Acting CHAIR. The unfinished business is the demand for a recorded vote on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. BROWN) on which further proceedings were postponed and on which the ayes prevailed by voice vote.

The Clerk will redesignate the amendment.

The Clerk redesignated the amendment.

RECORDED VOTE

The Acting CHAIR. A recorded vote has been demanded.

A recorded vote was ordered.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 351, noes 70, not voting 16, as follows:

[Roll No. 191]

AYES—351

Adams
Aguilar
Allred
Amodei
Armstrong
Arrington
Axne
Bacon
Baird
Balderson
Barr
Barragán
Beatty
Bera
Bergman
Beyer
Bilirakis
Bishop (GA)
Blumenauer
Blunt Rochester
Bonamici
Bost
Boyle, Brendan F.
Brady
Brindisi
Brooks (IN)
Brown (MD)
Brownley (CA)
Buchanan
Bucshon
Burgess
Bustos
Butterfield
Calvert
Carbajal
Carson (IN)
Cartwright
Case
Casten (IL)
Castor (FL)
Castro (TX)
Chabot
Chu, Judy
Cicilline
Cisneros
Clark (MA)
Clarke (NY)
Clay
Cleaver
Clyburn
Cohen
Cole
Collins (NY)
Conaway
Connolly
Cooper
Correa
Costa
Courtney
Cox (CA)
Craig
Crawford
Crenshaw
Crist
Crow
Cuellar
Cunningham
Curtis
Davids (KS)
Davis (CA)
Davis, Danny K.
Davis, Rodney
Dean
DeFazio
DeGette
DeLauro
DelBene
Delgado
Demings
DeSaulnier
Deutch
Diaz-Balart
Dingell
Doggett
Doyle, Michael F.
Dunn
Engel
Escobar
Eshoo
Espaillat
Evans
Finkenauer
Fitzpatrick
Fleischmann
Fletcher
Flores
Fortenberry
Foster
Foxx (NC)
Frankel
Fudge
Gabbard
Gallagher
Gallego
Garamendi
García (IL)
Garcia (TX)
Gianforte
Gibbs
Golden
Gomez
Gonzalez (OH)
Gonzalez (TX)
González-Colón (PR)
Gottheimer
Graves (LA)
Graves (MO)
Green (TX)
Griffith
Grijalva
Grothman
Guest
Guthrie
Haaland
Hagedorn
Harder (CA)
Hartzler
Hastings
Hayes
Heck
Herrera Beutler
Higgins (NY)
Hill (AR)
Hill (CA)
Himes
Holding
Hollingsworth
Horn, Kendra S.
Horsford
Houlahan
Hoyer
Hudson
Huffman
Hunter
Hurd (TX)
Jackson Lee
Jayapal
Jeffries
Johnson (GA)
Johnson (OH)
Johnson (SD)
Johnson (TX)
Joyce (OH)
Joyce (PA)
Kaptur
Katko
Keating
Kelly (IL)
Kelly (PA)
Kennedy
Khanna
Kildee
Kilmer
Kim
Kind
King (IA)
King (NY)
Kinzinger
Kirkpatrick
Krishnamoorthi
Kuster (NH)
Kustoff (TN)
LaHood
LaMalfa
Lamb
Langevin
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Latta
Lawrence
Lawson (FL)
Lee (CA)
Lee (NV)
Lesko
Levin (CA)
Levin (MI)
Lewis
Lieu, Ted
Lipinski
Loebsack
Lofgren
Long
Lowenthal
Lowey
Lucas
Luetkemeyer
Luján
Luria
Lynch
Malinowski
Maloney, Carolyn B.
Maloney, Sean
Marchant
Marshall
Matsui
McAdams
McBath
McCarthy
McCaul
McCollum
McEachin
McGovern
McHenry
McKinley
McNerney
Meeks
Meng
Meuser
Miller
Moolenaar
Moore
Morelle
Moulton
Mucarsel-Powell
Mullin
Murphy
Nadler
Napolitano
Neal
Neguse
Newhouse
Norcross
Norton
Nunes
O'Halleran
Ocasio-Cortez
Omar
Pallone
Panetta
Pappas
Pascrell
Payne
Perlmutter
Peters
Peterson
Phillips
Plaskett
Pocan
Porter
Pressley
Price (NC)
Quigley
Radewagen
Raskin
Reed
Reschenthaler
Rice (NY)
Rice (SC)
Rodgers (WA)
Roe, David P.
Rogers (KY)
Rose (NY)
Rose, John W.
Rouda
Rouzer
Roybal-Allard
Ruiz
Ruppersberger
Rush
Rutherford
Sablan
Sánchez
Sarbanes
Scanlon
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schneider
Schrader
Schrier
Schweikert
Scott (VA)
Scott, Austin
Scott, David
Sensenbrenner
Serrano
Sewell (AL)
Shalala
Sherman
Sherrill
Shimkus
Simpson
Sires
Slotkin
Smith (MO)
Smith (NJ)
Smith (WA)
Smucker
Soto
Spanberger
Spano
Speier
Stanton
Stauber
Stefanik
Steil
Stevens
Stivers
Suozzi
Takano
Taylor
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Thompson (PA)
Thornberry
Timmons
Tipton
Titus
Tlaib
Tonko
Torres (CA)
Torres Small (NM)
Trahan
Trone
Turner
Underwood
Upton
Van Drew
Vargas
Veasey
Vela
Velázquez
Visclosky
Wagner
Walberg
Walden
Wasserman Schultz
Waters
Watkins
Watson Coleman
Webster (FL)
Welch
Westerman
Wexton
Wild
Wilson (FL)
Wilson (SC)
Wittman
Womack
Yarmuth
Young
Zeldin

NOES—70

Aderholt
Allen
Amash
Babin
Banks
Biggs
Brooks (AL)
Buck
Budd
Burchett
Byrne
Carter (GA)
Carter (TX)
Cheney
Cline
Cloud
Collins (GA)
Comer
Cook
Davidson (OH)
DesJarlais
Duffy
Duncan
Estes
Ferguson
Fulcher
Gaetz
Gohmert
Gooden
Gosar
Granger
Graves (GA)
Green (TN)
Harris
Hern, Kevin
Hice (GA)
Higgins (LA)
Huizenga
Johnson (LA)
Jordan
Kelly (MS)
Lamborn
Loudermilk
Massie
Mast
McClintock
Meadows
Mitchell
Mooney (WV)
Norman
Palazzo
Palmer
Pence
Perry
Posey
Ratcliffe
Riggleman
Roby
Rogers (AL)
Roy
Scalise
Smith (NE)
Steube
Stewart
Walorski
Weber (TX)
Williams
Woodall
Wright
Yoho

NOT VOTING—16

Abraham
Bass
Bishop (UT)
Cárdenas
Cummings
Emmer
Olson
Pingree
Richmond
Rooney (FL)
Ryan
San Nicolas
Swalwell (CA)
Walker
Waltz
Wenstrup

□ 1744

Messrs. KELLY of Mississippi, SMITH of Nebraska, MAST, and CARTER of Georgia changed their vote from ''aye'' to ''no.''

Messrs. BUCSHON, BAIRD, WEBSTER of Florida, BACON, FLEISCHMANN, LONG, and KELLY of Pennsylvania changed their vote from ''no'' to ''aye.''

So the amendment was agreed to.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

AMENDMENT NO. 7 OFFERED BY MR. HOLDING

The Acting CHAIR. The unfinished business is the demand for a recorded vote on the amendment offered by the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. HOLDING) on which further proceedings were postponed and on which the noes prevailed by voice vote.

The Clerk will redesignate the amendment.

The Clerk redesignated the amendment.

RECORDED VOTE

The Acting CHAIR. A recorded vote has been demanded.

A recorded vote was ordered.

The Acting CHAIR. This will be a 2-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 184, noes 237, not voting 16, as follows:

[Roll No. 192]

AYES—184

Aderholt
Allen
Amodei
Armstrong
Arrington
Babin
Bacon
Baird
Balderson
Banks
Barr
Bergman
Biggs
Bilirakis
Bost
Brady
Brooks (AL)
Brooks (IN)
Buchanan
Buck
Bucshon
Budd
Burchett
Burgess
Byrne
Calvert
Carter (GA)
Carter (TX)
Chabot
Cheney
Cloud
Cole
Collins (GA)
Collins (NY)
Comer
Conaway
Cook
Crawford
Crenshaw
Curtis
Davidson (OH)
Davis, Rodney
DesJarlais
Diaz-Balart
Duffy
Duncan
Dunn
Estes
Ferguson
Fleischmann
Flores

Fortenberry
Foxx (NC)
Fulcher
Gaetz
Gallagher
Gianforte
Gibbs
Gohmert
Gonzalez (OH)
González-Colón (PR)
Gooden
Gosar
Granger
Graves (GA)
Graves (LA)
Graves (MO)
Green (TN)
Griffith
Grothman
Guthrie
Hagedorn
Harris
Hartzler
Hern, Kevin
Herrera Beutler
Hice (GA)
Hill (AR)
Holding
Hollingsworth
Hudson
Huizenga
Hunter
Hurd (TX)
Johnson (LA)
Johnson (OH)
Johnson (SD)
Jordan
Joyce (OH)
Joyce (PA)
Katko
Kelly (MS)
Kelly (PA)
King (IA)
King (NY)
Kinzinger
Kustoff (TN)
LaHood
LaMalfa
Lamborn
Latta
Lesko
Long
Loudermilk
Lucas
Luetkemeyer
Marchant
Marshall
Massie
Mast
McCarthy
McCaul
McClintock
McHenry
McKinley
Meadows
Meuser
Miller
Mitchell
Moolenaar
Mooney (WV)
Mullin
Newhouse
Norman
Nunes
Palazzo
Palmer
Pence
Perry
Posey
Radewagen
Ratcliffe
Reed
Reschenthaler
Rice (SC)
Riggleman
Roby
Rodgers (WA)
Roe, David P.
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rose, John W.
Rouzer
Rutherford
Scalise
Schweikert
Scott, Austin
Sensenbrenner
Shimkus
Simpson
Smith (MO)
Smith (NE)
Smucker
Spano
Stauber
Stefanik
Steil
Steube
Stewart
Stivers
Thompson (PA)
Thornberry
Timmons
Tipton
Turner
Upton
Wagner
Walberg
Walden
Walorski
Waltz
Watkins
Weber (TX)
Webster (FL)
Westerman
Williams
Wilson (SC)
Wittman
Womack
Woodall
Wright
Yoho
Young
Zeldin

NOES—237

Adams
Aguilar
Allred
Amash
Axne
Barragán
Beatty
Bera
Beyer
Bishop (GA)
Blumenauer
Blunt Rochester
Bonamici
Boyle, Brendan F.
Brindisi
Brown (MD)
Brownley (CA)
Bustos
Butterfield
Carbajal
Carson (IN)
Cartwright
Case
Casten (IL)
Castor (FL)
Castro (TX)
Chu, Judy
Cicilline
Cisneros
Clark (MA)
Clarke (NY)
Clay
Cleaver
Cline
Clyburn
Cohen
Connolly
Cooper
Correa
Costa
Courtney
Cox (CA)
Craig
Crist
Crow
Cuellar
Cunningham
Davids (KS)
Davis (CA)
Davis, Danny K.
Dean
DeFazio
DeGette
DeLauro
DelBene
Delgado
Demings
DeSaulnier
Deutch
Dingell
Doggett
Doyle, Michael F.
Engel
Escobar
Eshoo
Espaillat
Evans
Finkenauer
Fitzpatrick
Fletcher
Foster
Frankel
Fudge
Gallego
Garamendi
García (IL)
Garcia (TX)
Golden
Gomez
Gonzalez (TX)
Gottheimer
Green (TX)
Grijalva
Guest
Haaland
Harder (CA)
Hastings
Hayes
Heck
Higgins (LA)
Higgins (NY)
Hill (CA)
Himes
Horn, Kendra S.
Horsford
Houlahan
Hoyer
Huffman
Jackson Lee
Jayapal
Jeffries
Johnson (GA)
Johnson (TX)
Kaptur
Keating
Kelly (IL)
Kennedy
Khanna
Kildee
Kilmer
Kim
Kind
Kirkpatrick
Krishnamoorthi
Kuster (NH)
Lamb
Langevin
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Lawrence
Lawson (FL)
Lee (CA)
Lee (NV)
Levin (CA)
Levin (MI)
Lewis
Lieu, Ted
Lipinski
Loebsack
Lofgren
Lowenthal
Lowey
Luján
Luria
Lynch
Malinowski
Maloney, Carolyn B.
Maloney, Sean
Matsui
McAdams
McBath
McCollum
McEachin
McGovern
McNerney
Meeks
Meng
Moore
Morelle
Moulton
Mucarsel-Powell
Murphy
Nadler
Napolitano
Neal
Neguse
Norcross
Norton
O'Halleran
Ocasio-Cortez
Omar
Pallone
Panetta
Pappas
Pascrell
Payne
Perlmutter
Peters
Peterson
Phillips
Pingree
Plaskett
Pocan
Porter
Pressley
Price (NC)
Quigley
Raskin
Rice (NY)
Rose (NY)
Rouda
Roy
Roybal-Allard
Ruiz
Ruppersberger
Rush
Sablan
Sánchez
Sarbanes
Scanlon
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schneider
Schrader
Schrier
Scott (VA)
Scott, David
Serrano
Sewell (AL)
Shalala
Sherman
Sherrill
Sires
Slotkin
Smith (WA)
Soto
Spanberger
Speier
Stanton
Stevens
Suozzi
Takano
Taylor
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Titus
Tlaib
Tonko
Torres (CA)
Torres Small (NM)
Trahan
Trone
Underwood
Van Drew
Vargas
Veasey
Vela
Velázquez
Visclosky
Wasserman Schultz
Waters
Watson Coleman
Welch
Wexton
Wild
Wilson (FL)
Yarmuth

NOT VOTING—16

Abraham
Bass
Bishop (UT)
Cárdenas
Cummings
Emmer
Gabbard
Olson
Richmond
Rooney (FL)
Ryan
San Nicolas
Smith (NJ)
Swalwell (CA)
Walker
Wenstrup

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE ACTING CHAIR

The Acting CHAIR (during the vote). There is 1 minute remaining.

□ 1749

Messrs. RUSH, ROUDA, PHILLIPS, and Ms. MUCARSEL-POWELL changed their vote from ''aye'' to ''no.''

So the amendment was rejected.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

AMENDMENT NO. 11 OFFERED BY MR. MALINOWSKI

The Acting CHAIR. The unfinished business is the demand for a recorded vote on the amendment offered by the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. MALINOWSKI) on which further proceedings were postponed and on which the ayes prevailed by voice vote.

The Clerk will redesignate the amendment.

The Clerk redesignated the amendment.

RECORDED VOTE

The Acting CHAIR. A recorded vote has been demanded.

A recorded vote was ordered.

The Acting CHAIR. This will be a 2-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 302, noes 117, not voting 18, as follows:

[Roll No. 193]

AYES—302

Adams
Aguilar
Allred
Armstrong
Arrington
Axne
Bacon
Balderson
Barragán
Beatty
Bera
Beyer
Bilirakis
Bishop (GA)
Blumenauer
Blunt Rochester
Bonamici
Bost
Boyle, Brendan F.
Brindisi
Brooks (IN)
Brown (MD)
Brownley (CA)
Buchanan
Bucshon
Burgess
Bustos
Butterfield
Calvert
Carbajal
Carson (IN)
Carter (TX)
Cartwright
Case
Casten (IL)
Castor (FL)
Castro (TX)
Chabot
Chu, Judy
Cicilline
Cisneros
Clark (MA)
Clarke (NY)
Clay
Cleaver
Clyburn
Cohen
Cole
Collins (NY)
Comer
Connolly
Cook
Cooper
Correa
Costa
Courtney
Cox (CA)
Craig
Crenshaw
Crist
Crow
Cuellar
Cunningham
Davids (KS)
Davis (CA)
Davis, Danny K.
Davis, Rodney
Dean
DeFazio
DeGette
DeLauro
DelBene
Delgado
Demings
DeSaulnier
Deutch
Dingell
Doggett
Doyle, Michael F.
Engel
Escobar
Eshoo
Espaillat
Evans
Finkenauer
Fitzpatrick
Fletcher
Flores
Fortenberry
Foster
Frankel
Fudge
Gallagher
Gallego
Garamendi
García (IL)
Garcia (TX)
Gianforte
Gibbs
Golden
Gomez
Gonzalez (OH)
Gonzalez (TX)
González-Colón (PR)
Gottheimer
Graves (LA)
Graves (MO)
Green (TX)
Griffith
Grothman
Guest
Guthrie
Haaland
Hagedorn
Harder (CA)
Hartzler
Hastings
Hayes
Heck
Herrera Beutler
Higgins (NY)
Hill (CA)
Himes
Horn, Kendra S.
Horsford
Houlahan
Hoyer
Huffman
Hurd (TX)
Jackson Lee
Jayapal
Jeffries
Johnson (GA)
Johnson (OH)
Johnson (TX)
Joyce (OH)
Joyce (PA)
Kaptur
Katko
Keating
Kelly (IL)
Kennedy
Khanna
Kildee
Kilmer
Kim
Kind
King (NY)
Kinzinger
Kirkpatrick
Krishnamoorthi
Kuster (NH)
Lamb
Langevin
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Lawrence
Lawson (FL)
Lee (CA)
Lee (NV)
Levin (CA)
Levin (MI)
Lewis
Lieu, Ted
Lipinski
Loebsack
Lofgren
Long
Lowenthal
Lowey
Luetkemeyer
Luján
Luria
Lynch
Malinowski
Maloney, Carolyn B.
Maloney, Sean
Marshall
Matsui
McAdams
McBath
McCaul
McCollum
McEachin
McGovern
McHenry
McKinley
McNerney
Meeks
Meng
Moolenaar
Moore
Morelle
Moulton
Mucarsel-Powell
Murphy
Nadler
Napolitano
Neal
Neguse
Newhouse
Norcross
Norton
O'Halleran
Ocasio-Cortez
Omar
Pallone
Panetta
Pappas
Pascrell
Payne
Perlmutter
Peters
Peterson
Phillips
Pingree
Plaskett
Pocan
Porter
Pressley
Price (NC)
Quigley
Radewagen
Raskin
Reed
Rice (NY)
Rice (SC)
Rodgers (WA)
Rose (NY)
Rouda
Roybal-Allard
Ruiz
Ruppersberger
Rush
Sablan
Sánchez
Sarbanes
Scanlon
Schiff
Schneider
Schrader
Schrier
Scott (VA)
Scott, David
Serrano
Sewell (AL)
Shalala
Sherman
Sherrill
Shimkus
Sires
Slotkin
Smith (NJ)
Smith (WA)
Smucker
Soto
Spanberger
Spano
Speier
Stanton
Stauber
Stefanik
Steil
Stevens
Stivers
Suozzi
Takano
Taylor
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Thompson (PA)
Tipton
Titus
Tlaib
Tonko
Torres (CA)
Torres Small (NM)
Trahan
Trone
Turner
Underwood
Upton
Van Drew
Vargas
Veasey
Vela
Velázquez
Visclosky
Wagner
Walden
Waltz
Wasserman Schultz
Waters
Watkins
Watson Coleman
Welch
Wexton
Wild
Wilson (FL)
Yarmuth
Young
Zeldin

NOES—117

Aderholt
Allen
Amash
Amodei
Babin
Baird
Banks
Barr
Bergman
Biggs
Brady
Brooks (AL)
Buck
Budd
Burchett
Byrne
Carter (GA)
Cheney
Cline
Cloud
Collins (GA)
Conaway
Crawford
Curtis
Davidson (OH)
DesJarlais
Diaz-Balart
Duffy
Duncan
Dunn

Estes
Ferguson
Fleischmann
Foxx (NC)
Fulcher
Gaetz
Gohmert
Gooden
Gosar
Granger
Graves (GA)
Green (TN)
Harris
Hern, Kevin
Hice (GA)
Higgins (LA)
Hill (AR)
Holding
Hollingsworth
Hudson
Huizenga
Hunter
Johnson (LA)
Johnson (SD)
Jordan
Kelly (MS)
Kelly (PA)
King (IA)
Kustoff (TN)
LaHood
LaMalfa
Lamborn
Latta
Lesko
Loudermilk
Lucas
Marchant
Massie
Mast
McCarthy
McClintock
Meadows
Meuser
Miller
Mitchell
Mooney (WV)
Mullin
Norman
Nunes
Palazzo
Palmer
Pence
Perry
Posey
Ratcliffe
Reschenthaler
Riggleman
Roby
Roe, David P.
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rouzer
Roy
Rutherford
Scalise
Schweikert
Scott, Austin
Sensenbrenner
Simpson
Smith (MO)
Smith (NE)
Steube
Stewart
Thornberry
Timmons
Walberg
Walorski
Weber (TX)
Webster (FL)
Westerman
Williams
Wilson (SC)
Wittman
Womack
Woodall
Wright
Yoho

NOT VOTING—18

Abraham
Bass
Bishop (UT)
Cárdenas
Cummings
Emmer
Gabbard
Grijalva
Olson
Richmond
Rooney (FL)
Rose, John W.
Ryan
San Nicolas
Schakowsky
Swalwell (CA)
Walker
Wenstrup

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE ACTING CHAIR

The Acting CHAIR (during the vote). There is 1 minute remaining.

□ 1754

Messrs. STEWART and CURTIS changed their vote from ''aye'' to ''no.''

Mr. BUCHANAN changed his vote from ''no'' to ''aye.''

So the amendment was agreed to.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

AMENDMENT NO. 12 OFFERED BY MS. WILD

The Acting CHAIR. The unfinished business is the demand for a recorded vote on the amendment offered by the gentlewoman from Pennsylvania (Ms. WILD) on which further proceedings were postponed and on which the ayes prevailed by voice vote.

The Clerk will redesignate the amendment.

The Clerk redesignated the amendment.

RECORDED VOTE

The Acting CHAIR. A recorded vote has been demanded.

A recorded vote was ordered.

The Acting CHAIR. This will be a 2-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 308, noes 112, not voting 17, as follows:

[Roll No. 194]

AYES—308

Adams
Aguilar
Allred
Armstrong
Arrington
Axne
Bacon
Barragán
Beatty
Bera
Beyer
Bilirakis
Bishop (GA)
Blumenauer
Blunt Rochester
Bonamici
Bost
Boyle, Brendan F.
Brindisi
Brooks (IN)
Brown (MD)
Brownley (CA)
Buchanan
Burgess
Bustos
Butterfield
Calvert
Carbajal
Carson (IN)
Carter (TX)
Cartwright
Case
Casten (IL)
Castor (FL)
Castro (TX)
Chabot
Chu, Judy
Cicilline
Cisneros
Clark (MA)
Clarke (NY)
Clay
Cleaver
Clyburn
Cohen
Cole
Collins (NY)
Comer
Connolly
Cook
Cooper
Correa
Costa
Courtney
Cox (CA)
Craig
Crenshaw
Crist
Crow
Cuellar
Cunningham
Davids (KS)
Davis (CA)
Davis, Danny K.
Davis, Rodney
Dean
DeFazio
DeGette
DeLauro
DelBene
Delgado
Demings
DeSaulnier
Deutch
Diaz-Balart
Dingell
Doggett
Doyle, Michael F.
Engel
Escobar
Eshoo
Espaillat
Evans
Finkenauer
Fitzpatrick
Fletcher
Flores
Fortenberry
Foster
Frankel
Fudge
Gallagher
Gallego
Garamendi
García (IL)
Garcia (TX)
Gianforte
Golden
Gomez
Gonzalez (OH)
Gonzalez (TX)
González-Colón (PR)
Gottheimer
Graves (LA)
Graves (MO)
Green (TX)
Griffith
Grijalva
Grothman
Guthrie
Haaland
Hagedorn
Harder (CA)
Hartzler
Hastings
Hayes
Heck
Herrera Beutler
Higgins (NY)
Hill (CA)
Himes
Holding
Horn, Kendra S.
Horsford
Houlahan
Hoyer
Hudson
Huffman
Hunter
Hurd (TX)
Jackson Lee
Jayapal
Jeffries
Johnson (GA)
Johnson (OH)
Johnson (TX)
Joyce (OH)
Joyce (PA)
Kaptur
Katko
Keating
Kelly (IL)
Kennedy
Khanna
Kildee
Kilmer
Kim
Kind
King (NY)
Kinzinger
Kirkpatrick
Krishnamoorthi
Kuster (NH)
Lamb
Langevin
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Lawrence
Lawson (FL)
Lee (CA)
Lee (NV)
Levin (CA)
Levin (MI)
Lewis
Lieu, Ted
Lipinski
Loebsack
Lofgren
Long
Lowenthal
Lowey
Luetkemeyer
Luján
Luria
Lynch
Malinowski
Maloney, Carolyn B.
Maloney, Sean
Marshall
Matsui
McAdams
McBath
McCaul
McCollum
McEachin
McGovern
McHenry
McKinley
McNerney
Meeks
Meng
Mitchell
Moolenaar
Moore
Morelle
Moulton
Mucarsel-Powell
Murphy
Nadler
Napolitano
Neal
Neguse
Newhouse
Norcross
Norton
O'Halleran
Ocasio-Cortez
Omar
Pallone
Palmer
Panetta
Pappas
Pascrell
Payne
Perlmutter
Peters
Peterson
Phillips
Pingree
Plaskett
Pocan
Porter
Pressley
Price (NC)
Quigley
Radewagen
Raskin
Reed
Rice (NY)
Rice (SC)
Rodgers (WA)
Rose (NY)
Rouda
Rouzer
Roybal-Allard
Ruiz
Ruppersberger
Rush
Sablan
Sánchez
Sarbanes
Scanlon
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schneider
Schrader
Schrier
Scott (VA)
Scott, Austin
Scott, David
Sensenbrenner
Serrano
Sewell (AL)
Shalala
Sherman
Sherrill
Shimkus
Sires
Slotkin
Smith (NJ)
Smith (WA)
Smucker
Soto
Spanberger
Spano
Speier
Stanton
Stefanik
Steil
Stevens
Stivers
Suozzi
Takano
Taylor
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Thompson (PA)
Titus
Tlaib
Tonko
Torres (CA)
Torres Small (NM)
Trahan
Trone
Turner
Underwood
Upton
Van Drew
Vargas
Veasey
Vela
Velázquez
Visclosky
Wagner
Walden
Waltz
Wasserman Schultz
Waters
Watkins
Watson Coleman
Welch
Wexton
Wild
Wilson (FL)
Wilson (SC)
Yarmuth
Young
Zeldin

NOES—112

Aderholt
Allen
Amash
Amodei
Babin
Baird
Balderson
Banks
Barr
Bergman
Biggs
Brady
Brooks (AL)
Buck
Bucshon
Budd
Burchett
Byrne
Carter (GA)
Cheney
Cline
Cloud
Collins (GA)
Conaway
Crawford
Curtis
Davidson (OH)
DesJarlais
Duffy
Duncan
Dunn
Estes
Ferguson
Fleischmann
Foxx (NC)
Fulcher
Gaetz
Gibbs
Gohmert
Gooden
Gosar
Granger
Graves (GA)
Green (TN)
Guest
Harris
Hern, Kevin
Hice (GA)
Higgins (LA)
Hill (AR)
Hollingsworth
Huizenga
Johnson (LA)
Johnson (SD)
Jordan
Kelly (MS)
Kelly (PA)
King (IA)
Kustoff (TN)
LaHood
LaMalfa
Lamborn
Latta
Lesko
Loudermilk
Lucas
Marchant
Massie
Mast
McCarthy
McClintock
Meadows
Meuser
Miller
Mooney (WV)
Mullin
Norman
Palazzo
Pence
Perry
Posey
Reschenthaler
Riggleman
Roby
Roe, David P.
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rose, John W.
Roy
Rutherford
Scalise
Schweikert
Simpson
Smith (MO)
Smith (NE)
Stauber
Steube
Stewart
Thornberry
Timmons
Tipton
Walberg
Walorski
Weber (TX)
Webster (FL)
Westerman
Williams
Wittman
Womack
Woodall
Wright
Yoho

NOT VOTING—17

Abraham
Bass
Bishop (UT)
Cárdenas
Cummings
Emmer
Gabbard
Nunes
Olson
Ratcliffe
Richmond
Rooney (FL)
Ryan
San Nicolas
Swalwell (CA)
Walker
Wenstrup

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE ACTING CHAIR

The Acting CHAIR (Ms. KENDRA S. HORN of Oklahoma) (during the vote). There is 1 minute remaining.

□ 1801

So the amendment was agreed to.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

The Acting CHAIR. There being no further amendments, under the rule, the Committee rises.

Accordingly, the Committee rose; and the Speaker pro tempore (Ms. UNDERWOOD) having assumed the chair, Ms. KENDRA S. HORN of Oklahoma, Acting Chair of the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union, reported that that Committee, having had under consideration 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, pursuant to House Resolution 357, she reported the bill back to the House with sundry amendments adopted in the Committee of the Whole.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the rule, the previous question is ordered.

Is a separate vote demanded on any amendment reported from the Committee of the Whole? If not, the Chair will put them en gros.

The amendments were agreed to.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the engrossment and third reading of the bill.

The bill was ordered to be engrossed and read a third time, and was read the third time.

MOTION TO RECOMMIT

Mr. WALDEN. Madam Speaker, I have a motion to recommit at the desk.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is the gentleman opposed to the bill?

Mr. WALDEN. Oh, yes, I am, Madam Speaker, in its current form.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Clerk will report the motion to recommit.

The Clerk read as follows:

Mr. Walden moves to recommit the bill H.R. 986 to the Committee on Energy and Commerce with instructions to report the same back to the House forthwith with the following amendments:

Page 3, strike lines 3 through 5, and insert the following:

SECTION 1. FINDINGS.

Congress finds the following:

(1) On October 24, 2018, the Administration published new guidance to carry out section 1332 of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (42 U.S.C. 18052) entitled ''State Relief and Empowerment Waivers'' (83 Fed. Reg. 53575).

(2) The new guidance does not amend such section 1332 and does not permit the Secretary of Health and Human Services to waive protections for individuals with preexisting conditions, including guaranteed availability and renewability of health insurance, the prohibition on using health status to vary premiums, and the prohibition on preexisting conditions exclusions.

(3) Moreover, this guidance stipulates that any section 1332 waiver will need to carefully account for any impact on the individual market risk pool and guarantee that access to coverage is at least as comprehensive and affordable as would exist without the waiver.

Page 3, line 17, insert before the period the following: '', including if such substantially similar guidance or rule would allow a State to waive such requirements as guaranteed availability and renewability of health insurance, the prohibition on using health status to vary premiums, or the prohibition on preexisting conditions exclusions''.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Oregon is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. WALDEN. Madam Speaker, this bill is blatantly political in its title. The misleading title of the bill confirms the Democratic majority's passion to score political points instead of governing. Madam Speaker, they claim the agenda is ''for the people.'' This bill is ''for the politics'' and the TV ads.

This motion to recommit is simple, Madam Speaker. First, it strikes the Democrats' misleading title, and it includes findings to make clear that, under current law, Health and Human Services cannot waive protections for individuals with preexisting conditions, period. They are protected.

Second, Madam Speaker, the motion to recommit would prohibit the Secretaries of HHS and Treasury from reissuing substantially similar guidance, including guidance that allows the State to waive guaranteed availability and renewability of health insurance, the prohibition on using health status to vary premiums, and the prohibition on preexisting conditions exclusions.

Madam Speaker, the Trump administration guidance does not amend section 1332. It does not permit the Secretary of Health and Human Services to waive protections for individuals with preexisting conditions, like guaranteed availability and renewability of health insurance, like the prohibition on using health status to vary premiums, and the prohibition on preexisting conditions exclusions.

Moreover, the President's guidance stipulates that any section 1332 waiver will need to carefully account for any impact on the individual market risk pool and guarantee—guarantee—that access to coverage is at least as comprehensive and as affordable as would exist without the waiver.

Now, this is fully explained, Madam Speaker, in the letter I have here from the head of CMS, Seema Verma, and I want to quote directly from it because I think it is important for our Members to understand the facts of the matter here, because facts matter.

''To be very clear, the 2018 guidance does nothing to erode,'' I am going to say ObamaCare or the Affordable Care Act's ''preexisting condition provisions''—nothing—''which cannot be waived under section 1332. Section 1332 does not permit States to waive Public Health Service Act requirements such as guaranteed availability and renewability of health insurance, the prohibition on using health status to vary premiums, and the prohibition on preexisting conditions exclusions.''

Now why are we here? Why are we having this discussion? Because people at home can't afford the health insurance they are being peddled, and we want States to be able to innovate and cut costs for consumers. That is why we are here. That is what we are for.

Democrats don't want that. Democrats are opposed to letting States innovate, apparently. And let's look at what happens.

Madam Speaker, according to Health and Human Services Administrator Seema Verma, Grand Island, Nebraska, a 60-year-old couple making $70,000 a year is paying about $38,000 for their insurance premiums, and that plan, under ObamaCare, gets them an $11,100 deductible.

$38,000 in premiums, $11,000 in deductibles, and they call that coverage. I call that unaffordable.

Now, meanwhile, we have seven States that have used the authority under the last administration. See, ObamaCare allows this 1332; Trump expands it. They have been able to drive down premiums by 19.9 percent. My State, it is 6 percent; other States have been more. Alaska, New Jersey, other States have taken advantage of this.

Republicans and Democrats agree we will always protect people with preexisting conditions. We will always do that. They can run their ads; they can deceive people; they can mislead people, Madam Speaker; but we will always fight to protect people with preexisting conditions—always. Our plan last year did it. Our plan this year does it.

I will tell you what, Madam Speaker. We would have a vote today on the House floor to do that, to actually enshrine in statute, irrespective of the lawsuit, protections for Americans with preexisting conditions, except the Democrats and the Rules Committee refuse to allow that amendment to be considered on the House floor. They would not do that, because it was my amendment; it is my bill.

I have been pleading to have this bill considered so we can lock into statute protections for Americans' preexisting conditions. They want the argument. They want the politics. They don't want the policy.

We are for innovation; we are for lower premiums; we are for more consumer choice; and we are for driving down the cost of healthcare in America so people have coverage they can afford, Madam Chair. That is what our motion to recommit will do, and I urge our support.

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

Ms. SLOTKIN. Madam Speaker, I claim the time in opposition.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentlewoman from Michigan is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. SLOTKIN. Madam Speaker, I rise because this motion to recommit is simply another attempt to take away protections for people with preexisting conditions.

Madam Speaker, at face value, the amendment appears to maintain protections for people with preexisting conditions, but make no mistake, no matter the language included in this MTR, the goal of the 1332 guidance expands and promotes junk plans that discriminate against people with preexisting conditions. These plans also make comprehensive coverage for people with preexisting conditions more expensive.

It is not enough to say, my colleagues, that you protect preexisting conditions. It is what happens on the ground that matters.

□ 1815

If my colleagues are serious about protecting Americans with preexisting conditions, I urge them to oppose this amendment, support the underlying bill, and join us in doing what the American public has made very clear they want.

While Members of the other party may claim they are ready to work to protect individuals, their actions tell a different story.

Madam Speaker, 2 years ago, exactly this week, most House Republicans voted overwhelmingly for a bill that would have gutted the ACA and weakened protections for people with preexisting conditions.

My colleagues—including you, sir—stood on the White House lawn and celebrated that bill and would have made it more difficult for people with preexisting conditions.

A few courageous Republicans, who I applaud—including the late Senator John McCain—joined Democratic Members and Senators in preventing this bill from becoming law.

You can boo John McCain if you want.

Since then, the administration has tried every play in the book to undercut, sabotage, skirt protections in the ACA, including protections for people with preexisting conditions.

We currently have an open suit from your side that is meant to invalidate the entirety of the ACA, including protections for people with preexisting conditions.

I stand in opposition to this motion because the issue of protecting people with preexisting conditions is deeply personal to me, as it is to so many people in this room and in our districts.

My mom passed away in 2011 from ovarian cancer, and when she was diagnosed, she did not have healthcare. She had struggled to afford healthcare her entire life.

She had breast cancer as a 31-year old mom, leaving her with a preexisting condition for the rest of her life. When she lost her job in 2002, she lost her insurance, and it was impossible to find coverage that she could afford. She went 5½ years with no insurance, no checkup, no gynecological exam, no one saying ''you should get tested.''

In 2008, we finally helped her get insurance. Because of her preexisting condition, it was $1,000 a month and a $10,000 deductible. She let it lapse and walked into an ER a few months later and was diagnosed with stage IV ovarian cancer.

Now, I am sure my colleagues on the other side of the aisle know exactly what it is like to have a loved one get a terminal diagnosis. Your life as you know it explodes.

And that same week and that same month that my life was exploding, was the same week and the same month that I spent filing the paperwork for my mom to declare bankruptcy. So, no one should be gouged because they happen to be born with a preexisting condition.

We have evolved as a country, as a Nation, to see that, and I urge my colleagues to evolve as well.

Madam Speaker, in my district protecting people with preexisting conditions is not a Democratic or Republican issue. It is what people of all political backgrounds are demanding of us as their representatives.

That is our mission. That is our mandate. And to ignore the interest of our constituents at this point, is dereliction of duty, plain and simple.

I urge my colleagues to join me in opposing this amendment that would hurt people like my mom. To my colleagues across the aisle, do the right thing. Put people before politics. Vote against this amendment.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Members are reminded to address their remarks to the Chair.

Without objection, the previous question is ordered on the motion to recommit.

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion to recommit.

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

RECORDED VOTE

Mr. WALDEN. Madam Speaker, I demand a recorded vote.

A recorded vote was ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 9 of rule XX, the Chair will reduce to 5 minutes the minimum time for any electronic vote on the question of passage. This is a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 182, noes 231, not voting 18, as follows:

[Roll No. 195]

AYES—182

Aderholt
Allen
Amodei
Armstrong
Arrington
Babin
Bacon
Baird
Balderson
Banks
Barr
Bergman
Biggs
Bilirakis
Bost
Brady
Brooks (AL)
Brooks (IN)
Buchanan
Buck
Bucshon
Budd
Burchett
Burgess
Byrne
Calvert
Carter (GA)
Carter (TX)
Chabot
Cheney
Cline
Cloud
Cole
Collins (GA)
Collins (NY)
Comer
Conaway
Cook
Crawford
Crenshaw
Curtis
Davidson (OH)
Davis, Rodney
DesJarlais
Diaz-Balart
Duffy
Duncan
Dunn
Estes
Ferguson
Fitzpatrick
Fleischmann
Flores
Fortenberry
Foxx (NC)
Fulcher
Gaetz
Gallagher
Gianforte
Gibbs
Gohmert
Gonzalez (OH)
Gooden
Gosar
Granger
Graves (GA)
Graves (LA)
Graves (MO)
Green (TN)
Griffith
Grothman
Guest
Guthrie
Hagedorn
Harris
Hartzler
Hern, Kevin
Herrera Beutler
Hice (GA)
Higgins (LA)
Hill (AR)
Holding
Hudson
Huizenga
Hunter
Hurd (TX)
Johnson (LA)
Johnson (OH)
Johnson (SD)
Jordan
Joyce (OH)
Joyce (PA)
Katko
Kelly (MS)
Kelly (PA)
King (IA)
King (NY)
Kinzinger
Kustoff (TN)
LaHood
LaMalfa
Lamborn
Latta
Lesko
Long
Loudermilk
Lucas
Luetkemeyer
Marchant
Marshall
Mast
McCarthy
McCaul
McClintock
McHenry
McKinley
Meadows
Meuser
Miller
Mitchell
Moolenaar
Mooney (WV)
Mullin
Newhouse
Norman
Palazzo
Palmer
Pence
Posey
Reed
Reschenthaler
Rice (SC)
Riggleman
Roby
Roe, David P.
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rose, John W.
Rouzer
Rutherford
Scalise
Schweikert
Scott, Austin
Sensenbrenner
Shimkus
Simpson
Smith (MO)
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smucker
Spano
Stauber
Stefanik
Steil
Steube
Stewart
Stivers
Taylor
Thompson (PA)
Thornberry
Timmons
Tipton
Turner
Upton
Wagner
Walberg
Walden
Walorski
Waltz
Watkins
Weber (TX)
Webster (FL)
Westerman
Williams
Wilson (SC)
Wittman
Womack
Woodall
Wright
Yoho
Young
Zeldin

NOES—231

Adams
Aguilar
Allred
Amash
Axne
Barragán
Beatty
Bera
Beyer
Bishop (GA)
Blumenauer
Blunt Rochester
Bonamici
Boyle, Brendan F.
Brindisi
Brown (MD)
Brownley (CA)
Bustos
Butterfield
Carbajal
Carson (IN)
Cartwright
Case
Casten (IL)
Castor (FL)
Castro (TX)
Chu, Judy
Cicilline
Cisneros
Clark (MA)
Clarke (NY)
Clay
Cleaver
Clyburn
Cohen
Connolly
Cooper
Correa
Costa
Courtney
Cox (CA)
Craig
Crist
Crow
Cuellar
Cunningham
Davids (KS)
Davis (CA)
Davis, Danny K.
Dean
DeFazio
DeGette
DeLauro
DelBene
Delgado
Demings
DeSaulnier
Deutch
Dingell
Doggett
Doyle, Michael F.
Engel
Escobar
Eshoo
Espaillat
Evans
Finkenauer
Fletcher
Foster
Frankel
Fudge
Gallego
Garamendi
García (IL)
Garcia (TX)
Golden
Gomez
Gonzalez (TX)
Gottheimer
Green (TX)
Grijalva
Haaland
Harder (CA)
Hastings
Hayes
Heck
Higgins (NY)
Hill (CA)
Himes
Hollingsworth
Horn, Kendra S.
Horsford
Houlahan
Hoyer
Huffman
Jackson Lee
Jayapal
Jeffries
Johnson (GA)
Johnson (TX)
Kaptur
Keating
Kelly (IL)
Kennedy
Khanna
Kildee
Kilmer
Kim
Kind
Kirkpatrick
Krishnamoorthi
Kuster (NH)
Lamb
Langevin
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Lawrence
Lawson (FL)
Lee (CA)
Lee (NV)
Levin (CA)
Levin (MI)
Lewis
Lieu, Ted
Lipinski
Loebsack
Lofgren
Lowenthal
Lowey
Luján
Luria
Lynch
Malinowski
Maloney, Carolyn B.
Maloney, Sean
Massie
Matsui
McAdams
McBath
McCollum
McEachin
McGovern
McNerney
Meeks
Meng
Moore
Morelle
Moulton
Mucarsel-Powell
Murphy
Nadler
Napolitano
Neal
Neguse
Norcross
O'Halleran
Ocasio-Cortez
Omar
Pallone
Panetta
Pappas
Pascrell
Payne
Perlmutter
Peters
Peterson
Phillips
Pingree
Pocan
Porter
Pressley
Price (NC)
Quigley
Raskin
Rice (NY)
Rose (NY)
Rouda
Roy
Roybal-Allard
Ruiz
Ruppersberger
Rush
Sánchez
Sarbanes
Scanlon
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schneider
Schrader
Schrier
Scott (VA)
Scott, David
Serrano
Sewell (AL)
Shalala
Sherman
Sherrill
Sires
Slotkin
Smith (WA)
Soto
Spanberger
Speier
Stanton
Stevens
Suozzi
Takano
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Titus
Tlaib
Tonko
Torres (CA)
Torres Small (NM)
Trahan
Trone
Underwood
Van Drew
Vargas
Veasey
Vela
Velázquez
Visclosky
Wasserman Schultz
Waters
Watson Coleman
Welch
Wexton
Wild
Wilson (FL)
Yarmuth

NOT VOTING—18

Abraham
Bass
Bishop (UT)
Cárdenas
Cummings
Emmer
Gabbard
Nunes
Olson
Perry
Ratcliffe
Richmond
Rodgers (WA)
Rooney (FL)
Ryan
Swalwell (CA)
Walker
Wenstrup

□ 1825

So the motion to recommit was rejected.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the passage of the bill.

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

RECORDED VOTE

Mr. PALLONE. Madam Speaker, I demand a recorded vote.

A recorded vote was ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. This is a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 230, noes 183, answered ''present'' 1, not voting 17, as follows:

[Roll No. 196]

AYES—230

Adams
Aguilar
Allred
Axne
Barragán
Beatty
Bera
Beyer
Bishop (GA)
Blumenauer
Blunt Rochester
Bonamici
Boyle, Brendan F.
Brindisi
Brown (MD)
Brownley (CA)
Bustos
Butterfield
Carbajal
Carson (IN)
Cartwright
Case
Casten (IL)
Castor (FL)
Castro (TX)
Chu, Judy
Cicilline
Cisneros
Clark (MA)
Clarke (NY)
Clay
Cleaver
Clyburn
Cohen
Connolly
Cooper
Correa
Costa
Courtney
Cox (CA)
Craig
Crist
Crow
Cuellar
Cunningham
Davids (KS)
Davis (CA)
Davis, Danny K.
Dean
DeFazio
DeGette
DeLauro
DelBene
Delgado
Demings
DeSaulnier
Deutch
Dingell
Doggett
Doyle, Michael F.
Engel
Escobar
Eshoo
Espaillat
Evans
Finkenauer
Fitzpatrick
Fletcher
Foster
Frankel
Fudge
Gallego
Garamendi
García (IL)
Garcia (TX)
Golden
Gomez
Gonzalez (TX)
Gottheimer
Green (TX)
Grijalva
Haaland
Harder (CA)
Hastings
Hayes
Heck
Higgins (NY)
Hill (CA)
Himes
Horn, Kendra S.
Horsford
Houlahan
Hoyer
Huffman
Jackson Lee
Jayapal
Jeffries
Johnson (GA)
Johnson (TX)
Kaptur
Katko
Keating
Kelly (IL)
Kennedy
Khanna
Kildee
Kilmer
Kim
Kind
Kirkpatrick
Krishnamoorthi
Kuster (NH)
Lamb
Langevin
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Lawrence
Lawson (FL)
Lee (CA)
Lee (NV)
Levin (CA)
Levin (MI)
Lewis
Lieu, Ted
Lipinski
Loebsack
Lofgren
Lowenthal
Lowey
Luján
Luria
Lynch
Malinowski
Maloney, Carolyn B.
Maloney, Sean
Matsui
McAdams
McBath
McCollum
McEachin
McGovern
McNerney
Meeks
Meng
Moore
Morelle
Moulton
Mucarsel-Powell
Murphy
Nadler
Napolitano
Neal
Neguse
Norcross
O'Halleran
Ocasio-Cortez
Omar
Pallone
Panetta
Pappas
Pascrell
Payne
Perlmutter
Peters
Peterson
Phillips
Pingree
Pocan
Porter
Pressley
Price (NC)
Quigley
Raskin
Rice (NY)
Rose (NY)
Rouda
Roybal-Allard
Ruiz
Ruppersberger
Sánchez
Sarbanes
Scanlon
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schneider
Schrader
Schrier
Scott (VA)
Scott, David
Sensenbrenner
Serrano
Sewell (AL)
Shalala
Sherman
Sherrill
Sires
Slotkin
Smith (NJ)
Smith (WA)
Soto
Spanberger
Speier
Stanton
Stevens
Suozzi
Takano
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Titus
Tlaib
Tonko
Torres (CA)
Torres Small (NM)
Trahan
Trone
Underwood
Van Drew
Vargas
Veasey
Vela
Velázquez
Visclosky
Wasserman Schultz
Waters
Watson Coleman
Welch
Wexton
Wild
Wilson (FL)
Yarmuth

NOES—183

Aderholt
Allen
Amash
Amodei
Armstrong
Arrington
Babin
Bacon
Baird
Balderson
Banks
Barr
Bergman
Biggs
Bilirakis
Bost
Brady
Brooks (AL)
Brooks (IN)
Buchanan
Buck
Bucshon
Budd
Burchett
Burgess
Byrne
Calvert
Carter (GA)
Carter (TX)
Chabot
Cheney
Cline
Cloud
Cole
Collins (GA)
Collins (NY)
Comer
Conaway
Cook
Crawford
Crenshaw
Curtis
Davidson (OH)
Davis, Rodney
DesJarlais
Diaz-Balart
Duffy
Duncan
Dunn
Estes
Ferguson
Fleischmann
Fortenberry
Foxx (NC)
Fulcher
Gaetz
Gallagher
Gianforte
Gibbs
Gohmert
Gonzalez (OH)
Gooden
Gosar
Granger
Graves (GA)
Graves (LA)
Graves (MO)
Green (TN)
Griffith
Grothman
Guest
Guthrie
Hagedorn
Harris
Hartzler
Hern, Kevin
Herrera Beutler
Hice (GA)
Higgins (LA)
Hill (AR)
Holding
Hollingsworth
Hudson
Huizenga
Hunter
Hurd (TX)
Johnson (LA)
Johnson (OH)
Johnson (SD)
Jordan
Joyce (OH)
Joyce (PA)
Kelly (MS)
Kelly (PA)
King (IA)
King (NY)
Kinzinger
Kustoff (TN)
LaHood
LaMalfa
Lamborn
Latta
Lesko
Long
Loudermilk
Lucas
Luetkemeyer
Marchant
Marshall
Massie
Mast
McCarthy
McCaul
McClintock
McHenry
McKinley
Meadows
Meuser
Miller
Mitchell
Moolenaar
Mooney (WV)
Mullin
Newhouse
Norman
Palazzo
Palmer
Pence
Perry
Posey
Reed
Reschenthaler
Rice (SC)
Riggleman
Roby
Rodgers (WA)
Roe, David P.
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rose, John W.
Rouzer
Roy
Rutherford
Scalise
Schweikert
Scott, Austin
Shimkus
Simpson
Smith (MO)
Smith (NE)
Smucker
Spano
Stauber
Stefanik
Steil
Steube
Stewart
Stivers
Taylor
Thompson (PA)
Thornberry
Timmons
Tipton
Turner
Upton
Wagner
Walberg
Walden
Walorski
Waltz
Watkins
Weber (TX)
Webster (FL)
Westerman
Williams
Wilson (SC)
Wittman
Womack
Woodall
Wright
Yoho
Young
Zeldin

ANSWERED ''PRESENT''—1

Flores

NOT VOTING—17

Abraham
Bass
Bishop (UT)
Cárdenas
Cummings
Emmer
Gabbard
Nunes
Olson
Ratcliffe
Richmond
Rooney (FL)
Rush
Ryan
Swalwell (CA)
Walker
Wenstrup

□ 1834

So the bill was passed.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

MOMENT OF SILENCE HONORING VICTIMS OF UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA SHOOTING

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

Ms. ADAMS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the victims of the shooting in my district last week on April 30 at the University of North Carolina at Charlotte.

The campus was terrorized by gun violence. Two promising young men, Ellis ''Reed'' Parlier and Riley Howell, lost their lives. Four other students were injured in this act of senseless violence.

As a mother, grandmother, and retired professor, my heart goes out to the loved ones and the entire UNC community. Too many people fear for their safety in their schools, on their campuses, and even in their places of worship.

Enough is enough. We can and must do more to stop gun violence. UNCC and the Charlotte community will never forget last week's tragedy, and we will never forget Reed and Riley. We will honor their memories with action and continue working to keep our communities safe.

I ask all Members and guests in the gallery to rise for a moment of silence.

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

Mrs. LESKO. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on the Judiciary be discharged from further consideration of H.R. 962, the Born-Alive Abortion Survivors Protection Act, which requires appropriate medical care for babies who survive abortion procedures and imposes strong criminal penalties for failure to provide such care, 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 bipartisan floor and committee leadership.

Mrs. LESKO. Madam Speaker, if this unanimous consent request cannot be entertained, I urge the Speaker and the majority leader to immediately schedule the born-alive bill, so we can stand up and protect the sanctity of human life.

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

MATERNAL MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS

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

Mr. PAYNE. Madam Speaker, May is Mental Health Awareness Month.

Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor America's mothers and to raise awareness about maternal mental health.

Each year in the United States, an estimated 1.3 million women suffer from perinatal mood and anxiety disorders, such as maternal depression.

To all the mothers or potential mothers out there, know that maternal depression is nothing to be ashamed of. It is the number one complication of pregnancy in the United States, and it can affect women regardless of the outcome of the pregnancy. Do not be afraid to reach out to healthcare professionals to get treatment.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in honoring the mothers, the survivors of maternal depression, and the great organizations

across the country that are supporting women's mental health.

By raising awareness, we can help protect the mental health of women and mothers in our communities.

TEACHER APPRECIATION 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. Madam Speaker, I rise today during Teacher Appreciation Week to celebrate America's hardworking, dedicated, and passionate teachers.

The National Education Association and the National PTA team up each year to recognize the contributions our teachers make every day to shape the minds of their students.

Madam Speaker, I am sure every Member of the House can think of a teacher who had a positive influence on not only their education but their life.

Our teachers push students to achieve their best, and they show students how to realize their full potential.

Teachers are some of the most powerful professionals in the entire world. They lend a caring hand and extend a loving heart. They make differences in the lives of our students academically, emotionally, and physically.

I thank every teacher in America for the job they do, for the hours they work, for the patience they show, and for the impact they have on so many lives.

Happy Teachers Appreciation Week. This Nation would be lost without them.

BLACK MATERNAL HEALTH

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

Ms. UNDERWOOD. Madam Speaker, this coming Sunday, millions of Americans will celebrate Mother's Day. While I look forward to celebrating Mother's Day and honoring my own mom, I know that mothers deserve more than to be celebrated. They deserve safe pregnancies and births, and healthy lives for themselves and their babies.

In the 14th Congressional District of Illinois, we are committed to this cause. This past weekend, I joined constituents and Medela employees in McHenry County at the March for Babies 5K, which raised tens of thousands of dollars to improve the health of moms and babies.

This could not come at a more critical time. The maternal mortality rate in the U.S. has more than doubled over the last 30 years. It is a crisis.

Underlying this crisis are alarming disparities. Black women are nearly four times more likely than White women, and more than twice as likely than women of other races, to die from preventable, pregnancy-related complications.

This week, I joined Congresswoman AYANNA PRESSLEY and my Black Maternal Health Caucus cofounder, Congresswoman ALMA ADAMS, to address this crisis by introducing the Healthy MOMMIES Act.

The Healthy MOMMIES Act would expand access to essential health services to improve outcomes for mothers and eliminate disparities in morbidity and mortality for moms.

□ 1845

MOMENT OF SILENCE HONORING OFFICER ROBERT McKEITHEN

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

Mr. PALAZZO. Madam Speaker, I rise today along with my fellow members of the Mississippi delegation to express the sorrow and grief within our hearts. This week, the city of Biloxi lost one of our law enforcement officers at the hands of senseless violence.

Officer Robert McKeithen's end of watch was on May 5, 2019, when he was killed in the line of duty less than an hour after helping a Biloxi man out of his wrecked car.

McKeithen was an Air Force veteran who served our Biloxi Police Department for nearly 24 years. He was a family man who leaves behind a wife and children.

During his time as an officer, McKeithen became known for his selfless acts to put those in our community first. Particularly, he was awarded the Medal of Honor for his heroic actions during Hurricane Katrina, where he went out of his way to save the lives of a family trapped in their home while the floodwaters were rising.

We have come to expect our law enforcement officers to run to the dangers we civilians run from. They choose to keep our families and neighborhoods safe, never knowing if they will return home to their own families when their shift ends.

Our community now comes together in a time of grief mourning the loss of our fallen hero.

Madam Speaker, at this time, I ask the House to join me in a moment of silence to honor the life and service of Officer Robert McKeithen.

THE MUELLER REPORT

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

Mr. ENGEL. Madam Speaker, I read from the Mueller report, volume II, page 107: ''At some point after the May 17, 2017, appointment of the special counsel, then-Attorney General Sessions recalled, the President called him at home and asked if Sessions would 'unrecuse' himself. According to Sessions, the President asked him to reverse his recusal so that Sessions could direct the Department of Justice to investigate and prosecute Hillary Clinton, and the 'gist' of the conversation was that the President wanted Sessions to unrecuse from 'all of it,' including the special counsel's Russia investigation.''

Again, the Mueller report, volume II, page 107.

GUYTON UMC MEN'S BIBLE CLASS

(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. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Guyton United Methodist Church Men's Bible Class on the 63rd anniversary of its Fifth Sunday Morning Breakfast. Occurring on each fifth Sunday of the month, the morning breakfast has become an institution in Effingham County since 1956.

The Bible class sends invitations across Effingham County and neighboring counties, and nearly everyone there knows about the breakfast. By inviting guest speakers from a number of different civic organizations, the breakfast is a unique opportunity for the citizens and religious community in Effingham County to engage directly in government and other types of public issues.

Just recently, the Fifth Sunday Morning Breakfast hosted a guest speaker discussing his time deployed as a member of the U.S. Army Reserves in Bosnia and Afghanistan, as well as his service in the New York State Police Department.

I want to thank the Guyton United Methodist Church Men's Bible Class for engaging all the citizens of Effingham County, and I am proud to have an organization like this in the First Congressional District of Georgia. Congratulations on their 63rd anniversary.

HEALTHCARE AND PREEXISTING CONDITIONS

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

Mr. VAN DREW. Madam Speaker, I am grateful for the opportunity to speak to the Members of the House.

As a dentist, I have a firsthand understanding of the American healthcare system and the need to make it both accessible and affordable.

I have seen the high costs of healthcare and how they can be devastating to those who suffer a health emergency.

Additionally, those with preexisting conditions should not feel under the constant threat of losing or not being able to obtain coverage.

We must protect our families and our small businesses, including those with preexisting conditions, and work to

lower the high cost of healthcare and prescription drugs. Individuals and families lose their homes and their vehicles—literally, their entire way of life—due to the high cost of healthcare and prescription drugs.

This week, we voted to lower prescription prices and to protect those with preexisting conditions. We must continue to work together right here in the House in a bipartisan way to do what is right and to make healthcare more accessible for all of the American people.

RECOGNIZING BOREALIS, BOROUGE IN TAYLORSVILLE, NORTH CAROLINA

(Ms. FOXX of North Carolina asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. FOXX of North Carolina. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize the inauguration of the Borealis, Borouge plant in Taylorsville, North Carolina. It is the first of the company's North American facilities dedicated to automotive materials production and is well positioned to source suppliers and original equipment manufacturers in the Southeast United States.

It is exciting to see another way that progrowth policies adopted by the North Carolina State Legislature and this body last Congress are attracting capital and creating new jobs.

The investment by Borealis also says much about the high caliber of people in Taylorsville. They are entrepreneurial-minded and working hard to grow their business community. Beginning with 30 new full-time jobs, Borealis aims to expand in the region through local relationships and by developing a new generation of talent.

I am very proud to represent the Taylorsville community and to see new opportunities taking off in its economy.

FAMILIES BELONG TOGETHER

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

Ms. HAALAND. Madam Speaker, I rise today to stand in solidarity with families suffering from this administration's inhumane policy of separating children from their parents.

Earlier this week was the 1-year anniversary of this administration's family separation policy, and today hundreds of families are still separated. That means hundreds of children will not be with their mothers on Mother's Day.

This week, I visited a Families Belong Together art installation outside the Capitol by Paola Mendoza. It depicted a mother reaching out in anguish for her child who was in a cage. That is the reality for these families, and they will feel this trauma for the rest of their lives.

Native Americans know all too well the long-lasting trauma of government-enforced family separation. Our communities still struggle with the impact that cruel assimilation policy has had.

This trauma cannot be undone. We cannot let this administration forget the chaos it created in so many people's lives, and we must stop the racist policies it continues to push.

NATIONAL SMALL BUSINESS WEEK

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

Mr. LAMALFA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize National Small Business Week.

There are over 30 million small businesses across the country, and over half of the American workforce is either employed by a small business or operates one.

With April's strong jobs report and the unemployment rate reaching the lowest in 50 years—a truly unprecedented level of 3.6 percent—it is clear American small businesses are thriving.

There is no bigger job creator. Small businesses are the mainstay of our economy, a big reason why it is booming.

Two out of three jobs created in the U.S. are within a small business. Last month, there were 263,000 nonfarm jobs created, surpassing most predictions.

Indeed, our economy is doing quite well and, as a result, so are our small business owners. I believe the progrowth policies of the last Congress and this administration, such as tax reform and regulatory reform, have quite a lot to do with it.

I will always be a strong supporter of small business, and I hope this body will as well and continue to support the policies that will help them succeed.

I thank those who are hanging in there in the small business community—keep going, and keep creating.

TEACHER APPRECIATION WEEK

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

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Teacher Appreciation Week and honor all who inspire and motivate our children every day.

I want to thank all the wonderful and dedicated teachers across Colorado and the country, including my wife, Nancy, and my sister, Cassie, who are both public schoolteachers. I have witnessed firsthand their commitment to their students and their schools.

Being a teacher is a tough job, but one of the most important. We all have teachers who pushed us, counseled us, or took a friend or family member under their wing and shaped our lives.

Nowadays, too often, our teachers, in addition to teaching and educating us, have to protect and defend us. We have had that instance recently in Colorado.

The passion for education shown by teachers in Colorado and across the country is amazing. I look forward to working with my colleagues to invest in our schools, reduce class sizes, and ensure our teachers have the resources they need to educate the next generation.

REMEMBERING WESTLAND FIREFIGHTER BRIAN WOEHLKE

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

Ms. TLAIB. Madam Speaker, 6 years ago yesterday, Westland firefighter Brian Woehlke made the ultimate sacrifice when he died courageously battling a blaze at a local strip mall.

Brian, who was born in Detroit, certainly was courageous, and he lost his life after the 29 short years he had been on this Earth.

On the sixth anniversary of his tragic passing, let us remember him and his loving family that survives him, including his wife, Jennifer, and his daughter, Ava. We thank them for their selflessness and bravery, and we honor them by offering unwavering support for the men and women who continue to serve as our first responders across the country.

COMMUNICATION FROM CHAIR OF COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Ms. KENDRA S. HORN of Oklahoma) laid before the House the following communication from the Chair of the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure; which was read and, without objection, referred to the Committee on Appropriations:

COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, May 8, 2019.

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

DEAR MRS. SPEAKER: On May 8, 2019, pursuant to section 3307 of Title 40, United States Code, the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure met in open session to consider twenty resolutions included in the General Services Administration's Capital Investment and Leasing Programs.

I have enclosed copies of the resolutions adopted.

Sincerely,

PETER A. DEFAZIO,
Chairman.

Enclosures.

COMMITTEE RESOLUTION

LEASE—DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY, INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE, WASHINGTON, DC

Resolved by the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the U.S. House of Representatives, that pursuant to 40 U.S.C. §3307, appropriations are authorized for a lease of up to 173,000 rentable square feet of space, including 5 official parking spaces, for the Department of the Treasury—Internal Revenue

Service currently located at 77 K Street NE and 999 N. Capitol Street NE, Washington, DC at a proposed total annual cost of $8,650,000 for a lease term of up to 20 years, a prospectus for which is attached to and included in this resolution.

Approval of this prospectus constitutes authority to execute an interim lease for all tenants, if necessary, prior to the execution of the new lease.

Provided that, the Administrator of General Services and tenant agency(ies) agree to apply an overall utilization rate of 201 square feet or less per person, except that, if the Administrator determines that the overall utilization rate cannot be achieved, the Administrator shall provide an explanatory statement to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives prior to exercising any lease authority provided in this resolution.

Provided that, except for interim leases as described above, the Administrator may not enter into any leases that are below prospectus level for the purposes of meeting any of the requirements, or portions thereof, included in the prospectus that would result in an overall utilization rate of 201 square feet or higher per person.

Provided that, to the maximum extent practicable, the Administrator shall include in the lease contract(s) a purchase option that can be exercised at the conclusion of the firm term of the lease.

Provided further, that the General Services Administration shall not delegate to any other agency the authority granted by this resolution.

Provided further, that the Administrator shall require that the delineated area of the procurement is identical to the delineated area included in the prospectus, except that, if the Administrator determines that the delineated area of the procurement should not be identical to the delineated area included in the prospectus, the Administrator shall provide an explanatory statement to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives prior to exercising any lease authority provided in this resolution.

Provided further, not later than 30 calendar days after the date on which a request from the Chairman or Ranking Member of the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives is received by the Administrator of General Services, the Administrator shall provide such Member a response in writing that provides any information requested regarding the project.

Provided further, the Administrator of General Services may not enter into this lease if it does not contain a provision barring any individual holding a Federally-elected office, regardless of whether such individual took office before or after execution of this lease, to directly participate in, or benefit from or under this lease or any part thereof and that such provision provide that if this lease is found to have been made in violation of the foregoing prohibition or it is found that this prohibition has been violated during the term of the lease, the lease shall be void, except that the foregoing limitation shall not apply if the lease is entered into with a publicly-held corporation or publicly-held entity for the general benefit of such corporation or entity.

Provided further, prior to entering into this lease or approving a novation agreement involving a change of ownership under this lease, the Administrator of General Services shall require the offeror or the parties requesting the novation, as applicable, to identify and disclose whether the owner of the leased space, including an entity involved in the financing thereof, is a foreign person or a foreign-owned entity; provided further, in such an instance, the Administrator of General Services shall notify the occupant agency(ies) in writing, and consult with such occupant agency(ies) regarding security concerns and necessary mitigation measures (if any) prior to award of the lease or approval of the novation agreement.

Provided that, to the maximum extent practicable, the Administrator of General Services shall require that the lease procurement consider the availability of public transportation consistent with agency mission requirements and that the space to be leased be renovated for all cost effective improvements, including renewable energy upgrades, water efficiency improvements, and indoor air quality optimization, that reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

PROSPECTUS – LEASE
DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY
INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE
WASHINGTON, DC

Prospectus Number: PDC-04-WA18

Executive Summary

The General Services Administration (GSA) proposes a lease of approximately 173,000 rentable square feet (RSF) of space for the Department of the Treasury–Internal Revenue Service (IRS), currently located at 77 K Street NE and 999 N. Capitol Street NE, Washington, DC.

The proposed lease will enable IRS to provide continued housing and will significantly improve space utilization. The office utilization rate will be reduced from 174 to 139 usable square feet (USF) per person, and the overall utilization rate from 253 to 201 USF per person.

Description

Occupant:	Internal Revenue Service
Current RSF:	205,793 (Current RSF/USF = 1.16)
Estimated Maximum RSF[1]:	173,000 (Proposed RSF/USF = 1.20)
Reduction RSF:	32,793
Current USF/Person:	253
Estimated Usable Square Feet/Person:	201
Expiration Dates of Current Lease(s):	12/30/2020 and 12/22/2021
Proposed Maximum Leasing Authority:	20 years
Delineated Area:	Washington, DC, Central Employment Area
Number of Official Parking Spaces:	5
Scoring:	Operating Lease
Current Total Annual Cost:	$8,948,016 (leases effective 12/31/2010 and 12/23/2011)
Estimated Rental Rate[2]:	$50.00 / RSF
Estimated Total Annual Cost[3]:	$8,650,000

[1] The RSF/USF at the current location is approximately 1.16; however, to maximize competition a RSF/USF ratio of 1.20 is used for the estimated proposed maximum RSF as indicated in the housing plan.
[2] This estimate is for fiscal year 2020 and may be escalated by 2.0 percent annually to the effective date of the lease to account for inflation. The proposed rental rate is fully serviced including all operating expenses, whether paid by the lessor or directly by the Government. GSA will conduct the procurement using prevailing market rental rates as a benchmark for the evaluation of competitive offers and as the basis for negotiating with offerors to ensure that lease award is made in the best interest of the Government.
[3] New leases may contain an escalation clause to provide for annual changes in real estate taxes and operating costs.

GSA PBS

PROSPECTUS – LEASE
DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY
INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE
WASHINGTON, DC

Prospectus Number: PDC-04-WA18

Justification

The current leases expire on December 30, 2020, and December 22, 2021. IRS has a continuing housing need to support the Nation's tax collection effort. IRS also expects to realize cost and space reductions through this prospectus lease action. The following IRS sub-groups are currently located at 77 K St. NE: the IRS' Chief Financial Office is on the 6th floor; the Large Business & International (LB&I) and the Small Business/Self-Employed Groups are on the 5th floor; the National HQ and Research & Analysis Groups are on the 4th and 3rd floors, respectively; Procurement, IT Site Support Office, and Tax Exempt & Government Entities are all on the 2nd floor; and the Taxpayer Assistance Center, National Taxpayer Advocate-HQ, and Facilities Management & Security Services Groups are on the 1st floor.

IRS plans to move LB&I employees from its leased location at 999 N. Capitol St. NE and added new employees in fiscal year 2017, resulting in an increased headcount and improved utilization in the proposed location. In the absence of the proposed reduction in square footage, the continued occupancy at the proposed market rental rate would be $10,289,650 per year.

Summary of Energy Compliance

GSA will incorporate energy efficiency requirements into the Request for Lease Proposals and other documents related to the procurement of space based on the approved prospectus. GSA encourages offerors to exceed minimum requirements set forth in the procurement and to achieve an Energy Star performance rating of 75 or higher.

Resolutions of Approval

Resolutions adopted by the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, and the Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works approving this prospectus will constitute approval to make appropriations to lease space in a facility that will yield the required rentable area.

Interim Leasing

GSA will execute such interim leasing actions as necessary to ensure continued housing of the tenant agency prior to the effective date of the new lease. It is in the best interest of the Government to avert the financial risk of holdover tenancy.

GSA **PBS**

PROSPECTUS – LEASE
DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY
INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE
WASHINGTON, DC

Prospectus Number: PDC-04-WA18

Certification of Need

The proposed project is the best solution to meet a validated Government need.

Submitted at Washington, DC, on November 13, 2018

Recommended: _____
Commissioner, Public Buildings Service

Approved: _____
Administrator, General Services Administration

April 2017

Housing Plan
Internal Revenue Service

PDC-04-WA18
Washington, DC

Leased Locations	CURRENT						ESTIMATED/PROPOSED					
	Personnel		Usable Square Feet (USF)[1]				Personnel		Usable Square Feet (USF)			
	Office	Total	Office	Storage	Special	Total	Office	Total	Office	Storage[5]	Special[6]	Total
77 K St., NE	563	563	122,850	6,161	14,974	143,985	-	-	-	-	-	-
999 N. Cap NE (6th floor + portion of 7th)	139	139	33,562	-	-	33,562	-	-	-	-	-	-
Estimated/Proposed Lease	-	-	-	-	-		715	715	127,696	5,482	10,887	144,065
Total	**702**	**702**	**156,412**	**6,161**	**14,974**	**177,547**	**715**	**715**	**127,696**	**5,482**	**10,887**	**144,065**

Office Utilization Rate (UR)[2]		
	Current	Proposed
Rate	174	139

UR = average amount of office space per person
Current UR excludes 34,411 usf of office support space
Proposed UR excludes 28,093 usf of office support space

Overall UR[3]		
	Current	Proposed
Rate	253	201

R/U Factor[4]			
	Total USF	RSF/USF	Max RSF
Current	177,547	1.16	205,793
Estimated/Proposed	144,065	1.20	173,000

Special Space[6]	USF
Security/Entrance	500
Mail/Copy/Shredder Rooms	900
Kitchens	750
LAN/Server Rooms	900
Training Rooms	3,400
Shared Lunch Room	1,200
High Density Library	907
Conference Rooms	1,800
Telcom Rooms	450
Visitors Restroom	80
Total	**10,887**

NOTES:
[1] USF means the portion of the building available for use by a tenant's personnel and furnishings and space available jointly to the occupants of the building.
[2] Calculation excludes Judiciary, Congress and agencies with less than 10 people
[3] USF/Person = housing plan total USF divided by total personnel.
[4] Rentable/Usable Factor (R/U Factor) = Max RSF divided by total USF
[5] Storage excludes warehouse, which is part of Special Space.
[6] Special spaces listed are examples of such spaces and may be subject to change at the time a Request for Lease Proposal (RLP) is issued to meet specific agency requirements.

COMMITTEE RESOLUTION

LEASE—DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE, FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION, GREATER METROPOLITAN KANSAS CITY, MO, AREA

Resolved by the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the U.S. House of Representatives, that pursuant to 40 U.S.C. §3307, appropriations are authorized for a lease of up to 137,000 rentable square feet of space, including 215 official parking spaces, for the Department of Justice—Federal Bureau of Investigation currently located at 1300 Summit Street, Kansas City, MO and 4150 North Mulberry Drive, Kansas City, MO at a proposed total annual cost of $4,658,000 for lease term of up to 20 years, a prospectus for which is attached to and included in this resolution.

Approval of this prospectus constitutes authority to execute an interim lease for all tenants, if necessary, prior to the execution of the new lease.

Provided that, the Administrator of General Services and tenant agency(ies) agree to apply an overall utilization rate of 349 square feet or less per person, except that, if the Administrator determines that the overall utilization rate cannot be achieved, the Administrator shall provide an explanatory statement to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives prior to exercising any lease authority provided in this resolution.

Provided that, except for interim leases as described above, the Administrator may not enter into any leases that are below prospectus level for the purposes of meeting any of the requirements, or portions thereof, included in the prospectus that would result in an overall utilization rate of 349 square feet or higher per person.

Provided that, to the maximum extent practicable, the Administrator shall include in the lease contract(s) a purchase option that can be exercised at the conclusion of the firm term of the lease.

Provided further, that the General Services Administration shall not delegate to any other agency the authority granted by this resolution.

Provided further, that the Administrator shall require that the delineated area of the procurement is identical to the delineated area included in the prospectus, except that, if the Administrator determines that the delineated area of the procurement should not be identical to the delineated area included in the prospectus, the Administrator shall provide an explanatory statement to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives prior to exercising any lease authority provided in this resolution.

Provided further, not later than 30 calendar days after the date on which a request from the Chairman or Ranking Member of the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives is received by the Administrator of General Services, the Administrator shall provide such Member a response in writing that provides any information requested regarding the project.

Provided further, the Administrator of General Services may not enter into this lease if it does not contain a provision barring any individual holding a Federally-elected office, regardless of whether such individual took office before or after execution of this lease, to directly participate in, or benefit from or under this lease or any part thereof and that such provision provide that if this lease is found to have been made in violation of the foregoing prohibition or it is found that this prohibition has been violated during the term of the lease, the lease shall be void, except that the foregoing limitation shall not apply if the lease is entered into with a publicly-held corporation or publicly-held entity for the general benefit of such corporation or entity.

Provided further, prior to entering into this lease or approving a novation agreement involving a change of ownership under this lease, the Administrator of General Services shall require the offeror or the parties requesting the novation, as applicable, to identify and disclose whether the owner of the leased space, including an entity involved in the financing thereof, is a foreign person or a foreign-owned entity; provided further, in such an instance, the Administrator of General Services shall notify the occupant agency(ies) in writing, and consult with such occupant agency(ies) regarding security concerns and necessary mitigation measures (if any) prior to award of the lease or approval of the novation agreement.

Provided that, to the maximum extent practicable, the Administrator of General Services shall require that the lease procurement consider the availability of public transportation consistent with agency mission requirements and that the space to be leased be renovated for all cost effective improvements, including renewable energy upgrades, water efficiency improvements, and indoor air quality optimization, that reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

PROSPECTUS – LEASE
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
GREATER METROPOLITAN KANSAS CITY, MO, AREA

Prospectus Number: PMO-01-KC18
Congressional District: 5, 6

Executive Summary

The General Services Administration (GSA) proposes a lease of approximately 137,000 rentable square feet (RSF) of space for the Department of Justice, Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), in the Greater Metropolitan Kansas City, Missouri, area, which includes portions of Jackson, Clay, and Platte Counties, Missouri. FBI is now housed at 1300 Summit Street, Kansas City, Missouri, and occupies additional leased space at 4150 North Mulberry Drive in Kansas City, Missouri. The Government has occupied space in the Summit Street building since 1998. The current leases expire on June 18, 2025, and May 18, 2027, respectively. The new lease will consolidate a portion of the lease at 4150 North Mulberry Drive that was executed to address additional FBI field office requirements. The remainder of the North Mulberry Drive location will stay in place.

The proposed lease will allow FBI to modernize and streamline space usage, resulting in a more efficient operation for FBI's increasing mission demands. It will improve the office space utilization rate, as the rate will be reduced from 118 to 111 usable square feet (USF) per person. The overall utilization rate will increase from 310 to 349 USF per person due to increased mission demands and the related personnel growth.

Description

Occupant:	Federal Bureau of Investigation
Current RSF	91,455 (Current RSF/USF = 1.07)
Estimated Maximum RSF[1]:	137,000 (Proposed RSF/USF = 1.15)
Expansion RSF:	45,545 35,545 RSF growth 10,000 RSF R/U factor difference
Current USF Square Feet/Person:	310
Estimated USF Square Feet/Person:	349
Expiration Dates of Current Lease(s):	6/18/2025 and 5/18/ 2027
Proposed Maximum Leasing Authority:	20 years
Delineated Area:	North: I-435 East: I-435 to I-35 S to 71 Hwy. South: 27th Street West: I-35 to I-670 to Beardsley Rd. to I-70 to US 169 to the Missouri River to I-435
Number of Official Parking Spaces:	215
Scoring:	Operating Lease

[1] The Rentable/Usable Factor (R/U Factor) at the current locations is approximately 1.07; however, to maximize competition an R/U Factor of 1.15 is used for the estimated maximum RSF as indicated in the housing plan.

PROSPECTUS – LEASE
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
GREATER METROPOLITAN KANSAS CITY, MO, AREA

Prospectus Number: PMO-01-KC18
Congressional District: 5, 6

Current Total Annual Cost:	$ 2,542,958 (leases effective 6/19/1998 and 5/19/2015)
Estimated Rental Rate[2]:	$34.00 / RSF
Estimated Total Annual Cost[3]:	$4,658,000

Background

The FBI field office in the Greater Kansas City, Missouri, area covers eight resident agent offices in the entire State of Kansas and Western District of Missouri. The current location on 1300 Summit Street was a build-to-suit lease completed June 1998 for FBI as a sole tenant.

Justification

The current leases at 1300 Summit Street, Kansas City, Missouri, and at 4150 North Mulberry Drive, Kansas City, Missouri, expire in 2025 and 2027, respectively. FBI requires continued housing to perform its mission and anticipates a continued need beyond the proposed term of this lease (20 years).

Since initial occupancy in 1998, FBI's mission and resource demands have grown in such areas as cybercrimes, terrorist attack investigation and prevention, public corruption, and violent crimes. As a direct result of these mission changes, the FBI field office space requirements changed in size and type. To maximize the efficiency of the proposed housing solution, FBI and GSA worked to validate the requirements as detailed in the proposed housing plan. The mission critical nature of FBI's programs does not lend itself to telework strategies and requires dedicated program space.

Summary of Energy Compliance

GSA will incorporate energy efficiency requirements into the Request for Lease Proposals and other documents related to the procurement of space based on the approved prospectus. GSA encourages offerors to exceed minimum requirements set forth in the procurement and to achieve an Energy Star performance rating of 75 or higher.

[2] This estimate is for fiscal year 2018 and may be escalated by 2 percent annually to the effective date of the lease to account for inflation. The proposed rental rate is fully serviced including all operating expenses, whether paid by the lessor or directly by the Government. GSA will conduct the procurement using prevailing market rental rates as a benchmark for the evaluation of competitive offers and as the basis for negotiating with offerors to ensure that lease award is made in the best interest of the Government.

[3] New leases may contain an escalation clause to provide for annual changes in real estate taxes and operating costs.

GSA **PBS**

PROSPECTUS – LEASE
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
GREATER METROPOLITAN KANSAS CITY, MO, AREA

Prospectus Number: PMO-01-KC18
Congressional District: 5, 6

Resolutions of Approval

Resolutions adopted by the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, and the Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works approving this prospectus will constitute approval to make appropriations to lease space in a facility that will yield the required rentable area.

Interim Leasing

GSA will execute such interim leasing actions as are necessary to ensure continued housing of the tenant agency prior to the effective date of the new lease. It is in the best interest of the Government to avert the financial risk of holdover tenancy.

Certification of Need

The proposed project is the best solution to meet a validated Government need.

Submitted at Washington, DC, on December 20, 2018.

Recommended: _____
Commissioner, Public Buildings Service

Approved: _____
Administrator, General Services Administration

October 2016

Housing Plan
Federal Bureau of Investigation

PMO-01-KC18
Greater Metropolitan Kansas City, MO

Leased Locations	CURRENT						ESTIMATED/PROPOSED					
	Personnel		Usable Square Feet (USF)[1]				Personnel		Usable Square Feet (USF)			
	Office	**Total**	**Office**	**Storage**	**Special**	**Total**	**Office**	**Total**	**Office**	**Storage[5]**	**Special**	**Total**
1300 Summit St., Kansas City, MO	263	263	40,576	16,230	24,346	**81,152**	-	-	-	-	-	-
4150 N Mulberry Drive Kansas City, MO	13	13	1,315	877	2,191	**4,383**	-	-	-	-	-	-
Estimated/Proposed Lease	-	-	-	-	-		315	315	44,824	16,231	57,552	118,607
Total	**276**	**276**	**41,891**	**17,107**	**26,537**	**85,535**	**315**	**315**	**44,824**	**16,231**	**57,552**	**118,607**

Office Utilization Rate (UR)[2]		
	Current	Proposed
Rate	118	111

UR = average amount of office space per person

Current UR excludes 9,216 usf of office support space
Proposed UR excludes 9,861 usf of office support space

Overall UR[3]		
	Current	Proposed
Rate	310	349

R/U Factor [4]			
	Total USF	RSF/USF	Max RSF
Current	85,535	1.07	91,455
Estimated/Proposed	118,607	1.15	137,000

Special Space	USF
ADP/IT/Special Electrical Space	8,288
Conference/Auditorium	13,195
Food Service/Break Room	2,678
Fitness Center/Locker Room	3,965
Health Unit	325
Mail Receiving	325
Private Toilet	910
Evidence/Photo Processing	2,470
Weapons Vault	520
Loading/Receiving Dock	780
Visitor Screening Facility	1,040
Automotive Bays	8,678
Workrooms	11,245
Interview Rooms	910
File/Copy	2,093
Secure Corridor	130
Total	**57,552**

NOTES:
[1] USF means the portion of the building available for use by a tenant's personnel and furnishings and space available jointly to the occupants of the building.
[2] Calculation excludes Judiciary, Congress, and agencies with less than 10 people
[3] USF/Person = housing plan total USF divided by total personnel. Vehicle Bays are not included in calculation.
[4] Rentable/Usable Factor (R/U Factor) = Max RSF divided by total USF
[5] Storage excludes warehouse, which is part of Special Space

COMMITTEE RESOLUTION

LEASE—DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE, FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION, TAMPA, FL

Resolved by the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the U.S. House of Representatives, that pursuant to 40 U.S.C. §3307, appropriations are authorized for a lease of up to 138,000 rentable square feet of space, including 403 official parking spaces, for the Department of Justice—Federal Bureau of Investigation currently located at 5525 West Gray Street in Tampa, FL at a proposed total annual cost of $4,968,000 for a lease term of up to 20 years, a prospectus for which is attached to and included in this resolution.

Approval of this prospectus constitutes authority to execute an interim lease for all tenants, if necessary, prior to the execution of the new lease.

Provided that, the Administrator of General Services and tenant agency(ies) agree to apply an overall utilization rate of 327 square feet or less per person, except that, if the Administrator determines that the overall utilization rate cannot be achieved, the Administrator shall provide an explanatory statement to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives prior to exercising any lease authority provided in this resolution.

Provided that, except for interim leases as described above, the Administrator may not enter into any leases that are below prospectus level for the purposes of meeting any of the requirements, or portions thereof, included in the prospectus that would result in an overall utilization rate of 327 square feet or higher per person.

Provided that, to the maximum extent practicable, the Administrator shall include in the lease contract(s) a purchase option that can be exercised at the conclusion of the firm term of the lease.

Provided further, that the General Services Administration shall not delegate to any other agency the authority granted by this resolution.

Provided further, that the Administrator shall require that the delineated area of the procurement is identical to the delineated area included in the prospectus, except that, if the Administrator determines that the delineated area of the procurement should not be identical to the delineated area included in the prospectus, the Administrator shall provide an explanatory statement to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives prior to exercising any lease authority provided in this resolution.

Provided further, not later than 30 calendar days after the date on which a request from the Chairman or Ranking Member of the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives is received by the Administrator of General Services, the Administrator shall provide such Member a response in writing that provides any information requested regarding the project.

Provided further, the Administrator of General Services may not enter into this lease if it does not contain a provision barring any individual holding a Federally-elected office, regardless of whether such individual took office before or after execution of this lease, to directly participate in, or benefit from or under this lease or any part thereof and that such provision provide that if this lease is found to have been made in violation of the foregoing prohibition or it is found that this prohibition has been violated during the term of the lease, the lease shall be void, except that the foregoing limitation shall not apply if the lease is entered into with a publicly-held corporation or publicly-held entity for the general benefit of such corporation or entity.

Provided further, prior to entering into this lease or approving a novation agreement involving a change of ownership under this lease, the Administrator of General Services shall require the offeror or the parties requesting the novation, as applicable, to identify and disclose whether the owner of the leased space, including an entity involved in the financing thereof, is a foreign person or a foreign-owned entity; provided further, in such an instance, the Administrator of General Services shall notify the occupant agency(ies) in writing, and consult with such occupant agency(ies) regarding security concerns and necessary mitigation measures (if any) prior to award of the lease or approval of the novation agreement.

Provided that, to the maximum extent practicable, the Administrator of General Services shall require that the lease procurement consider the availability of public transportation consistent with agency mission requirements and that the space to be leased be renovated for all cost effective improvements, including renewable energy upgrades, water efficiency improvements, and indoor air quality optimization, that reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

PROSPECTUS – LEASE
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
TAMPA, FL

Prospectus Number: PFL-01-TA19
Congressional District: 14

Executive Summary

The General Services Administration (GSA) proposes a lease for approximately 138,000 rentable square feet (RSF) for the Department of Justice, Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), currently located at 5525 West Gray Street in Tampa, FL. FBI has occupied space in this building since December 1, 2005, under a lease that expires on November 30, 2020. GSA is proposing to continue leasing space for FBI at the current location pending the results of a cost-benefit analysis, including relocation and duplication costs of real and personal property needed for FBI to accomplish its mission.

The proposed lease will enable FBI to provide continued housing for its mission in Tampa. The office utilization rate will reduce from 136 to 129 usable square feet (USF) per person. The overall utilization rate will decrease from 343 to 327 USF per person.

Description

Occupant:	FBI
Current Rentable Square Feet	137,023 (Current RSF/USF = 1.06)
Estimated/Proposed Maximum RSF:	138,000 (Proposed RSF/USF = 1.06
Expansion RSF:	None
Current USF/Person	343
Estimated/Proposed USF/Person:	327
Expiration Dates of Current Lease(s):	11/30/2020
Proposed Maximum Leasing Authority:	20 years
Delineated Area:	North: West Spruce Street/West Columbus Drive, South: West Kennedy Blvd//FL Hwy 60, East: North 14th Street/Channelside Drive, West: Tampa Bay Coastline
Number of Official Parking Spaces[1]:	403
Scoring	Operating
Current Total Annual Cost:	$4,797,052 (lease effective 12/01/2005)
Estimated Rental Rate[2]:	$36.00 / RSF

[1] Security requirements may necessitate control of parking at the leased location in addition to the official parking spaces identified in the prospectus. If the additional parking resulting from security requirements is included in the leasehold interest in the building, the proposed total annual cost and maximum proposed rental rate may exceed the amounts indicated above.

[2] This estimate is for fiscal year 2021 and may be escalated by 2 percent annually to the effective date of the lease to account for inflation. The proposed rental rate is fully serviced including all operating expenses, whether paid by the lessor or directly by the Government. GSA will conduct the procurement using prevailing market rental rates as a benchmark for the evaluation of competitive offers and as the basis for negotiating with offerors to ensure that lease award is made in the best interest of the Government.

PROSPECTUS – LEASE
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
TAMPA, FL

Prospectus Number: PFL-01-TA19
Congressional District: 14

Estimated Total Annual Cost[3]: $4,968,000

Background

The mission of FBI is to protect and defend the United States against terrorist and foreign intelligence threats; to uphold and enforce the criminal laws of the United States; to provide leadership and criminal justice services to Federal, State, municipal, and international agencies and partners; and to perform these responsibilities in a manner that is responsive to the needs of the public and is faithful to the Constitution of the United States.

FBI has 56 field offices located in metropolitan areas throughout the United States. The field office locations carry out investigations, assess regional crime threats, and work with partners on cases and operations. The FBI field office in Tampa, Florida, covers six resident agent offices as well as the Florida counties of Hernando, Hillsborough, and Pasco. The current location at 5525 West Gray Street was a build-to-suit lease completed in 2005 for FBI as the sole tenant.

Justification

FBI has been housed in downtown Tampa since 2005. The lease at 5525 West Gray Street expires on November 30, 2020, and FBI has a continuing need for housing to ensure mission continuity. FBI anticipates maintaining its current space requirements beyond the proposed term of this lease (20 years).

The unique nature of operations requires levels of security not easily acquired on the open market. GSA will consider whether the continued housing needs should be satisfied in the existing location based on an analysis of other potential locations within the delineated area. If other potential locations are identified, GSA will conduct a cost-benefit analysis to determine whether the Government can expect to recover the relocation and duplication costs of real and personal property needed for FBI to accomplish its mission.

Summary of Energy Compliance

GSA will incorporate energy efficiency requirements into the Request for Lease Proposals and other documents related to the procurement of space based on the approved prospectus. GSA encourages offerors to exceed minimum requirements set forth in the procurement and to achieve an Energy Star performance rating of 75 or higher.

[3] New leases may contain an escalation clause to provide for annual changes in real estate taxes and operating costs.

GSA PBS

PROSPECTUS – LEASE
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
TAMPA, FL

Prospectus Number: PFL-01-TA19
Congressional District: 14

Resolutions of Approval

Resolutions adopted by the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, and the Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works approving this prospectus will constitute approval to make appropriations to lease space in a facility that will yield the required rentable area.

Interim Leasing

GSA will execute such interim leasing actions as are necessary to ensure continued housing of the tenant agency prior to the effective date of the extension. It is in the best interest of the Government to avert the financial risk of holdover tenancy.

Certification of Need

The proposed project is the best solution to meet a validated Government need.

Submitted at Washington, DC, on September 21, 2018.

Recommended: _____
Commissioner, Public Buildings Service

Approved: _____
Administrator, General Services Administration

October 2017

Housing Plan
Federal Bureau of Investigation

PFL-01-TA19
Tampa, FL

Leased Locations	CURRENT						ESTIMATED/PROPOSED					
	Personnel		Usable Square Feet (USF)[1]				Personnel		Usable Square Feet (USF)			
	Office	Total	Office	Storage	Special	Total	Office	Total	Office	Storage[5]	Special[6]	Total
5525 West Gray Street	364	364	63,336	37,498	28,950	129,785	-	-	-	-	-	-
Estimated/Proposed Lease	-	-	-	-	-	-	382	382	63,336	37,498	28,950	129,785
Total	**364**	**364**	**63,336**	**37,498**	**28,950**	**129,785**	**382**	**382**	**63,336**	**37,498**	**28,950**	**129,785**

Office Utilitization Rate (UR)[2]		
	Current	Proposed
Rate	136	129

UR–average amount of office space per person
Current UR excludes 0 usf of office support space
Proposed UR excludes 28,470 usf of office support space

Overall UR[3]		
	Current	Proposed
Rate	343	327

R/U Factor[4]	Total USF	RSF/USF	Max RSF
Current	129,785	1.06	137,023
Estimated/Proposed	129,785	1.06	138,000

Special Space	USF
ADP	5,630
Technical / Operations Room	5,400
Automotive Bay	4,751
Evidence Processing	2,769
Conference/Training	2,600
Fitness Center / Locker Room	2,553
Food Service / Breakroom	1,641
Special Storage	693
Interview Room	600
Restroom	536
Loading / Receiving Dock	502
Mail Screening	460
Weapons Vault	335
Health Unit	260
Vistor Screening Facility	220
Total	**28,950**

NOTES:

[1]USF means the portion of the building available for use by a tenant's personnel and furnishings and space available jointly to the occupants of the building.
[2]Calculation excludes Judiciary, Congress and agencies with less than 10 people
[3]USF/Person – housing plan total USF divided by total personnel.
[4]R/U Factor – Max RSF divided by total USF
[5] Storage excludes warehouse, which is part of Special Space.
[6] Special spaces listed are examples of such spaces and may be subject to change at the time a Request for Lease Proposal (RLP) is issued to meet specific agency requirements.

COMMITTEE RESOLUTION

LEASE—DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE, FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION, CHICAGO, IL

Resolved by the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the U.S. House of Representatives, that pursuant to 40 U.S.C. §3307, appropriations are authorized for a lease of up to 439,522 rentable square feet of space, including 835 official parking spaces, for the Department of Justice—Federal Bureau of Investigation currently located at 2111 West Roosevelt Road in Chicago, IL at a proposed total annual cost of $22,591,431 for a lease term of up to 20 years, a prospectus for which is attached to and included in this resolution.

Approval of this prospectus constitutes authority to execute an interim lease for all tenants, if necessary, prior to the execution of the new lease.

Provided that, the Administrator of General Services and tenant agency(ies) agree to apply an overall utilization rate of 367 square feet or less per person, except that, if the Administrator determines that the overall utilization rate cannot be achieved, the Administrator shall provide an explanatory statement to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives prior to exercising any lease authority provided in this resolution.

Provided that, except for interim leases as described above, the Administrator may not enter into any leases that are below prospectus level for the purposes of meeting any of the requirements, or portions thereof, included in the prospectus that would result in an overall utilization rate of 367 square feet or higher per person.

Provided that, to the maximum extent practicable, the Administrator shall include in the lease contract(s) a purchase option that can be exercised at the conclusion of the firm term of the lease.

Provided further, that the General Services Administration shall not delegate to any other agency the authority granted by this resolution.

Provided further, that the Administrator shall require that the delineated area of the procurement is identical to the delineated area included in the prospectus, except that, if the Administrator determines that the delineated area of the procurement should not be identical to the delineated area included in the prospectus, the Administrator shall provide an explanatory statement to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives prior to exercising any lease authority provided in this resolution.

Provided further, not later than 30 calendar days after the date on which a request from the Chairman or Ranking Member of the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives is received by the Administrator of General Services, the Administrator shall provide such Member a response in writing that provides any information requested regarding the project.

Provided further, the Administrator of General Services may not enter into this lease if it does not contain a provision barring any individual holding a Federally-elected office, regardless of whether such individual took office before or after execution of this lease, to directly participate in, or benefit from or under this lease or any part thereof and that such provision provide that if this lease is found to have been made in violation of the foregoing prohibition or it is found that this prohibition has been violated during the term of the lease, the lease shall be void, except that the foregoing limitation shall not apply if the lease is entered into with a publicly-held corporation or publicly-held entity for the general benefit of such corporation or entity.

Provided further, prior to entering into this lease or approving a novation agreement involving a change of ownership under this lease, the Administrator of General Services shall require the offeror or the parties requesting the novation, as applicable, to identify and disclose whether the owner of the leased space, including an entity involved in the financing thereof, is a foreign person or a foreign-owned entity; provided further, in such an instance, the Administrator of General Services shall notify the occupant agency(ies) in writing, and consult with such occupant agency(ies) regarding security concerns and necessary mitigation measures (if any) prior to award of the lease or approval of the novation agreement.

Provided that, to the maximum extent practicable, the Administrator of General Services shall require that the lease procurement consider the availability of public transportation consistent with agency mission requirements and that the space to be leased be renovated for all cost effective improvements, including renewable energy upgrades, water efficiency improvements, and indoor air quality optimization, that reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

GSA PBS

PROSPECTUS – LEASE
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
CHICAGO, IL

Prospectus Number: PIL-01-CH19
Congressional District: 07

Executive Summary

The General Services Administration (GSA) proposes a lease for approximately 439,522 rentable square feet (RSF) for the Department of Justice, Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI). FBI is currently housed at 2111 West Roosevelt Road in Chicago, IL, under a lease that expires on March 31, 2020. GSA is proposing to continue leasing space for FBI at the current location pending the results of a cost-benefit analysis, including relocation and duplication costs of real and personal property needed for FBI to accomplish its mission.

The lease will provide continued housing for FBI, and will slightly improve the office and overall utilization rates from 184 and 385 to 176 and 367 usable square feet (USF) per person, respectively.

Description

Occupant:	FBI
Current Rentable Square Feet	429,728 (Current RSF/USF = 1.12)
Estimated/Proposed Maximum RSF:	439,522 (Proposed RSF/USF = 1.14)
Expansion RSF:	9,794 (due to R/U factor leveling)
Current USF/Person:	385
Estimated/Proposed USF/Person:	367
Expiration Dates of Current Lease(s):	03/31/2020
Proposed Maximum Leasing Authority:	20 years
Delineated Area:	North: North Avenue, East: Lake Michigan, South: 22nd Street/Cermak Road, West: Damen Avenue
Number of Official Parking Spaces[1]:	835
Scoring:	Operating
Current Total Annual Cost:	$20,218,000 (lease effective 04/01/2006)
Estimated Rental Rate[2]:	$51.40/ RSF
Estimated Total Annual Cost[3]:	$22,591,431

[1] Security requirements may necessitate control of parking at the leased location in addition to the official parking spaces identified in the prospectus. If the additional parking resulting from security requirements is included in the leasehold interest in the building, the proposed total annual cost and maximum proposed rental rate may exceed the amounts indicated above.

[2] This estimate is for fiscal year 2020 and may be escalated by 2 percent annually to the effective date of the lease to account for inflation. The proposed rental rate is fully serviced including all operating expenses, whether paid by the lessor or directly by the Government. GSA will conduct the procurement using prevailing market rental rates as a benchmark for the evaluation of competitive offers and as the basis for negotiating with offerors to ensure that lease award is made in the best interest of the Government.

PROSPECTUS – LEASE
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
CHICAGO, IL

Prospectus Number: PIL-01-CH19
Congressional District: 07

Background

The mission of FBI is to protect and defend the United States against terrorist and foreign intelligence threats; to uphold and enforce the criminal laws of the United States; to provide leadership and criminal justice services to Federal, State, municipal, and international agencies and partners; and to perform these responsibilities in a manner that is responsive to the needs of the public and is faithful to the Constitution of the United States.

FBI has 56 field offices located in metropolitan areas throughout the United States. The field office locations carry out investigations, assess regional crime threats, and work with partners on cases and operations. The FBI Chicago field office was constructed in 2006 as a build-to-suit lease. The facility sits on a 10.94-acre site and comprises a 10-story office building with underground parking, a 1-story annex, and a 2-story parking structure. There are 805 structured parking spaces and 30 surface parking spaces.

Justification

FBI is currently housed in a leased building located at 2111 West Roosevelt Road in Chicago, Illinois, and has been in this location since 2006. The current lease expires on March 31, 2020, and FBI anticipates a continued need beyond the proposed term of this lease (20 years). The current lease includes two 10-year renewal options that require congressional authorization to exercise.

The unique nature of operations requires levels of security not easily acquired on the open market. GSA will consider whether the continued housing needs should be satisfied in the existing location based on an analysis of other potential locations within the delineated area. If other potential locations are identified, GSA will conduct a cost-benefit analysis to determine whether the Government can expect to recover the relocation and duplication costs of real and personal property needed for the FBI to accomplish its mission.

[3] New leases may contain an escalation clause to provide for annual changes in real estate taxes and operating costs.

GSA PBS

PROSPECTUS – LEASE
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
CHICAGO, IL

Prospectus Number: PIL-01-CH19
Congressional District: 07

Summary of Energy Compliance

GSA will incorporate energy efficiency requirements into the Request for Lease Proposals and other documents related to the procurement of space based on the approved prospectus. GSA encourages offerors to exceed minimum requirements set forth in the procurement and to achieve an Energy Star performance rating of 75 or higher.

Resolutions of Approval

Resolutions adopted by the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, and the Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works approving this prospectus will constitute approval to make appropriations to lease space in a facility that will yield the required rentable area.

Interim Leasing

GSA will execute such interim leasing actions as are necessary to ensure continued housing of the tenant agency prior to the effective date of the extension. It is in the best interest of the Government to avert the financial risk of holdover tenancy.

Certification of Need

The proposed project is the best solution to meet a validated Government need.

Submitted at Washington, DC, on September 21, 2018.

Recommended: _____
Commissioner, Public Buildings Service

Approved: _____
Administrator, General Services Administration

May 2018

Housing Plan
Federal Bureau of Investigation

PIL-01-CH19
Chicago, IL

Leased Locations	CURRENT						ESTIMATED/PROPOSED					
	Personnel		Usable Square Feet (USF)[1]				Personnel		Usable Square Feet (USF)			
	Office	Total	Office	Storage	Special	Total	Office	Total	Office	Storage[5]	Special[6]	Total
Chicago FBI Field Office, 2111 W. Roosevelt	916	916	216,578	33,480	134,470	384,528						
Estimated/Proposed							962	962	216,537	33,480	134,470	384,487
Total	**916**	**916**	**216,578**	**33,480**	**134,470**	**384,528**	**962**	**962**	**216,537**	**33,480**	**134,470**	**384,487**

Office Utilization Rate (UR)[2]		
	Current	Proposed
Rate	184	176

UR = average amount of office space per person
Current UR excludes 47,647 usf of office support space
Proposed UR excludes 47,638 usf of office support space

Overall UR[3]		
	Current	Proposed
Rate	385	367

R/U Factor[4]			
	Total USF	RSF/USF	Max RSF
Current	384,528	1.12	429,728
Estimated/Proposed	384,487	1.14	439,522

Special Space[6]	USF
ADP/IT Special Electrical Space	5,992
Conference/Auditorium	17,648
Food Service/Breakroom	4,547
Fitness Center/Locker Room	6,350
Health Unit	1,356
Mailroom	520
Private Restrooms	1,200
Evidence Processing	38,214
Weapons Vault	1,356
Loading/Receiving Dock (INS)	1,147
Visitor Screening	360
Automotive Bays (INS)	31,561
Workrooms	21,405
Interview Rooms	1,488
File/Copy	874
Secure Corridor	452
Total	**134,470**

NOTES:
[1] USF means the portion of the building available for use by a tenant's personnel and furnishings and space available jointly to the occupants of the building.
[2] Calculation excludes Judiciary, Congress and agencies with less than 10 people
[3] USF/Person = housing plan total USF divided by total personnel.
[4] R/U Factor (R/U) = Max RSF divided by total USF
[5] Storage excludes warehouse, which is part of Special Space.
[6] Special spaces listed are examples of such spaces and may be subject to change at the time a Request for Lease Proposal (RLP) is issued to meet specific agency requirements.

COMMITTEE RESOLUTION

LEASE—DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE, FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION, LAS VEGAS, NV

Resolved by the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the U.S. House of Representatives, that pursuant to 40 U.S.C. 3307, appropriations are authorized for a lease of up to 106,955 rentable square feet of space, including 393 official parking spaces, for the Department of Justice Federal Bureau of Investigation currently located at 1787 West Lake Mead Boulevard in Las Vegas, NV at a proposed total annual cost of $3,903,858 for a lease term of up to 20 years, a prospectus for which is attached to and included in this resolution.

Approval of this prospectus constitutes authority to execute an interim lease for all tenants, if necessary, prior to the execution of the new lease.

Provided that, the Administrator of General Services and tenant agency(ies) agree to apply an overall utilization rate of 285 square feet or less per person, except that, if the Administrator determines that the overall utilization rate cannot be achieved, the Administrator shall provide an explanatory statement to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives prior to exercising any lease authority provided in this resolution.

Provided that, except for interim leases as described above, the Administrator may not enter into any leases that are below prospectus level for the purposes of meeting any of the requirements, or portions thereof, included in the prospectus that would result in an overall utilization rate of 285 square feet or higher per person.

Provided that, to the maximum extent practicable, the Administrator shall include in the lease contract(s) a purchase option that can be exercised at the conclusion of the firm term of the lease.

Provided further, that the General Services Administration shall not delegate to any other agency the authority granted by this resolution.

Provided further, that the Administrator shall require that the delineated area of the procurement is identical to the delineated area included in the prospectus, except that, if the Administrator determines that the delineated area of the procurement should not be identical to the delineated area included in the prospectus, the Administrator shall provide an explanatory statement to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives prior to exercising any lease authority provided in this resolution.

Provided further, not later than 30 calendar days after the date on which a request from the Chairman or Ranking Member of the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives is received by the Administrator of General Services, the Administrator shall provide such Member a response in writing that provides any information requested regarding the project.

Provided further, the Administrator of General Services may not enter into this lease if it does not contain a provision barring any individual holding a Federally-elected office, regardless of whether such individual took office before or after execution of this lease, to directly participate in, or benefit from or under this lease or any part thereof and that such provision provide that if this lease is found to have been made in violation of the foregoing prohibition or it is found that this prohibition has been violated during the term of the lease, the lease shall be void, except that the foregoing limitation shall not apply if the lease is entered into with a publicly-held corporation or publicly-held entity for the general benefit of such corporation or entity.

Provided further, prior to entering into this lease or approving a novation agreement involving a change of ownership under this lease, the Administrator of General Services shall require the offeror or the parties requesting the novation, as applicable, to identify and disclose whether the owner of the leased space, including an entity involved in the financing thereof, is a foreign person or a foreign-owned entity; provided further, in such an instance, the Administrator of General Services shall notify the occupant agency(ies) in writing, and consult with such occupant agency(ies) regarding security concerns and necessary mitigation measures (if any) prior to award of the lease or approval of the novation agreement.

Provided that, to the maximum extent practicable, the Administrator of General Services shall require that the lease procurement consider the availability of public transportation consistent with agency mission requirements and that the space to be leased be renovated for all cost effective improvements, including renewable energy upgrades, water efficiency improvements, and indoor air quality optimization, that reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

GSA PBS

PROSPECTUS – LEASE
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
LAS VEGAS, NV

Prospectus Number: PNV-01-LV19
Congressional District: NV-4

Executive Summary

The General Services Administration (GSA) proposes a lease for approximately 106,955 rentable square feet (RSF) for the Department of Justice, Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI). FBI is currently housed at 1787 West Lake Mead Boulevard in Las Vegas, NV, under a lease that expires on October 16, 2021. GSA is proposing to continue leasing space for FBI at the current location pending the results of a cost-benefit analysis, including relocation and duplication costs of real and personal property needed for FBI to accomplish its mission.

The lease will provide continued housing for FBI, and will slightly improve the office and overall utilization rates from 120 and 299 to 115 and 285 usable square feet (USF) per person, respectively.

Description

Occupant:	FBI
Current Rentable Square Feet	106,955 (Current RSF/USF = 1.13)
Estimated/Proposed Maximum RSF:	106,955 (Proposed RSF/USF = 1.13)
Expansion/Reduction RSF:	None
Current USF/Person:	299
Estimated/Proposed USF/Person:	285
Expiration Dates of Current Lease(s):	10/16/2021
Proposed Maximum Leasing Authority:	20 years
Delineated Area:	City of Las Vegas boundaries
Number of Official Parking Spaces[1]:	393
Scoring:	Operating
Current Total Annual Cost:	$3,512,315.38 (lease effective 10/17/2006)
Estimated Rental Rate[2]:	$36.50 / RSF
Estimated Total Annual Cost[3]:	$3,903,857.50

[1] Security requirements may necessitate control of parking at the leased location in addition to the official parking spaces identified in the prospectus. If the additional parking resulting from security requirements is included in the leasehold interest in the building, the proposed total annual cost and maximum proposed rental rate may exceed the amounts indicated above.

[2] This estimate is for fiscal year 2022 and may be escalated by 2 percent annually to the effective date of the lease to account for inflation. The proposed rental rate is fully serviced including all operating expenses, whether paid by the lessor or directly by the Government. GSA will conduct the procurement using prevailing market rental rates as a benchmark for the evaluation of competitive offers and as the basis for negotiating with offerors to ensure that lease award is made in the best interest of the Government.

[3] New leases may contain an escalation clause to provide for annual changes in real estate taxes and operating costs.

PROSPECTUS – LEASE
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
LAS VEGAS, NV

Prospectus Number: PNV-01-LV19
Congressional District: NV-4

Background

The mission of FBI is to protect and defend the United States against terrorist and foreign intelligence threats, to uphold and enforce the criminal laws of the United States; to provide leadership and criminal justice services to Federal, State, municipal, and international agencies and partners; and to perform these responsibilities in a manner that is responsive to the needs of the public and is faithful to the Constitution of the United States.

FBI has 56 field offices located in metropolitan areas throughout the United States. The field office locations carry out investigations, assess regional crime threats, and work with partners on cases and operations. The FBI field office in Las Vegas, Nevada, covers three resident agent offices as well as the counties of Clark, Esmeralda, Lincoln, and Nye, in Nevada. The current location at 1787 West Lake Mead Boulevard was a build-to-suit lease completed in 2006 for FBI as the sole tenant.

Justification

FBI is currently housed in a leased building located at 1787 West Lake Mead Boulevard in Las Vegas, Nevada, and has been in this location since 2006. The current lease expires on October 16, 2021, and FBI anticipates a continued need beyond the proposed term of this lease (20 years).

The unique nature of operations requires levels of security not easily acquired on the open market. GSA will consider whether the continued housing needs should be satisfied in the existing location based on an analysis of other potential locations within the delineated area. If other potential locations are identified, GSA will conduct a cost-benefit analysis to determine whether the Government can expect to recover the relocation and duplication costs of real and personal property needed for FBI to accomplish its mission.

Summary of Energy Compliance

GSA will incorporate energy efficiency requirements into the Request for Lease Proposals and other documents related to the procurement of space based on the approved prospectus. GSA encourages offerors to exceed minimum requirements set forth in the procurement and to achieve an Energy Star performance rating of 75 or higher.

GSA PBS

PROSPECTUS – LEASE
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
LAS VEGAS, NV

Prospectus Number: PNV-01-LV19
Congressional District: NV-4

Resolutions of Approval

Resolutions adopted by the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, and the Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works approving this prospectus will constitute approval to make appropriations to lease space in a facility that will yield the required rentable area.

Interim Leasing

GSA will execute such interim leasing actions as are necessary to ensure continued housing of the tenant agency prior to the effective date of the extension. It is in the best interest of the Government to avert the financial risk of holdover tenancy.

Certification of Need

The proposed project is the best solution to meet a validated Government need.

Submitted at Washington, DC, on September 21, 2018.

Recommended: _____
Commissioner, Public Buildings Service

Approved: _____
Administrator, General Services Administration

January 2018

Housing Plan
Federal Bureau of Investigation

PNV-01-LV19
Las Vegas, NV

Leased Locations	CURRENT						ESTIMATED/PROPOSED					
	Personnel		Usable Square Feet (USF)[1]				Personnel		Usable Square Feet (USF)			
	Office	Total	Office	Storage	Special	Total	Office	Total	Office	Storage[5]	Special	Total
4787 West Lake Meade Blvd - Las Vegas, NV 89106	289	289	44,490	22,718	27,451	94,660	-	-	-	-	-	-
Estimated/Proposed Lease	-	-	-	-	-		303	303	44,490	22,718	27,451	94,660
Total	**289**	**289**	**44,490**	**22,718**	**27,451**	**94,660**	**303**	**303**	**44,490**	**22,718**	**27,451**	**94,660**

Office Utilization Rate (UR)[2]		
	Current	Proposed
Rate	120	115

UR = average amount of office space per person

Current UR excludes 9,788 usf of office support space
Proposed UR excludes 9,788 usf of office support space

Overall UR[3]		
	Current	Proposed
Rate	299	285

CAF[4]			
	Total USF	RSF/USF	Max RSF
Current	94,660	1.13	106,955
Estimated/Proposed	94,660	1.13	106,955

Special Space	USF
ADP/IT/Special Electrical Space	3,780
Conference/Auditorium	2,654
Food Service/Break Room	850
Fitness Center/Locker Room	1,200
Health Unit	260
Mail Receiving	425
Private Toilet	600
Evidence Processing (LAB)	2,200
Weapons Vault (STC)	550
Loading/Receiving Dock (INS)	575
Visitor Screening Facility	299
Automotive Bays (INS)	8,200
Technical/Operations Room	3,300
Interview Rooms	475
File/Copy	1,600
Secure Corridor	84
Special Storage	399
Total	**27,451**

NOTES:
[1] USF means the portion of the building available for use by a tenant's personnel and furnishings and space available jointly to the occupants of the building.
[2] Calculation excludes Judiciary, Congress and agencies with less than 10 people
[3] USF/Person = housing plan total USF divided by total personnel.
[4] Common Area Factor (CAF) = Max RSF divided by total USF
[5] Storage excludes warehouse, which is part of Special Space

COMMITTEE RESOLUTION

LEASE—DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE, FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION, DALLAS, TX

Resolved by the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the U.S. House of Representatives, that pursuant to 40 U.S.C. 3307, appropriations are authorized for a lease of up to 227,047 rentable square feet of space, including 676 official parking spaces, for the Department of Justice Federal Bureau of Investigation currently located at One Justice Way in Dallas, TX at a proposed total annual cost of $7,524,000 for a lease term of up to 20 years, a prospectus for which is attached to and included in this resolution.

Approval of this prospectus constitutes authority to execute an interim lease for all tenants, if necessary, prior to the execution of the new lease.

Provided that, the Administrator of General Services and tenant agency(ies) agree to apply an overall utilization rate of 374 square feet or less per person, except that, if the Administrator determines that the overall utilization rate cannot be achieved, the Administrator shall provide an explanatory statement to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives prior to exercising any lease authority provided in this resolution.

Provided that, except for interim leases as described above, the Administrator may not enter into any leases that are below prospectus level for the purposes of meeting any of the requirements, or portions thereof, included in the prospectus that would result in an overall utilization rate of 374 square feet or higher per person.

Provided that, to the maximum extent practicable, the Administrator shall include in the lease contract(s) a purchase option that can be exercised at the conclusion of the firm term of the lease.

Provided further, that the General Services Administration shall not delegate to any other agency the authority granted by this resolution.

Provided further, that the Administrator shall require that the delineated area of the procurement is identical to the delineated area included in the prospectus, except that, if the Administrator determines that the delineated area of the procurement should not be identical to the delineated area included in the prospectus, the Administrator shall provide an explanatory statement to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives prior to exercising any lease authority provided in this resolution.

Provided further, not later than 30 calendar days after the date on which a request from the Chairman or Ranking Member of the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives is received by the Administrator of General Services, the Administrator shall provide such Member a response in writing that provides any information requested regarding the project.

Provided further, the Administrator of General Services may not enter into this lease if it does not contain a provision barring any individual holding a Federally-elected office, regardless of whether such individual took office before or after execution of this lease, to directly participate in, or benefit from or under this lease or any part thereof and that such provision provide that if this lease is found to have been made in violation of the foregoing prohibition or it is found that this prohibition has been violated during the term of the lease, the lease shall be void, except that the foregoing limitation shall not apply if the lease is entered into with a publicly-held corporation or publicly-held entity for the general benefit of such corporation or entity.

Provided further, prior to entering into this lease or approving a novation agreement involving a change of ownership under this lease, the Administrator of General Services shall require the offeror or the parties requesting the novation, as applicable, to identify and disclose whether the owner of the leased space, including an entity involved in the financing thereof, is a foreign person or a foreign-owned entity; provided further, in such an instance, the Administrator of General Services shall notify the occupant agency(ies) in writing, and consult with such occupant agency(ies) regarding security concerns and necessary mitigation measures (if any) prior to award of the lease or approval of the novation agreement.

Provided that, to the maximum extent practicable, the Administrator of General Services shall require that the lease procurement consider the availability of public transportation consistent with agency mission requirements and that the space to be leased be renovated for all cost effective improvements, including renewable energy upgrades, water efficiency improvements, and indoor air quality optimization, that reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

GSA PBS

PROSPECTUS – LEASE
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
DALLAS, TX

Prospectus Number: PTX-01-DA19
Congressional Districts: 24, 26, 30

Executive Summary

The General Services Administration (GSA) proposes a lease of approximately 228,000 rentable square feet (RSF) for the Department of Justice, Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), currently located at One Justice Way in Dallas, TX. FBI has occupied space in the building since it was constructed for FBI in October 2002 under a lease that expires on October 10, 2022. GSA is proposing to continue leasing space for FBI at the current location pending the results of a cost-benefit analysis, including relocation and duplication costs of real and personal property needed for FBI to accomplish its mission.

The lease will provide continued housing for FBI, and will improve the office and overall space utilization rates from 150 to 142 and 393 to 374 usable square feet (USF) per person, respectively.

Description

Occupant:	FBI
Current Rentable Square Feet	227,047 (Current RSF/USF = 1.07)
Estimated/Proposed Maximum RSF:	227,047 (Proposed RSF/USF = 1.07)
Expansion/Reduction RSF:	None
Current USF/Person:	393
Estimated/Proposed USF/Person:	374
Expiration Dates of Current Lease(s):	10/10/2022
Proposed Maximum Leasing Authority:	20 years
Delineated Area:	NORTH - I-635; EAST - Dallas North Tollway to McKinnon St to North Pearl St to TX Hwy 366 to I-345; SOUTH - I-30 to North Riverfront Blvd to Irving Blvd (TX Hwy 356); WEST - MacArthur Blvd
Number of Official Parking Spaces[1]:	676
Scoring:	Operating
Current Total Annual Cost:	$6,289,513 (lease effective 10/11/2002)
Estimated Rental Rate[2]:	$33.00 / RSF

[1] Security requirements may necessitate control of parking at the leased location in addition to the official parking spaces identified in the prospectus. If the additional parking resulting from security requirements is included in the leasehold interest in the building, the proposed total annual cost and maximum proposed rental rate may exceed the amounts indicated above.

[2] This estimate is for fiscal year 2023 and may be escalated by 2 percent annually to the effective date of the lease to account for inflation. The proposed rental rate is fully serviced including all operating expenses, whether paid by the lessor or directly by the Government. GSA will conduct the procurement using prevailing market rental rates as a

PROSPECTUS – LEASE
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
DALLAS, TX

Prospectus Number: PTX-01-DA19
Congressional Districts: 24, 26, 30

Estimated Total Annual Cost[3]: $7,524,000

Background

The mission of FBI is to protect and defend the United States against terrorist and foreign intelligence threats; to uphold and enforce the criminal laws of the United States; to provide leadership and criminal justice services to Federal, State, municipal, and international agencies and partners; and to perform these responsibilities in a manner that is responsive to the needs of the public and is faithful to the Constitution of the United States.

FBI has 56 field offices located in metropolitan areas throughout the United States. The field office locations carry out investigations, assess regional crime threats, and work with partners on cases and operations. The FBI field office in Dallas, Texas, covers 12 resident agent offices as well as the counties of Dallas, Ellis, and Kaufman, Texas. The current location on One Justice Way was a build-to-suit lease completed in 2002 for FBI as the sole tenant.

Justification

FBI is currently housed in a leased building located at One Justice Way in Dallas, Texas, and has been in this location since 2002. The current lease expires on October 10, 2022. FBI requires continued housing to carry out its mission. FBI anticipates a continued need beyond the proposed term of this lease (20 years).

The unique nature of operations requires levels of security not easily acquired on the open market. GSA will consider whether the continued housing needs should be satisfied in the existing location based on an analysis of other potential locations within the delineated area. If other potential locations are identified, GSA will conduct a cost-benefit analysis to determine whether the Government can expect to recover the relocation and duplication costs of real and personal property needed for the FBI to accomplish its mission.

benchmark for the evaluation of competitive offers and as the basis for negotiating with offerors to ensure that lease award is made in the best interest of the Government.

[3] New leases may contain an escalation clause to provide for annual changes in real estate taxes and operating costs.

PROSPECTUS – LEASE
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
DALLAS, TX

Prospectus Number: PTX-01-DA19
Congressional Districts: 24, 26, 30

Summary of Energy Compliance

GSA will incorporate energy efficiency requirements into the Request for Lease Proposals and other documents related to the procurement of space based on the approved prospectus. GSA encourages offerors to exceed minimum requirements set forth in the procurement and to achieve an Energy Star performance rating of 75 or higher.

Resolutions of Approval

Resolutions adopted by the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, and the Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works approving this prospectus will constitute approval to make appropriations to lease space in a facility that will yield the required rentable area.

Interim Leasing

GSA will execute such interim leasing actions as are necessary to ensure continued housing of the tenant agency prior to the effective date of the new lease. It is in the best interest of the Government to avert the financial risk of holdover tenancy.

GSA **PBS**

PROSPECTUS – LEASE
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
DALLAS, TX

Prospectus Number: PTX-01-DA19
Congressional Districts: 24, 26, 30

Certification of Need

The proposed project is the best solution to meet a validated Government need.

Submitted at Washington, DC, on September 21, 2018.

Recommended: _____
Commissioner, Public Buildings Service

Approved: _____
Administrator, General Services Administration

April 2018

Housing Plan
Federal Bureau of Investigation

PTX-01-DA19
Dallas, TX

Leased Locations	CURRENT						ESTIMATED/PROPOSED					
	Personnel		Usable Square Feet (USF)[1]				Personnel		Usable Square Feet (USF)			
	Office	Total	Office	Storage	Special	Total	Office	Total	Office	Storage[5]	Special[6]	Total
One Justice Way, Dallas, TX 75220-5220	518	518	99,303	48,595	63,385	211,283	-	-	-	-	-	-
Estimated/Proposed Lease	-	-	-	-	-		544	544	99,303	48,595	63,385	211,283
Total	**518**	**518**	**99,303**	**48,595**	**63,385**	**211,283**	**544**	**544**	**99,303**	**48,595**	**63,385**	**211,283**

Office Utilization Rate (UR)[2]		
	Current	Proposed
Rate	150	142

UR = average amount of office space per person
Current UR excludes 21,847 usf of office support space
Proposed UR excludes 21,847 usf of office support space

Overall UR[3]		
	Current	Proposed
Rate	393	374

R/U Factor [4]			
	Total USF	RSF/USF	Max RSF
Current	211,283	1.07	227,047
Estimated/Proposed	211,283	1.07	227,047

Special Space [6]	USF
ADP	9,200
Automotive Bay	7,764
Conference / Training	16,248
Evidence Processing	4,925
File / Copy	3,266
Fitness Center / Locker Room	4,172
Food Service / Breakroom	2,736
Health Unit	424
Interview Room	1,204
Loading / Receiving Dock	821
Mail Screening	752
Restroom	875
Special Storage	684
Technical / Operations Room	8,823
Visitor Screening Facility	944
Weapons Vault	547
Total	**63,385**

NOTES:
[1] USF means the portion of the building available for use by a tenant's personnel and furnishings and space available jointly to the occupants of the building.
[2] Calculation excludes Judiciary, Congress and agencies with less than 10 people
[3] USF/Person = housing plan total USF divided by total personnel.
[4] R/U Factor (R/U) = Max RSF divided by total USF
[5] Storage excludes warehouse, which is part of Special Space.
[6] Special spaces listed are examples of such spaces and may be subject to change at the time a Request for Lease Proposal (RLP) is issued to meet specific agency requirements.

COMMITTEE RESOLUTION

LEASE—DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE, FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION, SAN ANTONIO, TX

Resolved by the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the U.S. House of Representatives, that pursuant to 40 U.S.C. 3307, appropriations are authorized for a lease of up to 148,355 rentable square feet of space, including 364 official parking spaces, for the Department of Justice—Federal Bureau of Investigation currently located at 5740 University Heights Boulevard in San Antonio, TX at a proposed total annual cost of $4,754,688 for a lease term of up to 20 years, a prospectus for which is attached to and included in this resolution.

Approval of this prospectus constitutes authority to execute an interim lease for all tenants, if necessary, prior to the execution of the new lease.

Provided that, the Administrator of General Services and tenant agency(ies) agree to apply an overall utilization rate of 361 square feet or less per person, except that, if the Administrator determines that the overall utilization rate cannot be achieved, the Administrator shall provide an explanatory statement to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives prior to exercising any lease authority provided in this resolution.

Provided that, except for interim leases as described above, the Administrator may not enter into any leases that are below prospectus level for the purposes of meeting any of the requirements, or portions thereof, included in the prospectus that would result in an overall utilization rate of 361 square feet or higher per person.

Provided that, to the maximum extent practicable, the Administrator shall include in the lease contract(s) a purchase option that can be exercised at the conclusion of the firm term of the lease.

Provided further, that the General Services Administration shall not delegate to any other agency the authority granted by this resolution.

Provided further, that the Administrator shall require that the delineated area of the procurement is identical to the delineated area included in the prospectus, except that, if the Administrator determines that the delineated area of the procurement should not be identical to the delineated area included in the prospectus, the Administrator shall provide an explanatory statement to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives prior to exercising any lease authority provided in this resolution.

Provided further, not later than 30 calendar days after the date on which a request from the Chairman or Ranking Member of the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives is received by the Administrator of General Services, the Administrator shall provide such Member a response in writing that provides any information requested regarding the project.

Provided further, the Administrator of General Services may not enter into this lease if it does not contain a provision barring any individual holding a Federally-elected office, regardless of whether such individual took office before or after execution of this lease, to directly participate in, or benefit from or under this lease or any part thereof and that such provision provide that if this lease is found to have been made in violation of the foregoing prohibition or it is found that this prohibition has been violated during the term of the lease, the lease shall be void, except that the foregoing limitation shall not apply if the lease is entered into with a publicly-held corporation or publicly-held entity for the general benefit of such corporation or entity.

Provided further, prior to entering into this lease or approving a novation agreement involving a change of ownership under this lease, the Administrator of General Services shall require the offeror or the parties requesting the novation, as applicable, to identify and disclose whether the owner of the leased space, including an entity involved in the financing thereof, is a foreign person or a foreign-owned entity; provided further, in such an instance, the Administrator of General Services shall notify the occupant agency(ies) in writing, and consult with such occupant agency(ies) regarding security concerns and necessary mitigation measures (if any) prior to award of the lease or approval of the novation agreement.

Provided that, to the maximum extent practicable, the Administrator of General Services shall require that the lease procurement consider the availability of public transportation consistent with agency mission requirements and that the space to be leased be renovated for all cost effective improvements, including renewable energy upgrades, water efficiency improvements, and indoor air quality optimization, that reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

PROSPECTUS – LEASE
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
SAN ANTONIO, TX

Prospectus Number: PTX-01-SA19
Congressional District: 20, 21, 23, 28, 35

Executive Summary

The General Services Administration (GSA) proposes a lease of approximately 149,000 rentable square feet (RSF) of space for the Department of Justice, Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), currently located in leased space at 5740 University Heights Boulevard in San Antonio, TX. The lease expires on September 6, 2021. GSA is proposing to continue leasing space for FBI at the current location pending the results of a cost-benefit analysis, including relocation and duplication costs of real and personal property needed for FBI to accomplish its mission.

The proposed lease will provide continued housing for FBI, and will improve the office and overall space utilization rates from 145 to 138 usable square feet (USF) per person, and 380 to 361 USF per person, respectively.

Description

Occupant:	FBI
Current Rentable Square Feet	148,355 (Current RSF/USF = 1.13)
Estimated/Proposed Maximum RSF:	148,355(Proposed RSF/USF = 1.13)
Expansion/Reduction RSF:	None
Current USF/Person:	380
Estimated/Proposed USF/Person:	361
Expiration Dates of Current Lease(s):	09/06/2021
Proposed Maximum Leasing Authority:	20 years
Delineated Area:	North: Wurzbach Pkwy/North Loop 1604; East: Coliseum Rd/IH-35/IH-10; South: U.S. 90; West: Zarzamora St/Fredricksburg Rd/Babcock St including portions of the San Antonio CBD
Number of Official Parking Spaces[1]:	364
Scoring:	Operating
Current Total Annual Cost:	$4,984,000 (lease effective 09/07/2007)
Estimated Rental Rate[2]:	$32.00 / RSF
Estimated Total Annual Cost[3]:	$4,754,688

[1] Security requirements may necessitate control of parking at the leased location in addition to the official parking spaces identified in the prospectus. If the additional parking resulting from security requirements is included in the leasehold interest in the building, the proposed total annual cost and maximum proposed rental rate may exceed the amounts indicated above.
[2] This estimate is for fiscal year 2021 and may be escalated by 2 percent annually to the effective date of the lease to account for inflation. The proposed rental rate is fully serviced including all operating expenses, whether paid by the lessor or directly by the Government. GSA will conduct the procurement using prevailing market rental rates as a benchmark for the evaluation of competitive offers and as the basis for negotiating with offerors to ensure that lease award is made in the best interest of the Government.

PROSPECTUS – LEASE
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
SAN ANTONIO, TX

Prospectus Number: PTX-01-SA19
Congressional District: 20, 21, 23, 28, 35

Background

The mission of FBI is to protect and defend the United States against terrorist and foreign intelligence threats; to uphold and enforce the criminal laws of the United States; to provide leadership and criminal justice services to Federal, State, municipal, and international agencies and partners; and to perform these responsibilities in a manner that is responsive to the needs of the public and is faithful to the Constitution of the United States.

FBI has 56 field offices located in metropolitan areas throughout the United States. The field office locations carry out investigations, assess regional crime threats, and work with partners on cases and operations. The FBI field office in San Antonio, Texas, covers six resident agent offices as well as the counties of Atascosa, Bandera, Bexar, Comal, Frio, Gillespie, Gonzalez, Guadalupe, Karnes, Kendall, Kerr, Kimble, Mason, Medina, Real, Uvalde, and Wilson, in Texas. The current location at 5740 University Heights Boulevard was a build-to-suit lease completed in 2007 for FBI as a sole tenant.

Justification

FBI is currently housed in a leased building located at 5740 University Heights Boulevard in San Antonio, Texas, and has been in this location since 2007. The current lease expires on September 6, 2021, and FBI anticipates a continued need beyond the proposed term of this lease (20 years).

The unique nature of operations requires levels of security not easily acquired on the open market. GSA will consider whether the continued housing needs should be satisfied in the existing location based on an analysis of other potential locations within the delineated area. If other potential locations are identified, GSA will conduct a cost-benefit analysis to determine whether the Government can expect to recover the relocation and duplication costs of real and personal property needed for FBI to accomplish its mission.

Summary of Energy Compliance

GSA will incorporate energy efficiency requirements into the Request for Lease Proposals and other documents related to the procurement of space based on the approved prospectus. GSA encourages offerors to exceed minimum requirements set

[3] New leases may contain an escalation clause to provide for annual changes in real estate taxes and operating costs.

PROSPECTUS – LEASE
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
SAN ANTONIO, TX

Prospectus Number: PTX-01-SA19
Congressional District: 20, 21, 23, 28, 35

forth in the procurement and to achieve an Energy Star performance rating of 75 or higher.

Resolutions of Approval

Resolutions adopted by the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, and the Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works approving this prospectus will constitute approval to make appropriations to lease space in a facility that will yield the required rentable area.

Interim Leasing

GSA will execute such interim leasing actions as are necessary to ensure continued housing of the tenant agency prior to the effective date of the new lease. It is in the best interest of the Government to avert the financial risk of holdover tenancy.

Certification of Need

The proposed project is the best solution to meet a validated Government need.

Submitted at Washington, DC, on September 21, 2018.

Recommended: _____
Commissioner, Public Buildings Service

Approved: _____
Administrator, General Services Administration

May 2018

Housing Plan
Federal Bureau of Investigation

PTX-01-SA19
San Antonio, TX

Leased Locations	CURRENT						ESTIMATED/PROPOSED					
	Personnel		Usable Square Feet (USF)[1]				Personnel		Usable Square Feet (USF)			
	Office	Total	Office	Storage	Special	Total	Office	Total	Office	Storage[5]	Special[6]	Total
5740 University Heights Blvd - TX2641ZZ	333	333	61,706	30,196	39,386	**131,288**	-	-	-	-	-	-
Estimated/Proposed Lease	-	-	-	-	-		350	350	61,706	30,196	39,386	131,288
Total	**333**	**333**	**61,706**	**30,196**	**39,386**	**131,288**	**350**	**350**	**61,706**	**30,196**	**39,386**	**131,288**

Office Utilization Rate (UR)[2]		
	Current	Proposed
Rate	145	138

UR = average amount of office space per person
Current UR excludes 13,575 usf of office support space
Proposed UR excludes 13,575 usf of office support space

Overall UR[3]		
	Current	Proposed
Rate	380	361

R/U Factor [4]			
	Total USF	RSF/USF	Max RSF
Current	131,288	1.13	148,355
Estimated/Proposed	131,288	1.13	148,355

Special Space [6]	USF
ADP	5,717
Automotive Bay	4,824
Conference/Training	10,096
Evidence Processing	3,060
File/copy	2,030
Fitness Center/Locker Room	2,593
Food Service/Breakroom	1,700
Health Unit	264
Interview Room	748
Loading/Receiving Dock	510
Mail Screening	468
Toilet	544
Special Storage	425
Technical/Operations Room	5,483
Visitor Screening Facility	502
Weapons Vault	422
Total	**39,386**

NOTES:
[1] USF means the portion of the building available for use by a tenant's personnel and furnishings and space available jointly to the occupants of the building.
[2] Calculation excludes Judiciary, Congress and agencies with less than 10 people
[3] USF/Person = housing plan total USF divided by total personnel.
[4] R/U Factor (R/U) = Max RSF divided by total USF
[5] Storage excludes warehouse, which is part of Special Space.
[6] Special spaces listed are examples of such spaces and may be subject to change at the time a Request for Lease Proposal (RLP) is issued to meet specific agency requirements.

COMMITTEE RESOLUTION

LEASE—DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, NATIONAL PARK SERVICE, LAKEWOOD, CO

Resolved by the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the U.S. House of Representatives, that pursuant to 40 U.S.C. 3307, appropriations are authorized for a lease of up to 166,745 rentable square feet of space, including 12 official parking spaces, for the Department of the Interior—National Park Service currently located at 12795 Alameda Parkway in Lakewood, CO at a proposed total annual cost of $4,335,370 for a lease term of up to five years, a prospectus for which is attached to and included in this resolution.

Approval of this prospectus constitutes authority to execute an interim lease for all tenants, if necessary, prior to the execution of the new lease.

Provided that, the Administrator of General Services and tenant agency(ies) agree to apply an overall utilization rate of 252 square feet or less per person, except that, if the Administrator determines that the overall utilization rate cannot be achieved, the Administrator shall provide an explanatory statement to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives prior to exercising any lease authority provided in this resolution.

Provided that, except for interim leases as described above, the Administrator may not enter into any leases that are below prospectus level for the purposes of meeting any of the requirements, or portions thereof, included in the prospectus that would result in an overall utilization rate of 252 square feet or higher per person.

Provided that, to the maximum extent practicable, the Administrator shall include in the lease contract(s) a purchase option that can be exercised at the conclusion of the firm term of the lease.

Provided further, that the General Services Administration shall not delegate to any other agency the authority granted by this resolution.

Provided further, that the Administrator shall require that the delineated area of the procurement is identical to the delineated area included in the prospectus, except that, if the Administrator determines that the delineated area of the procurement should not be identical to the delineated area included in the prospectus, the Administrator shall provide an explanatory statement to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives prior to exercising any lease authority provided in this resolution.

Provided further, not later than 30 calendar days after the date on which a request from the Chairman or Ranking Member of the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives is received by the Administrator of General Services, the Administrator shall provide such Member a response in writing that provides any information requested regarding the project.

Provided further, the Administrator of General Services may not enter into this lease if it does not contain a provision barring any individual holding a Federally-elected office, regardless of whether such individual took office before or after execution of this lease, to directly participate in, or benefit from or under this lease or any part thereof and that such provision provide that if this lease is found to have been made in violation of the foregoing prohibition or it is found that this prohibition has been violated during the term of the lease, the lease shall be void, except that the foregoing limitation shall not apply if the lease is entered into with a publicly-held corporation or publicly-held entity for the general benefit of such corporation or entity.

Provided further, prior to entering into this lease or approving a novation agreement involving a change of ownership under this lease, the Administrator of General Services shall require the offeror or the parties requesting the novation, as applicable, to identify and disclose whether the owner of the leased space, including an entity involved in the financing thereof, is a foreign person or a foreign-owned entity; provided further, in such an instance, the Administrator of General Services shall notify the occupant agency(ies) in writing, and consult with such occupant agency(ies) regarding security concerns and necessary mitigation measures (if any) prior to award of the lease or approval of the novation agreement.

Provided that, to the maximum extent practicable, the Administrator of General Services shall require that the lease procurement consider the availability of public transportation consistent with agency mission requirements and that the space to be leased be renovated for all cost effective improvements, including renewable energy upgrades, water efficiency improvements, and indoor air quality optimization, that reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

GSA PBS

PROSPECTUS – LEASE
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
LAKEWOOD, CO

Prospectus Number : PCO-01-LA19
Congressional District: 7

Executive Summary

The General Services Administration (GSA) proposes a lease extension for 166,745 rentable square feet for the Department of the Interior - National Park Service (NPS), currently located at 12795 Alameda Parkway in Lakewood, CO.

The proposed extension will enable NPS to provide continued housing for its personnel while maintaining the office and overall utilization rates at 142 and 252 usable square feet (USF) per person, respectively.

Description

Occupant:	National Park Service
Current Rentable Square Feet (RSF)	166,745 (Current RSF/USF = 1.09)
Estimated Maximum RSF:	166,745 (Proposed RSF/USF = 1.09)
Expansion/Reduction RSF:	None
Current USF/Person:	252
Estimated USF/Person:	252
Expiration Dates of Current Lease(s):	09/30/2019
Proposed Maximum Leasing Authority:	5 years
Delineated Area:	City of Lakewood, CO
Number of Official Parking Spaces:	12
Scoring:	Operating
Current Total Annual Cost:	$4,204,620 (leases effective 10/01/2009)
Estimated Rental Rate[1]:	$26.00 / RSF
Estimated Total Annual Cost[2]:	$4,335,370

Background

The NPS mission is to preserve unimpaired the natural and cultural resources and values of the National Park System for the enjoyment, education and inspiration of this and future generations. NPS cooperates with partners to extend the benefits of natural and cultural resource conservation and outdoor recreation throughout this country and the world.

[1] This estimate is for fiscal year 2020 and may be escalated by 1.9 percent per year to the effective date of the lease to account for inflation. The proposed rental rate is fully serviced including all operating expenses, whether paid by the lessor or directly by the Government. GSA will conduct the procurement using prevailing market rental rates as a benchmark for the evaluation of competitive offers and as the basis for negotiating with offerors to ensure that lease award is made in the best interest of the Government.

[2] New leases may contain an escalation clause to provide for annual changes in real estate taxes and operating costs.

PROSPECTUS – LEASE
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
LAKEWOOD, CO

Prospectus Number: PCO-01-LA19
Congressional District: 7

Justification

NPS requires continued housing in Lakewood, CO, to carry out its mission. The lease will house three primary divisions:

Intermountain Region (IMR): IMR oversees documentation of structures and sites recorded in Arizona, Colorado, Montana, New Mexico, Oklahoma, Texas, Utah, and Wyoming.

Washington Support Office: The NPS national headquarters and support centers are collectively called the Washington Support Office (WASO). Employees at WASO provide services to the regional office, park units, program areas, and NPS partners, as well as coordinate with other agencies and bureaus in the Department of the Interior. WASO supports the NPS mission at the national level by providing leadership and advocacy, policy and regulatory formulation and direction, program guidance, budget formulation, legislative support, and accountability for programs and activities managed by the field and key program offices. It manages service-wide programs that can most effectively be carried out from a central location.

Denver Service Center (DSC): DSC is the central planning, design and construction management project office for NPS. DSC provides park and community planning, design and construction project management, transportation planning, contracting services, and technical information management for the parks and regions in the national park system.

The current lease expires on September 30, 2019, and NPS requires continued housing at this location to carry out its mission until it can implement its national reorganization strategy. A 5-year lease extension will provide NPS with sufficient time to formulate its relocation plan and budget for move costs accordingly.

Resolutions of Approval

Resolutions adopted by the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure and the Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works approving this prospectus will constitute approval to make appropriations to lease space in a facility that will yield the required rentable area.

GSA PBS

PROSPECTUS – LEASE
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
LAKEWOOD, CO

Prospectus Number : PCO-01-LA19
Congressional District: 7

Interim Leasing

GSA will execute such interim leasing actions as are necessary to ensure continued housing of the tenant agency prior to the effective date of the extension It is in the best interest of the Government to avert the financial risk of holdover tenancy.

Certification of Need

The proposed project is the best solution to meet a validated Government need.

Submitted at Washington, DC, on September 26, 2018.

Recommended: _____
Commissioner, Public Buildings Service

Approved: _____
Administrator, General Services Administration

October 2017

Housing Plan
National Park Service

PCO-01-LA19
Lakewood, CO

Leased Locations	CURRENT						ESTIMATED/PROPOSED					
	Personnel		Usable Square Feet (USF)[1]				Personnel		Usable Square Feet (USF)			
	Office	Total	Office	Storage	Special	Total	Office	Total	Office	Storage [5]	Special [6]	Total
12795 Alameda Parkway, Lakewood, CO	608	608	110,373		43,141	153,514						
Estimated/Proposed Lease							608	608	110,373		43,141	153,514
Total	**608**	**608**	**110,373**		**43,141**	**153,514**	**608**	**608**	**110,373**		**43,141**	**153,514**

Office Utilization Rate (UR)[2]		
	Current	Proposed
Rate	142	142

UR = average amount of office space per person
Current UR excludes 24,282 usf of office support space
Proposed UR excludes 24,282 usf of office support space

Overall UR[3]		
	Current	Proposed
Rate	252	252

R/U Factor [4]			
	Total USF	RSF/USF	Max RSF
Current	153,514	1.09	166,745
Estimated/Proposed	153,514	1.09	166,745

Special Space [6]	USF
ADP	1,948
Conference/Training Rooms	15,813
Loading Dock/Recycling	4,858
Copy Room	359
Storage	8,775
Library	4,164
Fitness/Locker Room	392
Kitchen/Break Room	1,805
Vault	452
Wellness Rooms	297
Lab	4,278
Total	**43,141**

NOTES:
[1] USF means the portion of the building available for use by a tenant's personnel and furnishings and space available jointly to the occupants of the building.
[2] Calculation excludes Judiciary, Congress, and agencies with fewer than 10 people
[3] USF/Person = housing plan total USF divided by total personnel.
[4] R/U Factor = Max RSF divided by total USF
[5] Storage excludes warehouse, wihich is part of Special Space
[6] Special spaces listed are examples of such spaces and may be subject to change at the time a Request for Lease Proposal (RLP) is issued to meet specific agency requirements.

COMMITTEE RESOLUTION

LEASE—EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF IMMIGRATION REVIEW AND IMMIGRATION AND CUSTOMS ENFORCEMENT, MIAMI, FL

Resolved by the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the U.S. House of Representatives, that pursuant to 40 U.S.C. §3307, appropriations are authorized for a lease of up to 123,000 rentable square feet of space, including 41 official parking spaces, for the Executive Office of Immigration Review and Immigration and Customs Enforcement currently located at 333 South Miami Avenue in Miami, FL at a proposed total annual cost of $5,904,000 for a lease term of up to 20 years, a prospectus for which is attached to and included in this resolution.

Approval of this prospectus constitutes authority to execute an interim lease for all tenants, if necessary, prior to the execution of the new lease.

Provided that, the Administrator of General Services and tenant agency(ies) agree to apply an overall utilization rate of 421 square feet or less per person, except that, if the Administrator determines that the overall utilization rate cannot be achieved, the Administrator shall provide an explanatory statement to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives prior to exercising any lease authority provided in this resolution.

Provided that, except for interim leases as described above, the Administrator may not enter into any leases that are below prospectus level for the purposes of meeting any of the requirements, or portions thereof, included in the prospectus that would result in an overall utilization rate of 421 square feet or higher per person.

Provided that, to the maximum extent practicable, the Administrator shall include in the lease contract(s) a purchase option that can be exercised at the conclusion of the firm term of the lease.

Provided further, that the General Services Administration shall not delegate to any other agency the authority granted by this resolution.

Provided further, that the Administrator shall require that the delineated area of the procurement is identical to the delineated area included in the prospectus, except that, if the Administrator determines that the delineated area of the procurement should not be identical to the delineated area included in the prospectus, the Administrator shall provide an explanatory statement to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives prior to exercising any lease authority provided in this resolution.

Provided further, not later than 30 calendar days after the date on which a request from the Chairman or Ranking Member of the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives is received by the Administrator of General Services, the Administrator shall provide such Member a response in writing that provides any information requested regarding the project.

Provided further, the Administrator of General Services may not enter into this lease if it does not contain a provision barring any individual holding a Federally-elected office, regardless of whether such individual took office before or after execution of this lease, to directly participate in, or benefit from or under this lease or any part thereof and that such provision provide that if this lease is found to have been made in violation of the foregoing prohibition or it is found that this prohibition has been violated during the term of the lease, the lease shall be void, except that the foregoing limitation shall not apply if the lease is entered into with a publicly-held corporation or publicly-held entity for the general benefit of such corporation or entity.

Provided further, prior to entering into this lease or approving a novation agreement involving a change of ownership under this lease, the Administrator of General Services shall require the offeror or the parties requesting the novation, as applicable, to identify and disclose whether the owner of the leased space, including an entity involved in the financing thereof, is a foreign person or a foreign-owned entity; provided further, in such an instance, the Administrator of General Services shall notify the occupant agency(ies) in writing, and consult with such occupant agency(ies) regarding security concerns and necessary mitigation measures (if any) prior to award of the lease or approval of the novation agreement.

Provided that, to the maximum extent practicable, the Administrator of General Services shall require that the lease procurement consider the availability of public transportation consistent with agency mission requirements and that the space to be leased be renovated for all cost effective improvements, including renewable energy upgrades, water efficiency improvements, and indoor air quality optimization, that reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

GSA PBS

PROSPECTUS – LEASE
EXECUTIVE OFFICE FOR IMMIGRATION REVIEW AND IMMIGRATION & CUSTOMS ENFORCEMENT MIAMI, FL

Prospectus Number: PFL-01-MI19
Congressional District: 24

Executive Summary

The General Services Administration (GSA) proposes a lease for approximately 123,000 rentable square feet (RSF) for the Department of Justice–Executive Office for Immigration Review (EOIR) and the Department of Homeland Security–Immigration and Customs Enforcement's Office of the Principal Legal Advisor (OPLA), currently located at 333 South Miami Avenue in Miami, FL. The Government has occupied space in this building since 2004.

The proposed lease will enable EOIR and OPLA to provide continued housing for their missions in Miami, FL. EOIR and OPLA are uniquely responsible for adjudicating immigration cases by fairly, expeditiously, and uniformly interpreting and administering the Nation's immigration laws. The proposed lease will provide continued housing for the delivery of both agencies' missions. Office utilization will reduce from 425 square feet per person to 162 usable square feet (USF) per person. Overall utilization rates will also decrease, from 546 to 421 USF per person.

Description

Occupant:	EOIR and OPLA
Current Rentable Square Feet (RSF)	127,212 (Current RU Factor = 1.10)
Estimated Maximum RSF[1]:	123,000 (Proposed RU Factor = 1.15)
Reduction RSF:	4,212
Current Usable Square Feet/Person:	546
Estimated Usable Square Feet/Person:	421
Expiration Dates of Current Lease(s):	12/31/2018
Proposed Maximum Leasing Authority:	20 years
Delineated Area:	North: NW 11th St from I-95 to NW 1st Ave; NW 1st Ave north to NE 15th St; NE 15th St east to Biscayne Bay; East: Biscayne Bay; South: Miami River; NW 3rd St to I-95; I-95 north to NW 11th St including the Miami, FL CBD (as defined by the Miami Downtown Development Authority)
Number of Official Parking Spaces:	41
Scoring:	Operating
Current Total Annual Cost:	$3,833,312 (lease effective 01/01/2004)

[1] The RSF/USF at the current location is approximately 1.10; however, to maximize competition, a RSF/USF ratio of 1.15 is used for the estimated proposed maximum RSF as indicated in the housing plan.

PROSPECTUS – LEASE
EXECUTIVE OFFICE FOR IMMIGRATION REVIEW
AND IMMIGRATION & CUSTOMS ENFORCEMENT
MIAMI, FL

Prospectus Number: PFL-01-MI19
Congressional District: 24

Estimated Rental Rate[2]: $48.00 / RSF
Estimated Total Annual Cost[3]: $5,904,000

Background

EOIR and OPLA are currently co-located at 333 South Miami Avenue in Miami, FL. This location acts as one of the 59 EOIR courts around the country. The judges and staff serve the public interest through the application of immigration law in formal court proceedings, appellate reviews, and administrative hearings. OPLA is composed of attorneys and staff, and is the legal representative and litigator for the Federal Government in exclusion, deportation, and removal proceedings heard before EOIR.

Justification

EOIR and OPLA have been housed in downtown Miami since 2004. The lease at 333 South Miami Avenue expires on December 31, 2018, and both EOIR and OPLA have a continuing need for housing to ensure continuity in meeting their mission requirements.

The judicial nature of operations requires increased levels of security. GSA will consider whether EOIR and OPLA's continued housing needs should be satisfied in the existing location based on an analysis of other potential locations within the delineated area. If other potential locations are identified, a cost-benefit analysis will be conducted to determine whether the Government can expect to recover the relocation and duplication costs of real and personal property needed for EOIR and OPLA to accomplish their missions.

Special Space Requirements

In FY 2016 the Miami EOIR Court completed 10,319 court matters. To maintain this level of efficiency, special space requirements that support the courtrooms, secure corridors, file storage, and associated space are needed to provide safe and secure immigration, deportation, and removal proceedings.

[2] This estimate is for fiscal year 2019 and may be escalated by 2.0 percent annually to the effective date of the lease to account for inflation. The proposed rental rate is fully serviced including all operating expenses, whether paid by the lessor or directly by the Government. GSA will conduct the procurement using prevailing market rental rates as a benchmark for the evaluation of competitive offers and as the basis for negotiating with offerors to ensure that lease award is made in the best interest of the Government.

[3] New leases may contain an escalation clause to provide for annual changes in real estate taxes and operating costs.

PROSPECTUS – LEASE
EXECUTIVE OFFICE FOR IMMIGRATION REVIEW
AND IMMIGRATION & CUSTOMS ENFORCEMENT
MIAMI, FL

Prospectus Number: PFL-01-MI19
Congressional District: 24

The courtrooms are constructed to facilitate assembly functions and to comply with current accessibility standards, including ramps and handrails for access to the judge's dais as required by the Architectural Barriers Act Accessibility Standards (ABAAS). Each courtroom has a raised desk for the judge, clerk, and interpreter, and a litigation area for the prosecution, defense, and witness along with public seating for court visitors. The Government developed the current courtroom standard of approximately 850 square feet to meet the needs of the court and comply with applicable accessibility standards. The courtrooms are used on a daily basis and are designed to handle approximately 35 people.

In addition to courtrooms, EOIR also has a need for storage to maintain the Records of Proceedings (ROP). ROPs are critical to the function of the Immigration Courts and are used by immigration judges, attorneys, and EOIR Board Members if a court decision is appealed. The Federal Records Act requires the storage of records in paper form, although EOIR has begun the transition to electronic filing and digital recordings of court proceedings. At this time, these initiatives affect only a small portion of the ROP Paper files remain critical for continuity between agencies accessing documentation during the time a case remains active.

Summary of Energy Compliance

GSA will incorporate energy efficiency requirements into the Request for Lease Proposals and other documents related to the procurement of space based on the approved prospectus. GSA encourages offerors to exceed minimum requirements set forth in the procurement and to achieve an Energy Star performance rating of 75 or higher.

Resolutions of Approval

Resolutions adopted by the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, and the Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works approving this prospectus will constitute approval to make appropriations to lease space in a facility that will yield the required rentable area.

Interim Leasing

GSA will execute such interim leasing actions as are necessary to ensure continued housing of the tenant agency prior to the effective date of the extension. It is in the best interest of the Government to avert the financial risk of holdover tenancy.

GSA PBS

PROSPECTUS – LEASE
EXECUTIVE OFFICE FOR IMMIGRATION REVIEW
AND IMMIGRATION & CUSTOMS ENFORCEMENT
MIAMI, FL

Prospectus Number: PFL-01-MI19
Congressional District: 24

Certification of Need

The proposed project is the best solution to meet a validated Government need.

Submitted at Washington, DC, on September 26, 2018.

Recommended: _____
Commissioner, Public Buildings Service

Approved: _____
Administrator, General Services Administration

November 2017

Housing Plan
EOIR and ICE OPLA

PFL-01-M119
Miami, FL

Leased Locations	CURRENT						ESTIMATED/PROPOSED					
	Personnel		Usable Square Feet (USF)[1]				Personnel		Usable Square Feet (USF)			
	Office	Total	Office	Storage	Special	Total	Office	Total	Office	Storage[5]	Special[6]	Total
One Riverview Square - 333 South Miami Ave												
DOJ - Executive Office for Immigration Review	125	125	77,997		-	77,997	-	-	-	-	-	-
DHS - Immigration and Customs Enforcement	87	87	37,650	-	-	37,650	-	-		-	-	-
Estimated/Proposed Lease												
DOJ - Executive Office for Immigration Review	-	-	-	-	-	-	140	140	29,874	-	47,637	77,511
DHS - Immigration and Customs Enforcement	-	-	-	-	-	-	114	114	22,994	-	6,370	29,364
Total	**212**	**212**	**115,647**	-	-	**115,647**	**254**	**254**	**52,868**	-	**54,007**	**106,875**

Office Utilization Rate (UR)[2]		
	Current	Proposed
Rate	425	162

UR = average amount of office space per person
Current UR excludes 25,442 usf of office support space
Proposed UR excludes 54,007 usf of office support space

Overall UR[3]		
	Current	Proposed
Rate	546	421

CAF[4]			
	Total USF	RSF/USF	Max RSF
Current	115,647	1.10	127,212
Estimated/Proposed	106,875	1.15	123,000

Special Space6	USF
Courtroom	24,882
File Room / Records of Proceedings	10,588
Judges Secure Corridor	5,915
Conference/Training Room	4,404
Secure Files / Bulk Storage	1,704
Printer/Copy/Mail Room	1,460
Break Room	1,380
Fitness	1,200
ADP	924
Sally Port	800
Holding Cell	400
Weapons Room	150
Secure Reception Area	100
Library	100
Total	**54,007**

NOTES:
[1] USF means the portion of the building available for use by a tenant's personnel and furnishings and space available jointly to the occupants of the building.
[2] Calculation excludes Judiciary, Congress and agencies with less than 10 people
[3] USF/Person = housing plan total USF divided by total personnel.
[4] Common Area Factor (CAF) = Max RSF divided by total USF
[5] Storage excludes warehouse, which is part of Special
[6] Special spaces listed are examples of such spaces and may be subject to change at the time a Request for Lease Proposal (RLP) is issued to meet specific agency requirements.

COMMITTEE RESOLUTION

LEASE—DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY, INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE, FRESNO, CA

Resolved by the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the U.S. House of Representatives, that pursuant to 40 U.S.C. §3307, appropriations are authorized for a lease of up to 170,000 rentable square feet of space, including 868 official parking spaces, for the Department of the Treasury—Internal Revenue Service currently located at 855 M Street, 5045 E. Butler Street, 4976 E. Kings Canyon, and 1325 Broadway Street in Fresno, CA at a proposed total annual cost of $6,120,000 for a lease term of up to 15 years, a prospectus for which is attached to and included in this resolution.

Approval of this prospectus constitutes authority to execute an interim lease for all tenants, if necessary, prior to the execution of the new lease.

Provided that, the Administrator of General Services and tenant agency(ies) agree to apply an overall utilization rate of 88 square feet or less per person, except that, if the Administrator determines that the overall utilization rate cannot be achieved, the Administrator shall provide an explanatory statement to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives prior to exercising any lease authority provided in this resolution.

Provided that, except for interim leases as described above, the Administrator may not enter into any leases that are below prospectus level for the purposes of meeting any of the requirements, or portions thereof, included in the prospectus that would result in an overall utilization rate of 88 square feet or higher per person.

Provided that, to the maximum extent practicable, the Administrator shall include in the lease contract(s) a purchase option that can be exercised at the conclusion of the firm term of the lease.

Provided further, that the General Services Administration shall not delegate to any other agency the authority granted by this resolution.

Provided further, that the Administrator shall require that the delineated area of the procurement is identical to the delineated area included in the prospectus, except that, if the Administrator determines that the delineated area of the procurement should not be identical to the delineated area included in the prospectus, the Administrator shall provide an explanatory statement to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives prior to exercising any lease authority provided in this resolution.

Provided further, not later than 30 calendar days after the date on which a request from the Chairman or Ranking Member of the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives is received by the Administrator of General Services, the Administrator shall provide such Member a response in writing that provides any information requested regarding the project.

Provided further, the Administrator of General Services may not enter into this lease if it does not contain a provision barring any individual holding a Federally-elected office, regardless of whether such individual took office before or after execution of this lease, to directly participate in, or benefit from or under this lease or any part thereof and that such provision provide that if this lease is found to have been made in violation of the foregoing prohibition or it is found that this prohibition has been violated during the term of the lease, the lease shall be void, except that the foregoing limitation shall not apply if the lease is entered into with a publicly-held corporation or publicly-held entity for the general benefit of such corporation or entity.

Provided further, prior to entering into this lease or approving a novation agreement involving a change of ownership under this lease, the Administrator of General Services shall require the offeror or the parties requesting the novation, as applicable, to identify and disclose whether the owner of the leased space, including an entity involved in the financing thereof, is a foreign person or a foreign-owned entity; provided further, in such an instance, the Administrator of General Services shall notify the occupant agency(ies) in writing, and consult with such occupant agency(ies) regarding security concerns and necessary mitigation measures (if any) prior to award of the lease or approval of the novation agreement.

Provided that, to the maximum extent practicable, the Administrator of General Services shall require that the lease procurement consider the availability of public transportation consistent with agency mission requirements and that the space to be leased be renovated for all cost effective improvements, including renewable energy upgrades, water efficiency improvements, and indoor air quality optimization, that reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

GSA PBS

PROSPECTUS – LEASE
DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY
INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE
FRESNO, CA

Prospectus Number: PCA-01-FR19
Congressional District: CA-16

Executive Summary

The General Services Administration (GSA) proposes a lease of approximately 170,000 rentable square feet (RSF) for the Department of the Treasury, Internal Revenue Service (IRS), to house 1,592 employees. The lease will consolidate: 1,179 Accounts Management employees currently located at 855 M Street; 19 Treasury Inspector General for Tax Administration (TIGTA) employees housed at 5045 E. Butler Street, 66 Integrity & Verification Operations/Return Integrity and Compliance Services (IVO/RICS) personnel currently located at 4976 E. Kings Canyon and 136 Taxpayer Relations employees currently housed at 1325 Broadway Street all in Fresno, California, as well as 192 Accounts Management new hires currently in training. IRS has occupied 122,000 RSF at 855 M Street since October 4, 2003, under a lease that expires on October 3, 2018. Other supporting leases expire on November 30, 2018 and November 30, 2021.

This proposed lease will provide continued housing for IRS that is in line with its recent re-alignment and organizational needs, will accommodate IRS' firm future hiring plans in FY 2019 and FY 2020, and is consistent with the master IRS Fresno Campus space strategy collaboratively developed by IRS and GSA. The office space utilization rate (UR) will remain at 56 square feet per person, and the overall space UR will be 88 square feet per person at award.

Description

Occupant:	Internal Revenue Service
Current Rentable Square Feet (RSF):	153,038 (Current RSF/USF = 1.10)
Estimated Maximum RSF[1]:	170,000 (Proposed RSF/USF = 1.20)
Expansion RSF:	16,962
Current Usable Square Feet/Person:	87
Estimated/Proposed USF/Person:	88
Expiration Dates of Current Lease(s):	10/03/2018, 11/30/2018 and 11/30/2021 (2 leases)
Proposed Maximum Lease Term:	15 years
Delineated Area:	City of Fresno CBA – North: Divisadero Street South: Highway CA-41 East: R Street

[1] The RSF/USF at the current location is approximately 1.10; however, to maximize competition a RSF/USF ratio of 1.20 is used for the estimated proposed maximum RSF as indicated in the housing plan.

PROSPECTUS – LEASE
DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY
INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE
FRESNO, CA

Prospectus Number: PCA-01-FR19
Congressional District: CA-16

	West: H Street to Stanislaus Street to Highway CA-99
Number of Official Parking Spaces[2]:	868
Scoring:	Operating
Current Total Annual Cost:	$5,187,988
Estimated Rental Rate[3]:	$36.00 / RSF
Estimated Total Annual Cost[4]:	$6,120,000

Background

The IRS mission is to provide America's taxpayers quality service by helping them understand and meet their tax responsibilities, and by applying the tax law with integrity and fairness to all.

Justification

The mission of the Accounts Management (AM) organization is to provide assistance to all taxpayers with inquiries related to tax law and accounts via telephone, correspondence and web applications. The AM organization balances the delivery of telephone and paper adjustment programs to ensure that all taxpayers receive a correct and complete response in a timely manner.

It is critical to the operation to house the function of the AM organization into a single location to ensure quality service delivery to taxpayers. The current lease at 855 M Street, Fresno, California, expires on October 3, 2018. IRS requires continued housing to carry out its mission and requires additional space to consolidate new and existing employees related to the Department of Treasury mission in the Fresno, CA, area.

Summary of Energy Compliance

GSA will incorporate energy efficiency requirements into the Request for Lease Proposals and other documents related to the procurement of space based on the

[2] The parking requirement includes 867 privately owned vehicle parking spaces for IRS employees due to shift work at this location.
[3] This estimate is for fiscal year 2019 and may be escalated by 1.95 percent annually to the effective date of the lease to account for inflation. The proposed rental rate is fully serviced including standard operating expenses, whether paid by the lessor or directly by the Government. GSA will conduct the procurement using prevailing market rental rates as a benchmark for the evaluation of competitive offers and as the basis for negotiating with offerors to ensure that lease award is made in the best interest of the Government.
[4] New leases may contain an escalation clause to provide for annual changes in real estate taxes and operating costs.

PROSPECTUS – LEASE
DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY
INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE
FRESNO, CA

Prospectus Number: PCA-01-FR19
Congressional District: CA-16

approved prospectus. GSA encourages offerors to exceed minimum requirements set forth in the procurement and to achieve an Energy Star performance rating of 75 or higher.

Resolutions of Approval

Resolutions adopted by the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, and the Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works approving this prospectus will constitute approval to make appropriations to lease space in a facility that will yield the required rentable area.

Interim Leasing

GSA will execute such interim leasing actions as are necessary to ensure continued housing of the tenant agency prior to the effective date of the new lease. It is in the best interest of the Government to avert the financial risk of holdover tenancy.

Certification of Need

The proposed project is the best solution to meet a validated Government need.

Submitted at Washington, DC, on _____

Recommended: _____
Commissioner, Public Buildings Service

Approved: _____
Administrator, General Services Administration

July 2018

Housing Plan
Department of the Treasury
Internal Revenue Service

PCA-01-FR19
Fresno, CA

Leased Locations	CURRENT						ESTIMATED/PROPOSED					
	Personnel		Usable Square Feet (USF)[1]				Personnel		Usable Square Feet (USF)			
	Office	Total	Office	Storage	Special	Total	Office	Total	Office	Storage[5]	Special[6]	Total
855 M Street, Fresno, CA	1,179	1,179	94,886	778	15,246	110,910			-	-	-	-
1325 Broadway Street, Fresno, CA - Taxpayer Relations[7]	136	136	7,099	-	886	7,985			-	-	-	-
5045 E. Butler Street, Fresno, CA - Accounts Management	192	192	-	-	4,907	4,907						
5045 E. Butler Street, Fresno, CA - TIGTA	19	19	2,517	188	892	3,597						
4976 E. Kings Canyon - IVO/RICS	73	73	9,652	85	1,590	11,327						
Estimated/Proposed Lease	-	-	-	-	-				115,290	1,414	24,145	140,849
Total	**1,599**	**1,599**	**114,154**	**1,051**	**23,521**	**138,726**	**1,592**	**1,592**	**115,290**	**1,414**	**24,145**	**140,849**

Office Utilization Rate (UR)[2]		
	Current	Proposed
Rate	56	56

UR = average amount of office space per person
Current UR excludes 25,114 usf of office support space
Proposed UR excludes 25,364 usf of office support space

Overall UR[3]		
	Current	Proposed
Rate	87	88

R/U Factor[4]			
	Total USF	RSF/USF	Max RSF
Current	138,726	1.10	153,038
Estimated/Proposed	140,849	1.20	170,000

Special Space[6]	USF
Conference/Training	10,253
Health Unit	1,015
ADP	5,075
Copy Ctr/Mail Room	490
Break Room	6,990
Evidence Storage	161
Tech/Firearms Room	161
Total	**24,145**

NOTES:
[1] USF means the portion of the building available for use by a tenant's personnel and furnishings and space available jointly to the occupants of the building.
[2] Calculation excludes Judiciary, Congress and agencies with less than 10 people
[3] USF/Person = housing plan total USF divided by total personnel.
[4] R/U Factor (R/U) = Max RSF divided by total USF
[5] Storage excludes warehouse, which is part of Special Space.
[6] Special spaces listed are examples of such spaces and may be subject to change at the time a Request for Lease Proposal (RLP) is issued to meet specific agency requirements.
[7] Taxpayer Relations component (8,417 RSF) moving / consolidating from 1325 Broadway Street (180,481 RSF total).
[8] New Accounts Management Employees in off-site training at 5045 E. Butler St. (moving from training rooms to typical office setup)

COMMITTEE RESOLUTION

LEASE—DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY, CUSTOMS AND BORDER PROTECTION, LONG BEACH, CA

Resolved by the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the U.S. House of Representatives, that pursuant to 40 U.S.C. §3307, appropriations are authorized for a lease of up to 121,000 rentable square feet of space, including 80 official parking spaces, for the Department of Homeland Security—Customs and Border Protection currently located at 301 E. Ocean Boulevard in Long Beach, CA at a proposed total annual cost of $5,203,000 for a lease term of up to 20 years, a prospectus for which is attached to and included in this resolution.

Approval of this prospectus constitutes authority to execute an interim lease for all tenants, if necessary, prior to the execution of the new lease.

Provided that, the Administrator of General Services and tenant agency(ies) agree to apply an overall utilization rate of 213 square feet or less per person, except that, if the Administrator determines that the overall utilization rate cannot be achieved, the Administrator shall provide an explanatory statement to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives prior to exercising any lease authority provided in this resolution.

Provided that, except for interim leases as described above, the Administrator may not enter into any leases that are below prospectus level for the purposes of meeting any of the requirements, or portions thereof, included in the prospectus that would result in an overall utilization rate of 213 square feet or higher per person.

Provided that, to the maximum extent practicable, the Administrator shall include in the lease contract(s) a purchase option that can be exercised at the conclusion of the firm term of the lease.

Provided further, that the General Services Administration shall not delegate to any other agency the authority granted by this resolution.

Provided further, that the Administrator shall require that the delineated area of the procurement is identical to the delineated area included in the prospectus, except that, if the Administrator determines that the delineated area of the procurement should not be identical to the delineated area included in the prospectus, the Administrator shall provide an explanatory statement to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives prior to exercising any lease authority provided in this resolution.

Provided further, not later than 30 calendar days after the date on which a request from the Chairman or Ranking Member of the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives is received by the Administrator of General Services, the Administrator shall provide such Member a response in writing that provides any information requested regarding the project.

Provided further, the Administrator of General Services may not enter into this lease if it does not contain a provision barring any individual holding a Federally-elected office, regardless of whether such individual took office before or after execution of this lease, to directly participate in, or benefit from or under this lease or any part thereof and that such provision provide that if this lease is found to have been made in violation of the foregoing prohibition or it is found that this prohibition has been violated during the term of the lease, the lease shall be void, except that the foregoing limitation shall not apply if the lease is entered into with a publicly-held corporation or publicly-held entity for the general benefit of such corporation or entity.

Provided further, prior to entering into this lease or approving a novation agreement involving a change of ownership under this lease, the Administrator of General Services shall require the offeror or the parties requesting the novation, as applicable, to identify and disclose whether the owner of the leased space, including an entity involved in the financing thereof, is a foreign person or a foreign-owned entity; provided further, in such an instance, the Administrator of General Services shall notify the occupant agency(ies) in writing, and consult with such occupant agency(ies) regarding security concerns and necessary mitigation measures (if any) prior to award of the lease or approval of the novation agreement.

Provided that, to the maximum extent practicable, the Administrator of General Services shall require that the lease procurement consider the availability of public transportation consistent with agency mission requirements and that the space to be leased be renovated for all cost effective improvements, including renewable energy upgrades, water efficiency improvements, and indoor air quality optimization, that reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

GSA PBS

PROSPECTUS – LEASE
DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY
CUSTOMS AND BORDER PROTECTION
LONG BEACH, CA

Prospectus Number: PCA-01-LB19
Congressional District: CA-47

Executive Summary

The General Services Administration (GSA) proposes a lease of approximately 121,000 rentable square feet for the Department of Homeland Security–Customs and Border Protection (CBP), currently located at 301 E. Ocean Boulevard in Long Beach, CA.

The lease will provide continued housing for CBP, and will improve the office space utilization from 145 to 92 and overall space utilization from 288 to 213 usable square feet (USF) per person, respectively.

Description

Occupant:	Customs and Border Protection
Current Rentable Square Feet (RSF)	143,732 (Current RSF/USF= 1.16)
Estimated/Proposed Maximum RSF[1]:	121,000 (Proposed RSF/USF = 1.20)
Reduction RSF:	22,732
Current Usable Square Feet/Person:	288
Estimated/Proposed USF/Person:	213
Expiration Dates of Current Lease(s):	10/09/2021
Proposed Maximum Leasing Authority:	20 years
Delineated Area:	Downtown Long Beach Central Business Area (N: 7th Street; S: Pacific Ocean; E: Alamitos Avenue; W: West Shoreline Drive)
Number of Official Parking Spaces:	80
Scoring:	Operating
Current Total Annual Cost:	$5,488,108 (lease effective 10/10/2001)
Estimated Rental Rate[2]:	$43.00 / RSF
Estimated Total Annual Cost[3]:	$5,203,000

[1] The RSF/USF at the current location is approximately 1.16; however, to maximize competition a RSF/USF ratio of 1.20 is used for the estimated proposed maximum RSF as indicated in the housing plan.
[2] This estimate is for fiscal year 2022 and may be escalated by 2 percent annually to the effective date of the lease to account for inflation. The proposed rental rate is fully serviced including all operating expenses, whether paid by the lessor or directly by the Government. GSA will conduct the procurement using prevailing market rental rates as a benchmark for the evaluation of competitive offers and as the basis for negotiating with offerors to ensure that lease award is made in the best interest of the Government.
[3] New leases may contain an escalation clause to provide for annual changes in real estate taxes and operating costs.

PROSPECTUS – LEASE
DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY
CUSTOMS AND BORDER PROTECTION
LONG BEACH, CA

Prospectus Number: PCA-01-LB19
Congressional District: CA-47

Background

CBP's mission is to secure the Nation's borders while facilitating lawful travel and trade.

The Long Beach lease houses CBP's Container Security Initiative (CSI). CSI addresses the threat to border security and global trade posed by the potential for terrorist use of a maritime container to deliver a weapon.

Justification

CBP operations located adjacent to the Los Angeles/Long Beach Seaport provide critical support to maritime import/export functions integral to the economic infrastructure of the United States. The companion ports are the largest container port operations in the United States. The ports receive approximately 40 percent of maritime cargo with a value of $278 billion and require substantial oversight. CBP's ability to manage the seaport's multimillion-dollar Non-Intrusive Inspection technology portfolio, examine high-risk cargo, conduct enforcement operations, and facilitate the flow of legitimate trade and travel depends on its proximity to the port.

CBP's law enforcement mission involves close partnerships, regular meetings, and communications with other government agencies that are located at the port. CBP also must be available and accessible to trade partners and stakeholders operating at the terminals. Proximity to the port has the benefits of shortening response times, mitigating disruptions, identifying security breaches, and expediting special operations.

Consequently, the delineated area requested provides the most strategic and direct route to the various cargo and passenger terminals in Los Angeles and Long Beach, and provides critical ease of access for the significant CBP employee population required to perform mission-critical operations. GSA will consider whether CBP's continued housing needs should be satisfied in the existing location based on an analysis of other potential locations within the delineated area. If other potential locations are identified, a cost-benefit analysis will be conducted to determine whether the Government can expect to recover the relocation and duplication costs of real and personal property needed for CBP to accomplish its mission.

The current lease at 301 E. Ocean Boulevard in Long Beach, California, expires October 9, 2021. CBP requires continued housing to carry out its mission.

PROSPECTUS – LEASE
DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY
CUSTOMS AND BORDER PROTECTION
LONG BEACH, CA

Prospectus Number: PCA-01-LB19
Congressional District: CA-47

Summary of Energy Compliance

GSA will incorporate energy efficiency requirements into the Request for Lease Proposals and other documents related to the procurement of space based on the approved prospectus. GSA encourages offerors to exceed minimum requirements set forth in the procurement and to achieve an Energy Star performance rating of 75 or higher.

Resolutions of Approval

Resolutions adopted by the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, and the Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works approving this prospectus will constitute approval to make appropriations to lease space in a facility that will yield the required rentable area.

Interim Leasing

GSA will execute such interim leasing actions as are necessary to ensure continued housing of the tenant agency prior to the effective date of the new lease. It is in the best interest of the Government to avert the financial risk of holdover tenancy.

GSA **PBS**

PROSPECTUS – LEASE
DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY
CUSTOMS AND BORDER PROTECTION
LONG BEACH, CA

Prospectus Number: PCA-01-LB19
Congressional District: CA-47

Certification of Need

The proposed project is the best solution to meet a validated Government need.

Submitted at Washington, DC, on September 27, 2018.

Recommended: _____
Commissioner, Public Buildings Service

Approved: _____
Administrator, General Services Administration

May 2018

Housing Plan
Department of Homeland Security
Customs and Border Protection

PCA-01-LB19
Long Beach, CA

Leased Locations	CURRENT						ESTIMATED/PROPOSED					
	Personnel		Usable Square Feet (USF)[1]				Personnel		Usable Square Feet (USF)			
	Office	**Total**	**Office**	**Storage**	**Special**	**Total**	**Office**	**Total**	**Office**	**Storage [5]**	**Special [6]**	**Total**
301 E Ocean Blvd., Long Beach, CA	429	429	79,644	8,255	35,821	**123,720**	-	-	-	-	-	-
Estimated/Proposed Lease	-	-	-	-	-		473	473	56,034	7,612	36,937	100,583
Total	**429**	**429**	**79,644**	**8,255**	**35,821**	**123,720**	**473**	**473**	**56,034**	**7,612**	**36,937**	**100,583**

Office Utilization Rate (UR)[2]		
	Current	Proposed
Rate	145	92

UR = average amount of office space per person
Current UR excludes 17,522 usf of office support space
Proposed UR excludes 12,327 usf of office support space

Overall UR[3]		
	Current	Proposed
Rate	288	213

R/U Factor [4]			
	Total USF	RSF/USF	Max RSF
Current	123,720	1.16	143,732
Estimated/Proposed	100,583	1.2	121,000

Special Space [6]	USF
Command Center	2,604
Conference Space	6,960
Firearms Simulator Training	1,395
LAN/ADP	744
Locker Room	1,116
Public Counter	2,604
Secure File Room	5,022
Secure Storage	10,354
Vault	744
Weapons Storage	5,394
Total	**36,937**

NOTES:
[1] USF means the portion of the building available for use by a tenant's personnel and furnishings and space available jointly to the occupants of the building.
[2] Calculation excludes Judiciary, Congress and agencies with less than 10 people
[3] USF/Person = housing plan total USF divided by total personnel.
[4] Rentable Usable Factor (R/U Facter) = Max RSF divided by total USF
[5] Storage excludes warehouse, wihich is part of Special Space
[6] Special spaces listed are examples of such spaces and may be subject to change at the time a Request for Lease Proposal (RLP) is issued to meet specific agency requirements.

COMMITTEE RESOLUTION

LEASE—DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY, IMMIGRATION AND CUSTOMS ENFORCEMENT, NEW YORK, NY

Resolved by the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the U.S. House of Representatives, that pursuant to 40 U.S.C. §3307, appropriations are authorized for a lease of up to 181,647 rentable square feet of space for the Department of Homeland Security—Immigration and Customs Enforcement currently located at 601 West 26th Street, New York, NY at a proposed total annual cost of $14,168,466 for a lease term of up to five years, a prospectus for which is attached to and included in this resolution.

Approval of this prospectus constitutes authority to execute an interim lease for all tenants, if necessary, prior to the execution of the new lease.

Provided that, the Administrator of General Services and tenant agency(ies) agree to apply an overall utilization rate of 237 square feet or less per person, except that, if the Administrator determines that the overall utilization rate cannot be achieved, the Administrator shall provide an explanatory statement to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives prior to exercising any lease authority provided in this resolution.

Provided that, except for interim leases as described above, the Administrator may not enter into any leases that are below prospectus level for the purposes of meeting any of the requirements, or portions thereof, included in the prospectus that would result in an overall utilization rate of 237 square feet or higher per person.

Provided that, to the maximum extent practicable, the Administrator shall include in the lease contract(s) a purchase option that can be exercised at the conclusion of the firm term of the lease.

Provided further, that the General Services Administration shall not delegate to any other agency the authority granted by this resolution.

Provided further, that the Administrator shall require that the delineated area of the procurement is identical to the delineated area included in the prospectus, except that, if the Administrator determines that the delineated area of the procurement should not be identical to the delineated area included in the prospectus, the Administrator shall provide an explanatory statement to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives prior to exercising any lease authority provided in this resolution.

Provided further, not later than 30 calendar days after the date on which a request from the Chairman or Ranking Member of the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives is received by the Administrator of General Services, the Administrator shall provide such Member a response in writing that provides any information requested regarding the project.

Provided further, the Administrator of General Services may not enter into this lease if it does not contain a provision barring any individual holding a Federally-elected office, regardless of whether such individual took office before or after execution of this lease, to directly participate in, or benefit from or under this lease or any part thereof and that such provision provide that if this lease is found to have been made in violation of the foregoing prohibition or it is found that this prohibition has been violated during the term of the lease, the lease shall be void, except that the foregoing limitation shall not apply if the lease is entered into with a publicly-held corporation or publicly-held entity for the general benefit of such corporation or entity.

Provided further, prior to entering into this lease or approving a novation agreement involving a change of ownership under this lease, the Administrator of General Services shall require the offeror or the parties requesting the novation, as applicable, to identify and disclose whether the owner of the leased space, including an entity involved in the financing thereof, is a foreign person or a foreign-owned entity; *Provided further*, in such an instance, the Administrator of General Services shall notify the occupant agency(ies) in writing, and consult with such occupant agency(ies) regarding security concerns and necessary mitigation measures (if any) prior to award of the lease or approval of the novation agreement.

Provided that, to the maximum extent practicable, the Administrator of General Services shall require that the lease procurement consider the availability of public transportation consistent with agency mission requirements and that the space to be leased be renovated for all cost effective improvements, including renewable energy upgrades, water efficiency improvements, and indoor air quality optimization, that reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

GSA PBS

PROSPECTUS – LEASE
DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY
IMMIGRATION AND CUSTOMS ENFORCEMENT
NEW YORK, NY

Prospectus Number: PNY-04-NY19
Congressional District: 10

Executive Summary

The General Services Administration (GSA) proposes a lease extension of up to 5 years for approximately 181,647 rentable square feet for the Department of Homeland Security - Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), currently located at 601 West 26th Street, New York, NY. ICE has occupied space in the building since November 4, 2002, under a lease that expires on December 31, 2018.

Extension of the current leases will enable ICE to provide continued housing for current personnel and meet its current mission requirements. ICE will maintain the office and overall utilization at 140 and 237 usable square (USF) feet per person, respectively, based on the housing of additional personnel at this location.

Description

Occupant:	Immigration and Customs Enforcement
Lease Type:	Renewal Option
Current Rentable Square Feet (RSF)	181,647 (Current RSF/USF = 1.39)
Estimated/Proposed Maximum RSF:	181,647 (Proposed RSF/USF = 1.39)
Expansion/Reduction RSF:	None
Current USF/Person:	237
Estimated/Proposed USF/Person:	237
Expiration Dates of Current Lease(s):	12/31/2018
Proposed Maximum Leasing Authority:	5 years
Delineated Area:	North: 34th Street East: 6th Ave South: 14th Street West: 12th Avenue
Number of Official Parking Spaces:	0
Scoring:	Operating
Current Total Annual Cost:	$12,787,269 (lease effective 11/04/2002; includes lease contract and electricity)
Estimated Rental Rate[1]:	$78.00/RSF
Estimated Total Annual Cost[2]:	$14,168,466(lease contract plus electricity)

[1] This estimate is for fiscal year 2019 and may be escalated by 1.9 percent per year to the effective date of the lease to account for inflation. The proposed rental rate is fully serviced including all operating expenses, whether paid by the lessor or directly by the Government. GSA will conduct the procurement using prevailing market rental rates as a benchmark for the evaluation of competitive offers and as the basis for negotiating with offerors to ensure that lease award is made in the best interest of the Government.

[2] New leases may contain an escalation clause to provide for annual changes in real estate taxes and operating costs.

PROSPECTUS – LEASE
DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY
IMMIGRATION AND CUSTOMS ENFORCEMENT
NEW YORK, NY

Prospectus Number: PNY-04-NY19
Congressional District: 10

Background

ICE's mission is to enforce Federal laws governing border control, customs, trade and immigration to promote homeland security and public safety.

The current lease became effective on November 4, 2002. GSA pays approximately $12,400,000 in annual rent.

Justification

The current lease at 601 W. 26th Street in NY, NY, expires on December 31, 2018, and ICE requires continued housing at this location to carry out its mission prior to relocating to federally owned space in New York. A 5-year renewal option will provide GSA and ICE with sufficient time to formulate ICE's relocation plan and to budget for move costs accordingly.

Resolutions of Approval

Resolutions adopted by the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure and the Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works approving this prospectus will constitute approval to make appropriations to lease space in a facility that will yield the required rentable area.

Interim Leasing

GSA will execute such interim leasing actions as are necessary to ensure continued housing of the tenant agency prior to the effective date of the extension It is in the best interest of the Government to avert the financial risk of holdover tenancy.

GSA PBS

PROSPECTUS – LEASE
DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY
IMMIGRATION AND CUSTOMS ENFORCEMENT
NEW YORK, NY

Prospectus Number: PNY-04-NY19
Congressional District: 10

Certification of Need

The proposed project is the best solution to meet a validated Government need.

Submitted at Washington, DC, on September 27, 2018.

Recommended: _____
Commissioner, Public Buildings Service

Approved: _____
Administrator, General Services Administration

November 2017

Housing Plan
Department of Homeland Security
Immigration and Customs Enforcement

PNY-04-NY19
New York, NY

Leased Locations	CURRENT						ESTIMATED/PROPOSED					
	Personnel		Usable Square Feet (USF)[1]				Personnel		Usable Square Feet (USF)			
	Office	**Total**	**Office**	**Storage**	**Special**	**Total**	**Office**	**Total**	**Office**	**Storage[5]**	**Special[6]**	**Total**
601 West 26th Street	553	553	99,133	12,730	19,025	**130,888**	553	553	99,133	12,730	19,025	130,888
Estimated/Proposed Lease	-	-	-	-	-		-	-	-	-	-	-
Total	**553**	**553**	**99,133**	**12,730**	**19,025**	**130,888**	**553**	**553**	**99,133**	**12,730**	**19,025**	**130,888**

Office Utilization Rate (UR)[2]		
	Current	Proposed
Rate	140	140

UR = average amount of office space per person
Current UR excludes 21,809 usf of office support space
Proposed UR excludes 21,809 usf of office support space

Overall UR[3]		
	Current	Proposed
Rate	237	237

R/U Factor [4]			
	Total USF	RSF/USF	Max RSF
Current	130,888	1.39	181,647
Estimated/Proposed	130,888	1.39	181,647

Special Space [6]	USF
Wire Room	1,070
Pen Register Room	200
Computer Forensics Lab	4,015
Money Counting Room	150
HSDN Room	250
SCIF	1,000
Grand Jury File Rooms	2,000
Seized Assets Storage	300
Evidence Storage Rooms	6,800
Firearm Training Room	400
Ammunition Storage	225
Firearms Storage	300
Defensive Tactics Room	625
Tactical Equipment Storage	500
Interview & Observation Rms.	480
Processing and Holding Rooms	710
Total	**19,025**

NOTES:
[1] USF means the portion of the building available for use by a tenant's personnel and furnishings and space available jointly to the occupants of the building.
[2] Calculation excludes Judiciary, Congress and agencies with less than 10 people
[3] USF/Person = housing plan total USF divided by total personnel.
[4] R/U Factor (R/U) = Max RSF divided by total USF
[5] Storage excludes warehouse, which is part of Special Space.
[6] Special spaces listed are examples of such spaces and may be subject to change at the time a Request for Lease Proposal (RLP) is issued to meet specific agency requirements.

COMMITTEE RESOLUTION

LEASE—INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE, U.S. TREASURY INSPECTOR GENERAL FOR TAX ADMINISTRATION, KANSAS CITY, MO

Resolved by the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the U.S. House of Representatives, that pursuant to 40 U.S.C. §3307, appropriations are authorized for a lease of up to 1,140,000 rentable square feet of space, including 4,900 official parking spaces, for the Internal Revenue Service and the U.S. Treasury Inspector General for Tax Administration currently located at 333 West Pershing Road in Kansas City, MO at a proposed total annual cost of $34,872,600 for a lease term of up to 20 years, a prospectus for which is attached to and included in this resolution.

Approval of this prospectus constitutes authority to execute an interim lease for all tenants, if necessary, prior to the execution of the new lease.

Provided that, the Administrator of General Services and tenant agency(ies) agree to apply an overall utilization rate of 156 square feet or less per person, except that, if the Administrator determines that the overall utilization rate cannot be achieved, the Administrator shall provide an explanatory statement to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives prior to exercising any lease authority provided in this resolution.

Provided that, except for interim leases as described above, the Administrator may not enter into any leases that are below prospectus level for the purposes of meeting any of the requirements, or portions thereof, included in the prospectus that would result in an overall utilization rate of 156 square feet or higher per person.

Provided that, to the maximum extent practicable, the Administrator shall include in the lease contract(s) a purchase option that can be exercised at the conclusion of the firm term of the lease.

Provided further, that the General Services Administration shall not delegate to any other agency the authority granted by this resolution.

Provided further, that the Administrator shall require that the delineated area of the procurement is identical to the delineated area included in the prospectus, except that, if the Administrator determines that the delineated area of the procurement should not be identical to the delineated area included in the prospectus, the Administrator shall provide an explanatory statement to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives prior to exercising any lease authority provided in this resolution.

Provided further, not later than 30 calendar days after the date on which a request from the Chairman or Ranking Member of the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives is received by the Administrator of General Services, the Administrator shall provide such Member a response in writing that provides any information requested regarding the project.

Provided further, the Administrator of General Services may not enter into this lease if it does not contain a provision barring any individual holding a Federally-elected office, regardless of whether such individual took office before or after execution of this lease, to directly participate in, or benefit from or under this lease or any part thereof and that such provision provide that if this lease is found to have been made in violation of the foregoing prohibition or it is found that this prohibition has been violated during the term of the lease, the lease shall be void, except that the foregoing limitation shall not apply if the lease is entered into with a publicly-held corporation or publicly-held entity for the general benefit of such corporation or entity.

Provided further, prior to entering into this lease or approving a novation agreement involving a change of ownership under this lease, the Administrator of General Services shall require the offeror or the parties requesting the novation, as applicable, to identify and disclose whether the owner of the leased space, including an entity involved in the financing thereof, is a foreign person or a foreign-owned entity; provided further, in such an instance, the Administrator of General Services shall notify the occupant agency(ies) in writing, and consult with such occupant agency(ies) regarding security concerns and necessary mitigation measures (if any) prior to award of the lease or approval of the novation agreement.

Provided that, to the maximum extent practicable, the Administrator of General Services shall require that the lease procurement consider the availability of public transportation consistent with agency mission requirements and that the space to be leased be renovated for all cost effective improvements, including renewable energy upgrades, water efficiency improvements, and indoor air quality optimization, that reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

GSA PBS

PROSPECTUS – LEASE
INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE
U.S. TREASURY INSPECTOR GENERAL FOR TAX ADMINISTRATION
KANSAS CITY, MO

Prospectus Number: PMO-01-KC19
Congressional District: 05

Executive Summary

The General Services Administration (GSA) proposes a lease for approximately 1,140,000 rentable square feet (RSF) for the Department of the Treasury's Internal Revenue Service (IRS) and U.S. Treasury Inspector General for Tax Administration (TIGTA). IRS and TIGTA are currently housed at 333 West Pershing Road in Kansas City, MO, under a lease that expires on November 30, 2021.

The lease will provide continued housing for IRS and TIGTA and will improve the office and overall space utilization rates from 118 to 95 and 193 to 156 usable square feet (USF) per person, respectively.

Description

Occupant:	IRS and TIGTA
Current RSF	1,140,000 (Current RSF/USF = 1.13)
Estimated/Proposed Maximum RSF:	1,140,000 (Proposed RSF/USF = 1.13)
Expansion/Reduction RSF:	None
Current USF/Person:	193
Estimated/Proposed USF/Person:	156
Expiration Dates of Current Lease(s):	11/30/2021
Proposed Maximum Leasing Authority:	20 years
Delineated Area:	North: I-70/I-35 South: 31st Street East: Campbell Street and I-70 West: I-35 and Summit Street
Number of Official Parking Spaces:	4,900
Scoring:	Operating
Current Total Annual Cost:	$37,825,200 (leases effective 12/1/2006)
Estimated Rental Rate[1]:	$30.59 / RSF
Estimated Total Annual Cost[2]:	$34,872,600

[1] This estimate is for fiscal year 2022 and may be escalated by 2 percent annually to the effective date of the lease to account for inflation. The proposed rental rate is fully serviced including standard operating expenses, whether paid by the lessor or directly by the Government. GSA will conduct the procurement using prevailing market rental rates as a benchmark for the evaluation of competitive offers and as the basis for negotiating with offerors to ensure that lease award is made in the best interest of the Government.

[2] New leases may contain an escalation clause to provide for annual changes in real estate taxes and operating costs.

GSA PBS

PROSPECTUS – LEASE
INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE
U.S. TREASURY INSPECTOR GENERAL FOR TAX ADMINISTRATION
KANSAS CITY, MO

Prospectus Number: PMO-01-KC19
Congressional District: 05

Background

The building at 333 West Pershing Road comprises 1,140,000 RSF and was constructed in 2006 to consolidate numerous IRS locations in the Metropolitan Kansas City, Missouri, area into a Federal income tax submissions center for IRS. The lease included the adaptive reuse of the historic Kansas City Main Postal facility as part of the building.

GSA will consider whether IRS and TIGTA'S continuing housing needs should be satisfied in the existing location based on an analysis of other potential locations within the delineated area. If other potential locations are identified, GSA will conduct a cost-benefit analysis to determine whether the Government can expect to recover the relocation and duplication costs of real and personal property needed for IRS and TIGTA to accomplish their missions.

Justification

IRS's mission is to provide top-quality service to America's taxpayers by helping them understand and meet their tax responsibilities, and by applying the tax law with integrity and fairness to all. TIGTA provides audits, investigations, inspections, and evaluations to protect fair administration of the Federal tax system and ensure collection of tax revenue.

The existing building functions as an individual-tax-return paper processing and depository collection center, and is expected to retain this function even as taxpayers adopt the transition to electronic filing to an increasing degree. To reduce redundancy of processing operations, IRS is planning phased consolidation of its business-tax-return paper processing operations from Covington, Kentucky, and Fresno, California, into the Kansas City operations. Later in 2024, the paper business-tax-return processing operations in Austin, Texas, will also be moved to this location.

The current lease at 333 West Pershing Road in Kansas City, Missouri, expires on November 30, 2021. IRS and TIGTA require continued housing to carry out their missions.

PROSPECTUS – LEASE
INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE
U.S. TREASURY INSPECTOR GENERAL FOR TAX ADMINISTRATION
KANSAS CITY, MO

Prospectus Number: PMO-01-KC19
Congressional District: 05

Summary of Energy Compliance

GSA will incorporate energy efficiency requirements into the Request for Lease Proposals and other documents related to the procurement of space based on the approved prospectus. GSA encourages offerors to exceed minimum requirements set forth in the procurement and to achieve an Energy Star performance rating of 75 or higher.

Resolutions of Approval

Resolutions adopted by the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, and the Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works approving this prospectus will constitute approval to make appropriations to lease space in a facility that will yield the required rentable area.

Interim Leasing

GSA will execute such interim leasing actions as are necessary to ensure continued housing of the tenant agency prior to the effective date of the extension. It is in the best interest of the Government to avert the financial risk of holdover tenancy.

GSA PBS

PROSPECTUS – LEASE
INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE
U.S. TREASURY INSPECTOR GENERAL FOR TAX ADMINISTRATION
KANSAS CITY, MO

Prospectus Number: PMO-01-KC19
Congressional District: 05

Certification of Need

The proposed project is the best solution to meet a validated Government need.

Submitted at Washington, DC, on October 12, 2018

Recommended: _____
Commissioner, Public Buildings Service

Approved: _____
Administrator, General Services Administration

November 2017

Housing Plan
Internal Revenue Service
U.S. Treasury Inspector General for Tax Administration

PMO-01-KC19
Kansas City, MO

Leased Locations	CURRENT						ESTIMATED/PROPOSED					
	Personnel		Usable Square Feet (USF)[1]				Personnel		Usable Square Feet (USF)			
	Office	Total	Office	Storage	Special	Total	Office	Total	Office	Storage[5]	Special[6]	Total
333 W Pershing Rd, Kansas City, MO												
IRS	4,862	5,196	736,098	4,978	259,598	1,000,674						
TIGTA	21	21	4,404			4,404						
Estimated/Proposed Lease												
IRS							6,060	6,434	736,098	4,978	259,598	1,000,674
TIGTA							21	21	4,404	–		4,404
Total	**4,883**	**5,217**	**740,502**	**4,978**	**259,598**	**1,005,078**	**6,081**	**6,455**	**740,502**	**4,978**	**259,598**	**1,005,078**

Office Utilization Rate (UR)[2]		
	Current	Proposed
Rate	118	95

UR = average amount of office space per person
Current UR excludes 162,910 usf of office support space
Proposed UR excludes 162,910 usf of office support space

Overall UR[3]		
Rate	193	156

R/U Factor[4]	Total USF	RSF/USF	Max RSF
Current	1,005,078	1.13	1,140,000
Estimated/Proposed	1,005,078	1.13	1,140,000

Special Space[6]	USF
Conference	61,383
Automatic Data Processing	14,388
Food Service - cafeteria	12,179
Breakroom/Kitchenette	11,178
Tax Return Receiving (Workroom)	57,485
High Density Files	8,549
Security Screening	1,413
File	16,623
Restrooms	1,975
Mail	5,907
Health Unit	980
Warehouse	61,771
Fitness Center	5,767
Total	**259,598**

NOTES:

[1] USF means the portion of the building available for use by a tenant's personnel and furnishings and space available jointly to the occupants of the building.
[2] Calculation excludes Judiciary, Congress, with less than 10 people.
[3] USF/Person = housing plan total USF divided by total personnel.
[4] R/U Factor = Max RSF divided by total USF
[5] Storage excludes warehouse, which is part of Special Space.
[6] Special spaces listed are examples of such spaces and may be subject to change at the time a Request for Lease Proposal (RLP) is issued to meet specific agency requirements.

COMMITTEE RESOLUTION

LEASE—CENTERS FOR DISEASE CONTROL, ATLANTA, GA

Resolved by the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the U.S. House of Representatives, that pursuant to 40 U.S.C. §3307, appropriations are authorized for a lease of up to 309,000 rentable square feet of space, including 35 official parking spaces, for the Centers for Disease Control currently housed under several leases within metro Atlanta, GA at a proposed total annual cost of $11,207,430 for a lease term of up to 15 years, a prospectus for which is attached to and included in this resolution.

Approval of this prospectus constitutes authority to execute an interim lease for all tenants, if necessary, prior to the execution of the new lease.

Provided that, the Administrator of General Services and tenant agency(ies) agree to apply an overall utilization rate of 152 square feet or less per person, except that, if the Administrator determines that the overall utilization rate cannot be achieved, the Administrator shall provide an explanatory statement to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives prior to exercising any lease authority provided in this resolution.

Provided that, except for interim leases as described above, the Administrator may not enter into any leases that are below prospectus level for the purposes of meeting any of the requirements, or portions thereof, included in the prospectus that would result in an overall utilization rate of 152 square feet or higher per person.

Provided that, to the maximum extent practicable, the Administrator shall include in the lease contract(s) a purchase option that can be exercised at the conclusion of the firm term of the lease.

Provided further, that the General Services Administration shall not delegate to any other agency the authority granted by this resolution.

Provided further, that the Administrator shall require that the delineated area of the procurement is identical to the delineated area included in the prospectus, except that, if the Administrator determines that the delineated area of the procurement should not be identical to the delineated area included in the prospectus, the Administrator shall provide an explanatory statement to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives prior to exercising any lease authority provided in this resolution.

Provided further, not later than 30 calendar days after the date on which a request from the Chairman or Ranking Member of the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives is received by the Administrator of General Services, the Administrator shall provide such Member a response in writing that provides any information requested regarding the project.

Provided further, the Administrator of General Services may not enter into this lease if it does not contain a provision barring any individual holding a Federally-elected office, regardless of whether such individual took office before or after execution of this lease, to directly participate in, or benefit from or under this lease or any part thereof and that such provision provide that if this lease is found to have been made in violation of the foregoing prohibition or it is found that this prohibition has been violated during the term of the lease, the lease shall be void, except that the foregoing limitation shall not apply if the lease is entered into with a publicly-held corporation or publicly-held entity for the general benefit of such corporation or entity.

Provided further, prior to entering into this lease or approving a novation agreement involving a change of ownership under this lease, the Administrator of General Services shall require the offeror or the parties requesting the novation, as applicable, to identify and disclose whether the owner of the leased space, including an entity involved in the financing thereof, is a foreign person or a foreign-owned entity; provided further, in such an instance, the Administrator of General Services shall notify the occupant agency(ies) in writing, and consult with such occupant agency(ies) regarding security concerns and necessary mitigation measures (if any) prior to award of the lease or approval of the novation agreement.

Provided that, to the maximum extent practicable, the Administrator of General Services shall require that the lease procurement consider the availability of public transportation consistent with agency mission requirements and that the space to be leased be renovated for all cost effective improvements, including renewable energy upgrades, water efficiency improvements, and indoor air quality optimization, that reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

GSA PBS

PROSPECTUS – LEASE
CENTERS FOR DISEASE CONTROL
ATLANTA, GA

Prospectus Number: PGA-04-AT19
Congressional Districts: 4, 5, 6

Executive Summary

The General Services Administration (GSA) proposes a lease of approximately 309,000 rentable square feet for the Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Disease Control (CDC). CDC is currently housed under several leases within metro Atlanta, GA.

This lease will provide continued housing for CDC under one lease and provide for an overall space utilization rate of 152 usable square feet (USF) per person, which is below CDC's national standard utilization rate of 170 USF per person.

Description

Occupant:	Centers for Disease Control
Current Rentable Square Feet (RSF)	343,146 (Current RSF/USF = 1.10)
Estimated/Proposed Maximum RSF[1]:	309,000 (Proposed RSF/USF = 1.15)
Expansion/Reduction RSF:	34,146 RSF (Reduction)
Current USF/Person:	176
Estimated/Proposed USF/Person:	152
Expiration Dates of Current Lease(s):	7/31/2020; 9/30/2021; 1/1/2021; 12/31/2024
Proposed Maximum Leasing Authority:	15 years
Delineated Area:	See Below
Number of Official Parking Spaces:	35
Scoring:	Operating
Current Total Annual Cost:	$8,404,241
Estimated Rental Rate[2]:	$36.27 / RSF
Estimated Total Annual Cost[3]:	$11,207,430

[1] The RSF/USF at the current locations are approximately 1.10; however, to maximize competition a RSF/USF ratio of 1.15 is used for the estimated proposed maximum RSF as indicated in the housing plan.
[2] This estimate is for fiscal year 2020 and may be escalated by 1.95 percent annually to the effective date of the lease to account for inflation. The proposed rental rate is fully serviced including standard operating expenses, whether paid by the lessor or directly by the Government. GSA will conduct the procurement using prevailing market rental rates as a benchmark for the evaluation of competitive offers and as the basis for negotiating with offerors to ensure that lease award is made in the best interest of the Government.
[3] New leases may contain an escalation clause to provide for annual changes in real estate taxes and operating costs.

PROSPECTUS – LEASE
CENTERS FOR DISEASE CONTROL
ATLANTA, GA

Prospectus Number: PGA-04-AT19
Congressional Districts: 4, 5, 6

Delineated Area

POINT OF BEGINNING: I-285 and Peachtree Boulevard (Hwy 141); Southeast on I-285 to Stone Mountain Freeway (US Hwy 78); Southwest on Stone Mountain Freeway (US Hwy 78) to Scott Blvd. (name change) to Ponce de Leon Avenue NE (name change) to Juniper Street NE; South on Juniper Street NE 1 block to North Avenue NE; West on North Avenue NE to I-85; North on I-85 to Piedmont Road NE; Northeast on Piedmont Road NE to Peachtree Road NE (Hwy 141); Northeast on Peachtree NE (Hwy. 141) to I-285 POINT OF BEGINNING

Acquisition Strategy

To maximize the flexibility and competition in acquiring space for CDC, GSA may issue a single, multiple-award solicitation that will allow offerors to provide blocks of space able to meet requirements in whole or in part. All offers must provide space consistent with the delineated area defined by this prospectus and in one or more geographically proximate buildings.

Background

CDC increases the health security of our Nation. As the Nation's health protection agency, CDC saves lives and protects people from health threats. To accomplish its mission, CDC conducts critical science and provides health information that protects our Nation against expensive and dangerous health threats, and responds when these arise.

CDC works to protect America from health, safety, and security threats, both foreign and domestic. Whether diseases start at home or abroad, are chronic or acute, curable or preventable, or result from human error or deliberate attack, CDC fights disease and supports communities and citizens that do the same.

Below is a list of the CDC components proposed for housing under this prospectus and their individual missions:

National Center for HIV/AIDS, Viral Hepatitis, STD, and TB Prevention (NCHHSTP), Mission Statement
The National Center for HIV/AIDS, Viral Hepatitis, STD, and TB Prevention maximizes public health and safety nationally and internationally through the elimination, prevention, and control of disease, disability, and death caused by Human Immunodeficiency Virus Infection/Acquired Immunodeficiency

PROSPECTUS – LEASE
CENTERS FOR DISEASE CONTROL
ATLANTA, GA

Prospectus Number: PGA-04-AT19
Congressional Districts: 4, 5, 6

Syndrome, non-HIV retroviruses, viral hepatitis, other sexually transmitted diseases, and tuberculosis.

Center for Global Health (CGH), Mission Statement
Protect and improve health globally through science, policy, partnership, and evidence-based public health action. CDC will leverage its core strengths to advance four overarching global health goals: improving the health and well-being of people around the world, improving capabilities for preparing and responding to infectious diseases and emerging health threats, building country public health capacity, and maximizing organizational capacity.

Office of Financial Resources (OFR) Mission Statement
The Office of Financial Resources contributes to the achievement of positive public health outcomes at CDC by providing exemplary customer-focused leadership and fiscal stewardship in appropriations, acquisitions, assistance, and financial management with accountability and sound business practices.

Justification

The four leases that this prospectus requirement comprises total 343,146 RSF of space and house 1,769 employees. Consolidating these leases into one prospectus lease will provide for more efficient space by minimizing redundancies (i.e., lobbies, Federal Protective Service guards, IT/communication, lifestyle centers, breakrooms, conference/training rooms, etc.) and provide for more efficient and effective operations. The overall and office utilization rates will be improved as a result of these efficiencies from 176 to 152 USF per person and 137 to 106 USF per person, respectively.

Summary of Energy Compliance

GSA will incorporate energy efficiency requirements into the Request for Lease Proposals and other documents related to the procurement of space based on the approved prospectus. GSA encourages offerors to exceed minimum requirements set forth in the procurement and to achieve an Energy Star performance rating of 75 or higher.

Resolutions of Approval

Resolutions adopted by the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure and the Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works approving this prospectus will constitute approval to make appropriations to lease space in a facility that will yield the required rentable area.

GSA PBS

PROSPECTUS – LEASE
CENTERS FOR DISEASE CONTROL
ATLANTA, GA

Prospectus Number: PGA-04-AT19
Congressional Districts: 4, 5, 6

Interim Leasing

GSA will execute such interim leasing actions as are necessary to ensure continued housing of the tenant agency prior to the effective date of the new lease. It is in the best interest of the Government to avert the financial risk of holdover tenancy.

Certification of Need

The proposed project is the best solution to meet a validated Government need.

Submitted at Washington, DC, on October 12, 2018

Recommended: _____
Commissioner, Public Buildings Service

Approved: _____
Administrator, General Services Administration

December 2017

Housing Plan
Centers for Disease Control

PGA-04-AT19
Atlanta, GA

Leased Locations	CURRENT						ESTIMATED/PROPOSED					
	Personnel		Usable Square Feet (USF)[1]				Personnel		Usable Square Feet (USF)			
	Office	Total	Office	Storage	Special	Total	Office	Total	Office	Storage[5]	Special[6]	Total
8 Corporate Blvd	820	820	139,789	-	-	139,789	-	-	-	-	-	-
1801 Corporate Blvd. NE	280	280	34,140	-	-	34,140	-	-	-	-	-	-
2900 Woodcok Blvd.	569	569	77,101	-	-	77,101	-	-	-	-		-
2945/2939 Flowers Rd.	100	100	59,954			59,954						
Estimated/Proposed Lease							1,769	1,769	239,388		29,500	268,888
Total	**1,769**	**1,769**	**310,984**	**-**	**-**	**310,984**	**1,769**	**1,769**	**239,388**	**-**	**29,500**	**268,888**

Office Utilization Rate (UR)[2]		
	Current	Proposed
Rate	137	106

UR = average amount of office space per person
Current UR excludes 68,416 usf of office support space
Proposed UR excludes 52,665 usf of office support space

Overall UR[3]		
	Current	Proposed
Rate	176	152

R/U Factor[4]			
	Total USF	RSF/USF	Max RSF
Current	310,984	1.10	343,146
Estimated/Proposed	268,888	1.15	309,000

Special Space[6]	USF
Conference/Training	5,000
Lifestyle Center	3,000
LAN/Telecom	4,800
Mail room	400
Copy Center	4,800
Breakroom	2,400
Security	1,800
Meeting Rooms	4,800
Snack Bar	200
Lactation Room	600
Loading Dock	900
High Density File	800
Total	**29,500**

NOTES:
[1] USF means the portion of the building available for use by a tenant's personnel and furnishings and space available jointly to the occupants of the building.
[2] Calculation excludes Judiciary, Congress and agencies with less than 10 people
[3] USF/Person = housing plan total USF divided by total personnel.
[4] R/U Factor (R/U) = Max RSF divided by total USF
[5] Storage excludes warehouse, which is part of Special Space.
[6] Special spaces listed are examples of such spaces and may be subject to change at the time a Request for Lease Proposal (RLP) is issued to meet specific agency requirements.
*LGA33138 above reflects a superceeding lease effective 1/1/2019, which reduces the current usf of 95,354USF to 59,954USF.

COMMITTEE RESOLUTION

LEASE—DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE, FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION, NORTHERN VA

Resolved by the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the U.S. House of Representatives, that pursuant to 40 U.S.C. 3307, appropriations are authorized for a lease of up to 190,038 rentable square feet of space, including 38 official parking spaces, for the Department of Justice—Federal Bureau of Investigation currently located at 801 Follin Lane in Vienna, VA at a proposed total annual cost of $7,411,482 for a lease term of up to 20 years, a prospectus for which is attached to and included in this resolution.

Approval of this prospectus constitutes authority to execute an interim lease for all tenants, if necessary, prior to the execution of the new lease.

Provided that, the Administrator of General Services and tenant agency(ies) agree to apply an overall utilization rate of 275 square feet or less per person, except that, if the Administrator determines that the overall utilization rate cannot be achieved, the Administrator shall provide an explanatory statement to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives prior to exercising any lease authority provided in this resolution.

Provided that, except for interim leases as described above, the Administrator may not enter into any leases that are below prospectus level for the purposes of meeting any of the requirements, or portions thereof, included in the prospectus that would result in an overall utilization rate of 275 square feet or higher per person.

Provided that, to the maximum extent practicable, the Administrator shall include in the lease contract(s) a purchase option that can be exercised at the conclusion of the firm term of the lease.

Provided further, that the General Services Administration shall not delegate to any other agency the authority granted by this resolution.

Provided further, that the Administrator shall require that the delineated area of the procurement is identical to the delineated area included in the prospectus, except that, if the Administrator determines that the delineated area of the procurement should not be identical to the delineated area included in the prospectus, the Administrator shall provide an explanatory statement to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives prior to exercising any lease authority provided in this resolution.

Provided further, not later than 30 calendar days after the date on which a request from the Chairman or Ranking Member of the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives is received by the Administrator of General Services, the Administrator shall provide such Member a response in writing that provides any information requested regarding the project.

Provided further, the Administrator of General Services may not enter into this lease if it does not contain a provision barring any individual holding a Federally-elected office, regardless of whether such individual took office before or after execution of this lease, to directly participate in, or benefit from or under this lease or any part thereof and that such provision provide that if this lease is found to have been made in violation of the foregoing prohibition or it is found that this prohibition has been violated during the term of the lease, the lease shall be void, except that the foregoing limitation shall not apply if the lease is entered into with a publicly-held corporation or publicly-held entity for the general benefit of such corporation or entity.

Provided further, prior to entering into this lease or approving a novation agreement involving a change of ownership under this lease, the Administrator of General Services shall require the offeror or the parties requesting the novation, as applicable, to identify and disclose whether the owner of the leased space, including an entity involved in the financing thereof, is a foreign person or a foreign-owned entity; provided further, in such an instance, the Administrator of General Services shall notify the occupant agency(ies) in writing, and consult with such occupant agency(ies) regarding security concerns and necessary mitigation measures (if any) prior to award of the lease or approval of the novation agreement.

Provided that, to the maximum extent practicable, the Administrator of General Services shall require that the lease procurement consider the availability of public transportation consistent with agency mission requirements and that the space to be leased be renovated for all cost effective improvements, including renewable energy upgrades, water efficiency improvements, and indoor air quality optimization, that reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

GSA PBS

PROSPECTUS – LEASE
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
NORTHERN VA

Prospectus Number: PVA-02-WA19
Congressional District: 11

Executive Summary

The General Services Administration (GSA) proposes a lease for approximately 190,038 rentable square feet for the Department of Justice, Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI). FBI is currently housed at 801 Follin Lane in Vienna, Virginia, under a lease that expires on January 19, 2021. GSA is proposing to continue leasing space for FBI at the current location pending the results of a cost-benefit analysis, including relocation and duplication costs of real and personal property needed for FBI to accomplish its mission.

The lease will provide continued housing for FBI, and will maintain the office and overall utilization rates at 149 and 275 usable square foot (USF) per person, respectively.

Description

Occupant:	FBI
Current Rentable Square Feet (RSF)	190,038 (Current RSF/USF = 1.08)
Estimated/Proposed Maximum RSF:	190,038 (Proposed RSF/USF = 1.08)
Expansion/Reduction RSF:	None
Current USF/Person:	275
Estimated/Proposed USF/Person:	275
Expiration Dates of Current Lease(s):	01/19/2021
Proposed Maximum Leasing Authority:	20 years
Delineated Area:	Northern Virginia
Number of Official Parking Spaces[1]:	38
Scoring:	Operating
Current Total Annual Cost:	$ 6,615,415 (lease effective 01/20/2011)
Estimated Rental Rate[2]:	$39.00/ RSF
Estimated Total Annual Cost[3]:	$7,411,482

[1] Security requirements may necessitate control of parking at the leased location in addition to the official parking spaces identified in the prospectus. If the additional parking resulting from security requirements is included in the leasehold interest in the building, the proposed total annual cost and maximum proposed rental rate may exceed the amounts indicated above.

[2] This estimate is for fiscal year 2021 and may be escalated by 2 percent annually to the effective date of the lease to account for inflation. The proposed rental rate is partially serviced; the Government will pay select operating costs directly. GSA will conduct the procurement using prevailing market rental rates as a benchmark for the evaluation of competitive offers and as the basis for negotiating with offerors to ensure that lease award is made in the best interest of the Government.

[3] New leases may contain an escalation clause to provide for annual changes in real estate taxes and operating costs.

PROSPECTUS – LEASE
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
NORTHERN VA

Prospectus Number: PVA-02-WA19
Congressional District: 11

Background

The mission of FBI is to protect and defend the United States against terrorist and foreign intelligence threats, to uphold and enforce the criminal laws of the United States, to provide leadership and criminal justice services to Federal, State, municipal, and international agencies and partners; and to perform these responsibilities in a manner that is responsive to the needs of the public and is faithful to the Constitution of the United States.

This facility houses several high-security components, and supports Federal, State, and local law enforcement, as well as international partners.

Justification

This FBI office is currently housed in a leased building located at 801 Follin Lane in Vienna, Virginia. The current lease expires on January 19, 2021.

GSA will consider whether FBI's continued housing needs should be satisfied in the existing location based on an analysis of other potential locations within the delineated area. If other potential locations are identified, GSA will conduct a cost-benefit analysis to determine whether the Government can expect to recover the relocation and duplication costs of real and personal property needed for FBI to accomplish its mission.

Summary of Energy Compliance

GSA will incorporate energy efficiency requirements into the Request for Lease Proposals and other documents related to the procurement of space based on the approved prospectus. GSA encourages offerors to exceed minimum requirements set forth in the procurement and to achieve an Energy Star performance rating of 75 or higher.

GSA PBS

PROSPECTUS – LEASE
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
NORTHERN VA

Prospectus Number: PVA-02-WA19
Congressional District: 11

Resolutions of Approval

Resolutions adopted by the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, and the Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works approving this prospectus will constitute approval to make appropriations to lease space in a facility that will yield the required rentable area.

Interim Leasing

GSA will execute such interim leasing actions as are necessary to ensure continued housing of the tenant agency prior to the effective date of the extension. It is in the best interest of the Government to avert the financial risk of holdover tenancy.

Certification of Need

The proposed project is the best solution to meet a validated Government need.

Submitted at Washington, DC, on October 12, 2018

Recommended: _____
Commissioner, Public Buildings Service

Approved: _____
Administrator, General Services Administration

November 2017

Housing Plan
FBI

PVA-02-WA19
Northern, VA

Leased Locations	CURRENT						ESTIMATED/PROPOSED					
	Personnel		Usable Square Feet (USF)[1]				Personnel		Usable Square Feet (USF)			
	Office	Total	Office	Storage	Special	Total	Office	Total	Office	Storage[5]	Special[6]	Total
801 Follin Lane	643	643	122,781	7,639	46,126	**176,546**	643	643	122,781	7,639	46,126	176,546
Estimated/Proposed Lease	-	-	-	-	-		-	-	-	-		
Total	**643**	**643**	**122,781**	**7,639**	**46,126**	**176,546**	**643**	**643**	**122,781**	**7,639**	**46,126**	**176,546**

Office Utilization Rate (UR)[2]		
	Current	Proposed
Rate	149	149

UR average amount of office space per person
Current UR excludes 27,012 usf of office support space
Proposed UR excludes 27,012 usf of office support space

Special Space[6]	USF
Conference/Auditorium	22,243
Training Room	910
Data Center	12,109
Additional Special SCIF Space	10,864
Total	**46,126**

Overall UR[3]		
	Current	Proposed
Rate	275	275

R/U Factor[4]			
	Total USF	RSF/USF	Max RSF
Current	176,546	1.08	190,038
Estimated/Proposed	176,546	1.08	190,038

NOTES:
[1] USF means the portion of the building available for use by a tenant's personnel and furnishings and space available jointly to the occupants of the building.
[2] Calculation excludes Judiciary, Congress and agencies with less than 10 people
[3] USF/Person = housing plan total USF divided by total personnel.
[4] R/U Factor (R/U) = Max RSF divided by total USF
[5] Storage excludes warehouse, which is part of Special Space.
[6] Special spaces listed are examples of such spaces and may be subject to change at the time a Request for Lease Proposal (RLP) is issued to meet specific agency requirements.

COMMITTEE RESOLUTION

LEASE—BUREAU OF FISCAL SERVICE, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY, PARKERSBURG, WV

Resolved by the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the U.S. House of Representatives, that pursuant to 40 U.S.C. 3307, appropriations are authorized for a lease of up to 182,500 rentable square feet of space, including 26 official parking spaces, for the Bureau of Fiscal Service—U.S. Department of the Treasury currently located at 320 Avery Street in Parkersburg, WV at a proposed total annual cost of $4,927,500 for a lease term of up to 20 years, a prospectus for which is attached to and included in this resolution.

Approval of this prospectus constitutes authority to execute an interim lease for all tenants, if necessary, prior to the execution of the new lease.

Provided that, the Administrator of General Services and tenant agency(ies) agree to apply an overall utilization rate of 162 square feet or less per person, except that, if the Administrator determines that the overall utilization rate cannot be achieved, the Administrator shall provide an explanatory statement to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives prior to exercising any lease authority provided in this resolution.

Provided that, except for interim leases as described above, the Administrator may not enter into any leases that are below prospectus level for the purposes of meeting any of the requirements, or portions thereof, included in the prospectus that would result in an overall utilization rate of 162 square feet or higher per person.

Provided that, to the maximum extent practicable, the Administrator shall include in the lease contract(s) a purchase option that can be exercised at the conclusion of the firm term of the lease.

Provided further, that the General Services Administration shall not delegate to any other agency the authority granted by this resolution.

Provided further, that the Administrator shall require that the delineated area of the procurement is identical to the delineated area included in the prospectus, except that, if the Administrator determines that the delineated area of the procurement should not be identical to the delineated area included in the prospectus, the Administrator shall provide an explanatory statement to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives prior to exercising any lease authority provided in this resolution.

Provided further, not later than 30 calendar days after the date on which a request from the Chairman or Ranking Member of the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives is received by the Administrator of General Services, the Administrator shall provide such Member a response in writing that provides any information requested regarding the project.

Provided further, the Administrator of General Services may not enter into this lease if it does not contain a provision barring any individual holding a Federally-elected office, regardless of whether such individual took office before or after execution of this lease, to directly participate in, or benefit from or under this lease or any part thereof and that such provision provide that if this lease is found to have been made in violation of the foregoing prohibition or it is found that this prohibition has been violated during the term of the lease, the lease shall be void, except that the foregoing limitation shall not apply if the lease is entered into with a publicly-held corporation or publicly-held entity for the general benefit of such corporation or entity.

Provided further, prior to entering into this lease or approving a novation agreement involving a change of ownership under this lease, the Administrator of General Services shall require the offeror or the parties requesting the novation, as applicable, to identify and disclose whether the owner of the leased space, including an entity involved in the financing thereof, is a foreign person or a foreign-owned entity; provided further, in such an instance, the Administrator of General Services shall notify the occupant agency(ies) in writing, and consult with such occupant agency(ies) regarding security concerns and necessary mitigation measures (if any) prior to award of the lease or approval of the novation agreement.

Provided that, to the maximum extent practicable, the Administrator of General Services shall require that the lease procurement consider the availability of public transportation consistent with agency mission requirements and that the space to be leased be renovated for all cost effective improvements, including renewable energy upgrades, water efficiency improvements, and indoor air quality optimization, that reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

GSA PBS

PROSPECTUS – LEASE
BUREAU OF FISCAL SERVICE
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY
PARKERSBURG, WV

Prospectus Number: PWV-01-PA19
Congressional District: 01

Executive Summary

The General Services Administration (GSA) proposes a lease for approximately 182,500 rentable square feet for the Department of the Treasury, Bureau of the Fiscal Service (FS). FS is currently housed at 320 Avery Street in Parkersburg, WV, under a lease that expires on March 14, 2021. The lease will provide continued housing for FS, and will improve the office and overall utilization rates from 109 and 182 to 97 and 162 usable square feet (USF) per person respectively.

Description

Occupant:	Bureau of the Fiscal Service
Current Rentable Square Feet (RSF)	182,500 RSF (Current RSF/USF = 1.06)
Estimated/Proposed Maximum RSF:	182,500 RSF (Proposed RSF/USF = 1.06)
Expansion/Reduction RSF:	None
Current USF/Person:	182
Estimated/Proposed USF/Person:	162
Expiration Dates of Current Lease(s):	03/14/2021
Proposed Maximum Leasing Authority:	20 years
Delineated Area:	Central Business Area of Parkersburg, WV. Begin at the intersection of 1st Street and Anne Street; northeast to 9th Street; southeast along 9th to William Court Alley; northeast along William Court Alley to 10th Street; southeast on 10th Street to Green Street; southwest along Green Street to 1st Street; northwest along 1st Street to Anne Street.
Number of Official Parking Spaces:	26
Scoring:	Operating
Current Total Annual Cost:	$ 5,503,174 (lease effective 09/01/2004)
Estimated Rental Rate[1]:	$27.00 / RSF
Estimated Total Annual Cost[2]:	$4,927,500

[1] This estimate is for fiscal year 2021 and may be escalated by 2 percent annually to the effective date of the lease to account for inflation. The proposed rental rate is fully serviced including standard operating expenses, whether paid by the lessor or directly by the Government. GSA will conduct the procurement using prevailing market rental rates as a benchmark for the evaluation of competitive offers and as the basis for negotiating with offerors to ensure that lease award is made in the best interest of the Government.

[2] New leases may contain an escalation clause to provide for annual changes in real estate taxes and operating costs.

PROSPECTUS – LEASE
BUREAU OF FISCAL SERVICE
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY
PARKERSBURG, WV

Prospectus Number: PWV-01-PA19
Congressional District: 01

Background

The FS mission is to provide central payment services to Federal Program Agencies, operate the Federal Government's collections and deposit systems, provide Government-wide accounting and reporting services, and manage the collection of delinquent debt owed to the Government.

In addition, FS's operations in Parkersburg, WV, provide cost-effective administrative services to the Treasury and other Federal agencies. FS provides human resources, staffing, procurement, and travel services through a shared services model promoting Government efficiency.

GSA will consider whether FS's continued housing needs should be satisfied in the existing location based on an analysis of other potential locations within the delineated area. If other potential locations are identified, GSA will conduct a cost-benefit analysis to determine whether the Government can expect to recover the relocation and duplication costs of real and personal property needed for FS to accomplish its mission.

Justification

FS currently occupies 182,500 RSF of Class A office space at 320 Avery Street, Parkersburg, WV, under a lease that expires on March 14, 2021. The facility was constructed for FS in 2004 as a built-to-suit lease, and FS has occupied the facility since its construction. This facility is one of two facilities that FS currently occupies in the Parkersburg Central Business Area. The other building is located at 200 3rd Street in Parkersburg. FS is the sole tenant in both locations. Because these buildings are only one block apart, employees collaborate on a daily basis and are able to share resources and amenities, creating a campus-like environment. The ability to share resources increases utilization and efficiencies at both locations.

In order to carry out its mission and maintain these efficiencies, FS has a continuing need for housing of similar size proximate to its other leased location.

Summary of Energy Compliance

GSA will incorporate energy efficiency requirements into the Request for Lease Proposals and other documents related to the procurement of space based on the approved prospectus. GSA encourages offerors to exceed minimum requirements set forth in the procurement and to achieve an Energy Star performance rating of 75 or higher.

GSA PBS

PROSPECTUS – LEASE
BUREAU OF FISCAL SERVICE
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY
PARKERSBURG, WV

Prospectus Number: PWV-01-PA19
Congressional District: 01

Resolutions of Approval

Resolutions adopted by the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, and the Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works approving this prospectus will constitute approval to make appropriations to lease space in a facility that will yield the required rentable area.

Interim Leasing

GSA will execute such interim leasing actions as are necessary to ensure continued housing of the tenant, FS, prior to the effective date of the extension. It is in the best interest of the Government to avert the financial risk of holdover tenancy.

Certification of Need

The proposed project is the best solution to meet a validated Government need.

Submitted at Washington, DC, on October 16, 2018

Recommended: _____
Commissioner, Public Buildings Service

Approved: Emily W. Murphy
Administrator, General Services Administration

December 2017

Housing Plan
Bureau of Fiscal Service
U.S. Department of Treasury

PWV-01-PA19
Parkersburg, WV

Leased Locations	CURRENT						ESTIMATED/PROPOSED					
	Personnel		Usable Square Feet (USF)[1]				Personnel		Usable Square Feet (USF)			
	Office	Total	Office	Storage	Special	Total	Office	Total	Office	Storage[5]	Special[6]	Total
320 Avery Street, Parkersburg, West Virginia	944	944	132,416	16,366	23,135	171,917						-
Estimated/Proposed Lease	-	-	-	-	-		1,064	1,064	132,416	16,366	23,135	171,917
Total	**944**	**944**	**132,416**	**16,366**	**23,135**	**171,917**	**1,064**	**1,064**	**132,416**	**16,366**	**23,135**	**171,917**

Office Utilization Rate (UR)[2]		
	Current	Proposed
Rate	109	97

UR = average amount of office space per person
Current UR excludes 29,132 usf of office support space
Proposed UR excludes 29,132 usf of office support space

Overall UR[3]		
	Current	Proposed
Rate	182	162

R/U Factor[4]			
	Total USF	RSF/USF	Max RSF
Current	171,917	1.06	182,500
Estimated/Proposed	171,917	1.06	182,500

Special Space[6]	USF
Conference/Training	5,348
Radio/ PA Room	140
Loading/Shipping/Staging	868
Duplication Shop	840
Graphics Shop	630
Lunch Room + Break Room	5,600
Security Control Center and Guar	5,222
Fitness Center and Health Center	2,863
Computer Work Room	1,624
Total	**23,135**

NOTES:
[1] USF means the portion of the building available for use by a tenant's personnel and furnishings and space available jointly to the occupants of the building.
[2] Calculation excludes Judiciary, Congress and agencies with less than 10 people
[3] USF/Person = housing plan total USF divided by total personnel.
[4] R/U Factor (R/U) = Max RSF divided by total USF
[5] Storage excludes warehouse, which is part of Special Space.
[6] Special spaces listed are examples of such spaces and may be subject to change at the time a Request for Lease Proposal (RLP) is issued to meet specific agency requirements.

COMMITTEE RESOLUTION

LEASE—DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES, BETHESDA, MD

Resolved by the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the U.S. House of Representatives, that pursuant to 40 U.S.C. §3307, appropriations are authorized for a lease of up to 121,000 rentable square feet of space, including 7 official parking spaces, for the Department of Health and Human Services, Program Support Center currently located at 7700 Wisconsin Avenue in Bethesda, MD at a proposed total annual cost of $4,235,000 for a lease term of up to 20 years, a prospectus for which is attached to and included in this resolution.

Approval of this prospectus constitutes authority to execute an interim lease for all tenants, if necessary, prior to the execution of the new lease.

Provided that, the Administrator of General Services and tenant agency(ies) agree to apply an overall utilization rate of 161 square feet or less per person, except that, if the Administrator determines that the overall utilization rate cannot be achieved, the Administrator shall provide an explanatory statement to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives prior to exercising any lease authority provided in this resolution.

Provided that, except for interim leases as described above, the Administrator may not enter into any leases that are below prospectus level for the purposes of meeting any of the requirements, or portions thereof, included in the prospectus that would result in an overall utilization rate of 161 square feet or higher per person.

Provided that, to the maximum extent practicable, the Administrator shall include in the lease contract(s) a purchase option that can be exercised at the conclusion of the firm term of the lease.

Provided further, that the General Services Administration shall not delegate to any other agency the authority granted by this resolution.

Provided further, that the Administrator shall require that the delineated area of the procurement is identical to the delineated area included in the prospectus, except that, if the Administrator determines that the delineated area of the procurement should not be identical to the delineated area included in the prospectus, the Administrator shall provide an explanatory statement to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives prior to exercising any lease authority provided in this resolution.

Provided further, not later than 30 calendar days after the date on which a request from the Chairman or Ranking Member of the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives is received by the Administrator of General Services, the Administrator shall provide such Member a response in writing that provides any information requested regarding the project.

Provided further, the Administrator of General Services may not enter into this lease if it does not contain a provision barring any individual holding a Federally-elected office, regardless of whether such individual took office before or after execution of this lease, to directly participate in, or benefit from or under this lease or any part thereof and that such provision provide that if this lease is found to have been made in violation of the foregoing prohibition or it is found that this prohibition has been violated during the term of the lease, the lease shall be void, except that the foregoing limitation shall not apply if the lease is entered into with a publicly-held corporation or publicly-held entity for the general benefit of such corporation or entity.

Provided further, prior to entering into this lease or approving a novation agreement involving a change of ownership under this lease, the Administrator of General Services shall require the offeror or the parties requesting the novation, as applicable, to identify and disclose whether the owner of the leased space, including an entity involved in the financing thereof, is a foreign person or a foreign-owned entity; provided further, in such an instance, the Administrator of General Services shall notify the occupant agency(ies) in writing, and consult with such occupant agency(ies) regarding security concerns and necessary mitigation measures (if any) prior to award of the lease or approval of the novation agreement.

Provided that, to the maximum extent practicable, the Administrator of General Services shall require that the lease procurement consider the availability of public transportation consistent with agency mission requirements and that the space to be leased be renovated for all cost effective improvements, including renewable energy upgrades, water efficiency improvements, and indoor air quality optimization, that reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

GSA PBS

PROSPECTUS – LEASE
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
BETHESDA, MD

Prospectus Number: PMD-01-WA19
Congressional District: 4,5,6,8

Executive Summary

The General Services Administration (GSA) proposes a lease of approximately 121,000 rentable square feet (RSF) for the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), Program Support Center (PSC), currently located at 7700 Wisconsin Avenue in Bethesda, MD. PSC has occupied space in the building since 2010 under two leases that expire on September 29, 2020, and January 31, 2021.

The lease will provide continued housing for PSC and will maintain its efficient office and overall space utilization rates at 117 and 161 usable square feet (USF) per person, respectively.

Description

Occupant:	Health and Human Services
Current RSF	119,536 (Current RSF/USF = 1.19)
Estimated/Proposed Maximum RSF[1]:	121,000 (Proposed RSF/USF = 1.20)
Expansion/Reduction RSF:	None
Current USF/Person:	161
Estimated USF/Person:	161
Expiration Dates of Current Lease(s):	09/29/2020, 01/31/2021
Proposed Maximum Leasing Authority:	20 years
Delineated Area:	Suburban Maryland
Number of Official Parking Spaces:	7
Scoring:	Operating
Current Total Annual Cost:	$4,216,332 (leases effective 09/28/2010)
Estimated Rental Rate[2]:	$35.00 / RSF
Estimated Total Annual Cost[3]:	$4,235,000

[1] The RSF/USF at the current location is approximately 1.19; however, to maximize competition a RSF/USF ratio of 1.20 is used for the estimated proposed maximum RSF as indicated in the housing plan.
[2] This estimate is for fiscal year 2021 and may be escalated by 2 percent annually to the effective date of the lease to account for inflation. The proposed rental rate is fully serviced including all operating expenses, whether paid by the lessor or directly by the Government. GSA will conduct the procurement using prevailing market rental rates as a benchmark for the evaluation of competitive offers and as the basis for negotiating with offerors to ensure that lease award is made in the best interest of the Government.
[3] New leases may contain an escalation clause to provide for annual changes in real estate taxes and operating costs.

PROSPECTUS – LEASE
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
BETHESDA, MD

Prospectus Number: PMD-01-WA19
Congressional District: 4,5,6,8

Background

The mission of HHS is to enhance the health and well-being of Americans by providing for effective health and human services, and by fostering sound, sustained advances in the sciences underlying medicine, public health, and social service.

Justification

GSA maintains two leases located at 7700 Wisconsin Avenue in Bethesda, Maryland, for PSC. The PSC mission is a shared services organization dedicated to providing support services to HHS and other Federal agencies to achieve mission-critical results. More than 40 services and products are offered by PSC's four portfolios that include Administrative Operations, Financial Management and Procurement, Occupational Health, and Real Estate and Logistics. The current leases terminate in September 2020 and January 2021, respectively. PSC has a continuing need for office and support space to fulfill its mission. Consolidating the two existing leases will reduce costs and streamline operations.

Summary of Energy Compliance

GSA will incorporate energy efficiency requirements into the Request for Lease Proposals and other documents related to the procurement of space based on the approved prospectus. GSA encourages offerors to exceed minimum requirements set forth in the procurement and to achieve an Energy Star performance rating of 75 or higher.

Resolutions of Approval

Resolutions adopted by the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, and the Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works approving this prospectus will constitute approval to make appropriations to lease space in a facility that will yield the required rentable area.

Interim Leasing

GSA will execute such interim leasing actions as are necessary to ensure continued housing of the tenant agency prior to the effective date of the new lease. It is in the best interest of the Government to avert the financial risk of holdover tenancy.

GSA PBS

PROSPECTUS – LEASE
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
BETHESDA, MD

Prospectus Number: PMD-01-WA19
Congressional District: 4,5,6,8

Certification of Need

The proposed project is the best solution to meet a validated Government need.

Submitted at Washington, DC, on November 2, 2018.

Recommended: _____
Commissioner, Public Buildings Service

Approved: _____
Administrator, General Services Administration

October 2017

Housing Plan
Health and Human Services

PMD-01-WA19
Bethesda, MD

Leased Locations	CURRENT						ESTIMATED/PROPOSED					
	Personnel		Usable Square Feet (USF)[1]				Personnel[5]		Usable Square Feet (USF)			
	Office	Total	Office	Storage	Special	Total	Office	Total	Office	Storage[5]	Special[6]	Total
7700 Wisconsin Ave (2 leases)	625	625	93,661	-	6,908	100,569	-	-	-	-	-	-
Estimated/Proposed Lease							625	625	93,661	-	6,908	**100,569**
Total	**625**	**625**	**93,661**	**-**	**6,908**	**100,569**	**625**	**625**	**93,661**	**-**	**6,908**	**100,569**

Office Utilization Rate (UR)[2]		
	Current	Proposed
Rate	117	117

UR = average amount of office space per person
Current UR excludes 20,605 usf of office support space
Proposed UR excludes 20,605 usf of office support space

Overall UR[3]		
	Current	Proposed
Rate	161	161

R/U Factor[4]			
	Total USF	RSF/USF	Max RSF
Current	100,569	1.19	119,536
Estimated/Proposed	100,569	1.2	121,000

Special Space[6]	USF
Training Center	1,475
Conference Rooms	3,508
Break Rooms	1,811
Secure IT Room	114
Total	**6,908**

NOTES:

[1] USF means the portion of the building available for use by a tenant's personnel and furnishings and space available jointly to the occupants of the building.

[2] Calculation excludes Judiciary, Congress, and agencies with fewer than 10 people.

[3] USF/Person = housing plan total USF divided by total personnel.

[4] R/U Factor (R/U) = Max RSF divided by total USF

[5] Storage excludes warehouse, which is part of Special Space.

[6] Special spaces listed are examples of such spaces and may be subject to change at the time a Request for Lease Proposal (RLP) is issued to meet specific agency requirements.

COMMITTEE RESOLUTION

LEASE—DEPARTMENT OF STATE, WASHINGTON, DC

Resolved by the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the U.S. House of Representatives, that pursuant to 40 U.S.C. §3307, appropriations are authorized for a lease of up to 390,670 rentable square feet of space, including 223 official parking spaces, for the Department of State currently located at the American Red Cross Building at 2025 E Street NW, Washington, DC at a proposed total annual cost of $19,443,646 for a lease term of up to 20 years, a prospectus for which is attached to and included in this resolution.

Approval of this prospectus constitutes authority to execute an interim lease for all tenants, if necessary, prior to the execution of the new lease.

Provided that, the Administrator of General Services and tenant agency(ies) agree to apply an overall utilization rate of 182 square feet or less per person, except that, if the Administrator determines that the overall utilization rate cannot be achieved, the Administrator shall provide an explanatory statement to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives prior to exercising any lease authority provided in this resolution.

Provided that, except for interim leases as described above, the Administrator may not enter into any leases that are below prospectus level for the purposes of meeting any of the requirements, or portions thereof, included in the prospectus that would result in an overall utilization rate of 182 square feet or higher per person.

Provided that, to the maximum extent practicable, the Administrator shall include in the lease contract(s) a purchase option that can be exercised at the conclusion of the firm term of the lease.

Provided further, that the General Services Administration shall not delegate to any other agency the authority granted by this resolution.

Provided further, that the Administrator shall require that the delineated area of the procurement is identical to the delineated area included in the prospectus, except that, if the Administrator determines that the delineated area of the procurement should not be identical to the delineated area included in the prospectus, the Administrator shall provide an explanatory statement to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives prior to exercising any lease authority provided in this resolution.

Provided further, not later than 30 calendar days after the date on which a request from the Chairman or Ranking Member of the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives is received by the Administrator of General Services, the Administrator shall provide such Member a response in writing that provides any information requested regarding the project.

Provided further, the Administrator of General Services may not enter into this lease if it does not contain a provision barring any individual holding a Federally-elected office, regardless of whether such individual took office before or after execution of this lease, to directly participate in, or benefit from or under this lease or any part thereof and that such provision provide that if this lease is found to have been made in violation of the foregoing prohibition or it is found that this prohibition has been violated during the term of the lease, the lease shall be void, except that the foregoing limitation shall not apply if the lease is entered into with a publicly-held corporation or publicly-held entity for the general benefit of such corporation or entity.

Provided further, prior to entering into this lease or approving a novation agreement involving a change of ownership under this lease, the Administrator of General Services shall require the offeror or the parties requesting the novation, as applicable, to identify and disclose whether the owner of the leased space, including an entity involved in the financing thereof, is a foreign person or a foreign-owned entity; provided further, in such an instance, the Administrator of General Services shall notify the occupant agency(ies) in writing, and consult with such occupant agency(ies) regarding security concerns and necessary mitigation measures (if any) prior to award of the lease or approval of the novation agreement.

Provided that, to the maximum extent practicable, the Administrator of General Services shall require that the lease procurement consider the availability of public transportation consistent with agency mission requirements and that the space to be leased be renovated for all cost effective improvements, including renewable energy upgrades, water efficiency improvements, and indoor air quality optimization, that reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

GSA PBS

PROSPECTUS – LEASE
DEPARTMENT OF STATE
WASHINGTON, DC

Prospectus Number: PDC-05-WA19

Executive Summary

The General Services Administration (GSA) proposes to exercise a renewal option that exists in the current lease for 390,670 rentable square feet (RSF) for the Department of State (DOS). DOS is currently housed at the American Red Cross (ARC) Building located at 2025 E Street NW, Washington DC.

Exercising the existing renewal option will provide continued housing for DOS and will maintain the office and overall utilization rates at 119 and 182 usable square feet (USF) per person, respectively.

Description

Occupant:	Department of State
Current Rentable Square Feet (RSF)	390,670 (Current RSF/USF = 1.32)
Estimated Maximum RSF:	390,670 (Proposed RSF/USF = 1.32)
Expansion/Reduction RSF:	None
Current Usable Square Feet/Person:	182
Estimated Usable Square Feet/Person:	182
Expiration Dates of Current Lease(s):	06/30/2020
Proposed Maximum Leasing Authority:	20 years
Delineated Area:	2025 E Street NW, Washington, DC
Number of Official Parking Spaces[1]:	223 (25 GOV)
Scoring:	Operating
Current Total Annual Cost:	$18,725,752 (lease effective 07/01/2009)
Estimated Rental Rate[2]:	$49.77 / RSF
Estimated Total Annual Cost[3]:	$19,443,646

[1] DOS's Security requirements necessitate control of parking at the leased location in addition to the official parking spaces identified in the prospectus.
[2] This estimate is for fiscal year 2020 and may be escalated by 2 percent annually to the effective date of the lease to account for inflation. The proposed rental rate is fully serviced including standard operating expenses, whether paid by the lessor or directly by the Government.
[3] New leases may contain an escalation clause to provide for annual changes in real estate taxes and operating costs.

PROSPECTUS – LEASE
DEPARTMENT OF STATE
WASHINGTON, DC

Prospectus Number: PDC-05-WA19

Background

DOS's mission is to shape and sustain a peaceful, prosperous, just and democratic world, and foster conditions for stability and progress for the benefit of the American people and people everywhere.

The ARC building is on Federal land under the administration and jurisdiction of GSA. As directed by Public Law 100-637, GSA entered into a ground lease with ARC for 99 years. Through the ground lease, GSA has the right of first refusal for space not used by ARC, at a price that is reduced by the value of the land, which provides for a lower than market rent rate for GSA. Further, GSA has purchased condominium units in this building and has a right to purchase further units in the future.

The current lease for space in the building includes two 10-year renewal options. GSA is therefore requesting approval for 20-years under this prospectus. GSA intends to exercise the first renewal option in order to maintain the Government's ability to purchase additional condominium units in the future.

Justification

The ARC building is located on Federal land under a ground lease agreement. The building is a Class A property located in a highly desirable area near the Main State Building. GSA purchased a portion of the ARC building in January 2017 and has the option to purchase the balance of the building's space that it currently leases at a competitive market price through the end of the current lease term. The building is ideally located for DOS given its proximity to DOS.

The current lease at 2025 E Street NW, Washington, DC, expires June 30, 2020. DOS requires continued housing to carry out its mission.

Summary of Energy Compliance

GSA will incorporate energy efficiency requirements into the Request for Lease Proposals and other documents related to the procurement of space based on the approved prospectus. GSA encourages offerors to exceed minimum requirements set forth in the procurement and to achieve an Energy Star performance rating of 75 or higher.

Resolutions of Approval

Resolutions adopted by the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, and the Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works approving this prospectus will

PROSPECTUS – LEASE
DEPARTMENT OF STATE
WASHINGTON, DC

Prospectus Number: PDC-05-WA19

constitute approval to make appropriations to continue to lease space in a facility that will yield the required rentable area.

Interim Leasing

GSA will execute such interim leasing actions as are necessary to ensure continued housing of the tenant agency prior to the effective date of the extension. It is in the best interest of the Government to avert the financial risk of holdover tenancy.

Certification of Need

The proposed project is the best solution to meet a validated Government need.

Submitted at Washington, DC, on November 5, 2018.

Recommended: _____
Commissioner, Public Buildings Service

Approved: _____
Administrator, General Services Administration

October 2017

Housing Plan
Department of State

PDC-05-WA19
Washington, DC

Leased Locations	CURRENT						ESTIMATED/PROPOSED					
	Personnel		Usable Square Feet (USF)[1]				Personnel		Usable Square Feet (USF)			
	Office	Total	Office	Storage	Special	Total	Office	Total	Office	Storage[5]	Special[6]	Total
2025 E Street NW, Washington DC	1,625	1,625	248,055	18,385	29,881	296,321						
Estimated/Proposed Lease							1,625	1,625	248,055	18,385	29,881	296,321
Total	1,625	1,625	248,055	18,385	29,881	296,321	1,625	1,625	248,055	18,385	29,881	296,321

Office Utilization Rate (UR)[2]		
	Current	Proposed
Rate	119	119

UR = average amount of office space per person
Current UR excludes 54,572 usf of office support space
Proposed UR excludes 54,572 usf of office support space

Overall UR[3]		
	Current	Proposed
Rate	182	182

R/U Factor[4]			
	Total USF	RSF/USF	Max RSF
Current	296,321	1.32	390,670
Estimated/Proposed	296,321	1.32	390,670

Special Space[6]	USF
Conference/Training	22,135
Fitness	4,217
SCIF	500
Datacenter	1,500
Security	1,251
Lactation Room	278
Total	**29,881**

NOTES:
[1] USF means the portion of the building available for use by a tenant's personnel and furnishings and space available jointly to the occupants of the building.
[2] Calculation excludes Judiciary, Congress and agencies with less than 10 people
[3] USF/Person = housing plan total USF divided by total personnel.
[4] R/U Factor (R/U) = Max RSF divided by total USF
[5] Storage excludes warehouse, which is part of Special Space.
[6] Special spaces listed are examples of such spaces and may be subject to change at the time a Request for Lease Proposal (RLP) is issued to meet specific agency requirements.

COMMITTEE RESOLUTION

LEASE—DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE, U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS, LOS ANGELES, CA

Resolved by the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the U.S. House of Representatives, that pursuant to 40 U.S.C. 3307, appropriations are authorized for a lease of up to 115,000 rentable square feet of space, including 32 official parking spaces, for the Department of Defense—U.S. Army Corps of Engineers currently located at 915 Wilshire Boulevard in Los Angeles, CA at a proposed total annual cost of $5,290,000 for a lease term of up to 20 years, a prospectus for which is attached to and included in this resolution.

Approval of this prospectus constitutes authority to execute an interim lease for all tenants, if necessary, prior to the execution of the new lease.

Provided that, the Administrator of General Services and tenant agency(ies) agree to apply an overall utilization rate of 184 square feet or less per person, except that, if the Administrator determines that the overall utilization rate cannot be achieved, the Administrator shall provide an explanatory statement to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives prior to exercising any lease authority provided in this resolution.

Provided that, except for interim leases as described above, the Administrator may not enter into any leases that are below prospectus level for the purposes of meeting any of the requirements, or portions thereof, included in the prospectus that would result in an overall utilization rate of 184 square feet or higher per person.

Provided that, to the maximum extent practicable, the Administrator shall include in the lease contract(s) a purchase option that can be exercised at the conclusion of the firm term of the lease.

Provided further, that the General Services Administration shall not delegate to any other agency the authority granted by this resolution.

Provided further, that the Administrator shall require that the delineated area of the procurement is identical to the delineated area included in the prospectus, except that, if the Administrator determines that the delineated area of the procurement should not be identical to the delineated area included in the prospectus, the Administrator shall provide an explanatory statement to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives prior to exercising any lease authority provided in this resolution.

Provided further, not later than 30 calendar days after the date on which a request from the Chairman or Ranking Member of the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives is received by the Administrator of General Services, the Administrator shall provide such Member a response in writing that provides any information requested regarding the project.

Provided further, the Administrator of General Services may not enter into this lease if it does not contain a provision barring any individual holding a Federally-elected office, regardless of whether such individual took office before or after execution of this lease, to directly participate in, or benefit from or under this lease or any part thereof and that such provision provide that if this lease is found to have been made in violation of the foregoing prohibition or it is found that this prohibition has been violated during the term of the lease, the lease shall be void, except that the foregoing limitation shall not apply if the lease is entered into with a publicly-held corporation or publicly-held entity for the general benefit of such corporation or entity.

Provided further, prior to entering into this lease or approving a novation agreement involving a change of ownership under this lease, the Administrator of General Services shall require the offeror or the parties requesting the novation, as applicable, to identify and disclose whether the owner of the leased space, including an entity involved in the financing thereof, is a foreign person or a foreign-owned entity; provided further, in such an instance, the Administrator of General Services shall notify the occupant agency(ies) in writing, and consult with such occupant agency(ies) regarding security concerns and necessary mitigation measures (if any) prior to award of the lease or approval of the novation agreement.

Provided that, to the maximum extent practicable, the Administrator of General Services shall require that the lease procurement consider the availability of public transportation consistent with agency mission requirements and that the space to be leased be renovated for all cost effective improvements, including renewable energy upgrades, water efficiency improvements, and indoor air quality optimization, that reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

GSA PBS

PROSPECTUS – LEASE
DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE
U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS
LOS ANGELES, CA

Prospectus Number: PCA-01-LA19
Congressional District: CA-27, 32 & 34

Executive Summary

The U.S. General Services Administration (GSA) proposes a lease of approximately 115,000 rentable square feet (RSF) for the Department of Defense–U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), currently located at 915 Wilshire Boulevard in Los Angeles, California. The lease will provide continued housing for USACE, and will improve the office utilization and overall utilization rates from 140 to 116 and 218 to 184 usable square feet (USF) per person, respectively.

Description

Occupant:	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Current RSF:	115,644 (Current RSF/USF = 1.12)
Estimated/Proposed Maximum RSF[1]:	115,000 (Proposed RSF/USF = 1.15)
Expansion/Reduction RSF:	644 (Reduction)
Current USF/Person:	218 Overall UR
Estimated/Proposed USF/Person:	184 Overall UR
Expiration Dates of Current Lease(s):	05/02/2020
Proposed Maximum Leasing Authority:	20 years
Delineated Area:	Greater Los Angeles Area: bounded by Los Angeles CBA to Pasadena CBA to Monterey Park CBA, California (North: I-210 between I-710 and San Gabriel Blvd.; South I-10 and SR 60; East: San Gabriel Blvd. between I-210 and SR 60; West: I-710 to South Pasadena Ave. to West California to Fair Oaks Blvd. to SR 110)
Number of Official Parking Spaces:	32
Scoring:	Operating
Current Total Annual Cost:	$3,893,496 (lease effective 05/03/2006)
Estimated Rental Rate[2]:	$46.00 / RSF
Estimated Total Annual Cost[3]:	$5,290,000

[1] The RSF/USF at the current location is approximately 1.12; however, to maximize competition a RSF/USF ratio of 1.15 is used for the estimated proposed maximum RSF as indicated in the housing plan.
[2] This estimate is for fiscal year 2020 and may be escalated by 2 percent annually to the effective date of the lease to account for inflation. The proposed rental rate is fully serviced including all operating expenses, whether paid by the lessor or directly by the Government. GSA will conduct the procurement using prevailing market rental rates as a benchmark for the evaluation of competitive offers and as the basis for negotiating with offerors to ensure that lease award is made in the best interest of the Government.
[3] New leases may contain an escalation clause to provide for annual changes in real estate taxes and operating costs.

PROSPECTUS – LEASE
DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE
U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS
LOS ANGELES, CA

Prospectus Number: PCA-01-LA19
Congressional District: CA-27, 32 & 34

Background

The USACE Los Angeles District provides civil works and military engineering support to southern California, southern Nevada, Arizona, and parts of Utah, encompassing 226,000 square miles and 420 miles of coastline. The area includes 14 harbors, 16 dams, and 54 miles of flood control channels. Among the 14 navigation projects and 13 miles of breakwaters maintained by the District are the Ports of Los Angeles and Long Beach, which account for a majority of trade and shipping on America's west coast. The scope of the mission in the District includes navigation and flood control projects, military construction installations, ecosystem restoration projects, and Interagency and International Support program projects. The dams and recreation areas host more than seven million visitors a year.

Justification

The current lease at 915 Wilshire Boulevard in Los Angeles expires on May 2, 2020. USACE requires continued housing to ensure continuity in meeting its mission requirements. The Los Angeles District, which covers much of America's Southwest, supports engineering and environmental projects, designs and manages military construction, and provides design and construction management for other Federal agencies.

Summary of Energy Compliance

GSA will incorporate energy efficiency requirements into the Request for Lease Proposals and other documents related to the procurement of space based on the approved prospectus. GSA encourages offerors to exceed minimum requirements set forth in the procurement and to achieve an Energy Star performance rating of 75 or higher.

Resolutions of Approval

Resolutions adopted by the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, and the Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works approving this prospectus will constitute approval to make appropriations to lease space in a facility that will yield the required rentable area.

PROSPECTUS – LEASE
DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE
U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS
LOS ANGELES, CA

Prospectus Number: PCA-01-LA19
Congressional District: CA-27, 32 & 34

Interim Leasing

GSA will execute such interim leasing actions as are necessary to ensure continued housing of the tenant agency prior to the effective date of the new lease. It is in the best interest of the Government to avert the financial risk of holdover tenancy.

Certification of Need

The proposed project is the best solution to meet a validated Government need.

Submitted at Washington, DC, on November 20, 2018.

Recommended: _____
Commissioner, Public Buildings Service

Approved: _____
Administrator, General Services Administration

October 2017

Housing Plan
Department of Defense
Army Corps of Engineers

PCA-01-LA19
Los Angeles, CA

Leased Locations	CURRENT						ESTIMATED/PROPOSED					
	Personnel		Usable Square Feet (USF)[1]				Personnel		Usable Square Feet (USF)			
	Office	Total	Office	Storage	Special	Total	Office	Total	Office	Storage[5]	Special[6]	Total
915 Wilshire Blvd., Los Angeles, CA	472	472	84,580	-	18,381	**102,961**						
Estimated/Proposed Lease	-	-	-	-	-		528	528	75,396	-	19,176	94,572
Total	**472**	**472**	**84,580**	-	**18,381**	**102,961**	**542**	**542**	**80,587**	-	**19,176**	**99,763**

Office Utilization Rate (UR)[2]		
	Current	Proposed
Rate	140	116

UR = average amount of office space per person
Current UR excludes 18,608 usf of office support space
Proposed UR excludes 17,729 usf of office support space

Overall UR[3]		
	Current	Proposed
Rate	218	184

R/U Factor[4]			
	Total USF	RSF/USF	Max RSF
Current	102,961	1.12	115,644
Estimated/Proposed	99,763	1.15	115,000

Special Space[6]	USF
Conference/Training	6,550
ADP	400
Food Service	1,550
Private Toilet	380
Mission Space	4,125
Emergency Operations	3,411
Wellness Center	2,760
Total	**19,176**

NOTES:
[1] USF means the portion of the building available for use by a tenant's personnel and furnishings and space available jointly to the occupants of the building.
[2] Calculation excludes Judiciary, Congress, and agencies with fewer than 10 people.
[3] USF/Person = housing plan total USF divided by total personnel.
[4] R/U Factor (R/U) = Max RSF divided by total USF
[5] Storage excludes warehouse, which is part of Special Space.
[6] Special spaces listed are examples of such spaces and may be subject to change at the time a Request for Lease Proposals (RLP) is issued to meet specific agency requirements.

COMMITTEE RESOLUTION

LEASE—SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION, WASHINGTON, DC

Resolved by the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the U.S. House of Representatives, that pursuant to 40 U.S.C. 3307, appropriations are authorized for a lease of up to 264,807 rentable square feet of space, including 6 official parking spaces, for the Small Business Administration currently located at 409 Third Street SW in Washington, DC at a proposed total annual cost of $13,240,350 for a lease term of up to 20 years, a prospectus for which is attached to and included in this resolution.

Approval of this prospectus constitutes authority to execute an interim lease for all tenants, if necessary, prior to the execution of the new lease.

Provided that, the Administrator of General Services and tenant agency(ies) agree to apply an overall utilization rate of 181 square feet or less per person, except that, if the Administrator determines that the overall utilization rate cannot be achieved, the Administrator shall provide an explanatory statement to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives prior to exercising any lease authority provided in this resolution.

Provided that, except for interim leases as described above, the Administrator may not enter into any leases that are below prospectus level for the purposes of meeting any of the requirements, or portions thereof, included in the prospectus that would result in an overall utilization rate of 181 square feet or higher per person.

Provided that, to the maximum extent practicable, the Administrator shall include in the lease contract(s) a purchase option that can be exercised at the conclusion of the firm term of the lease.

Provided further, that the General Services Administration shall not delegate to any other agency the authority granted by this resolution.

Provided further, that the Administrator shall require that the delineated area of the procurement is identical to the delineated area included in the prospectus, except that, if the Administrator determines that the delineated area of the procurement should not be identical to the delineated area included in the prospectus, the Administrator shall provide an explanatory statement to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives prior to exercising any lease authority provided in this resolution.

Provided further, not later than 30 calendar days after the date on which a request from the Chairman or Ranking Member of the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives is received by the Administrator of General Services, the Administrator shall provide such Member a response in writing that provides any information requested regarding the project.

Provided further, the Administrator of General Services may not enter into this lease if it does not contain a provision barring any individual holding a Federally-elected office, regardless of whether such individual took office before or after execution of this lease, to directly participate in, or benefit from or under this lease or any part thereof and that such provision provide that if this lease is found to have been made in violation of the foregoing prohibition or it is found that this prohibition has been violated during the term of the lease, the lease shall be void, except that the foregoing limitation shall not apply if the lease is entered into with a publicly-held corporation or publicly-held entity for the general benefit of such corporation or entity.

Provided further, prior to entering into this lease or approving a novation agreement involving a change of ownership under this lease, the Administrator of General Services shall require the offeror or the parties requesting the novation, as applicable, to identify and disclose whether the owner of the leased space, including an entity involved in the financing thereof, is a foreign person or a foreign-owned entity; provided further, in such an instance, the Administrator of General Services shall notify the occupant agency(ies) in writing, and consult with such occupant agency(ies) regarding security concerns and necessary mitigation measures (if any) prior to award of the lease or approval of the novation agreement.

Provided that, to the maximum extent practicable, the Administrator of General Services shall require that the lease procurement consider the availability of public transportation consistent with agency mission requirements and that the space to be leased be renovated for all cost effective improvements, including renewable energy upgrades, water efficiency improvements, and indoor air quality optimization, that reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

PROSPECTUS – LEASE
SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION
WASHINGTON, DC

Prospectus Number: PDC-04-WA19

Executive Summary

The General Services Administration (GSA) proposes a lease of 264,807 rentable square feet (RSF) for the Small Business Administration (SBA), currently housed at 409 Third Street SW in Washington, DC.

The lease will provide continued housing for SBA and will reduce the office and overall space utilization rates from 98 and 185 usable square feet (USF) per person to 94 and 181 USF per person, respectively.

Description

Occupant:	Small Business Administration
Current RSF:	270,933 (Current RSF/USF = 1.16)
Estimated Maximum RSF:	264,807 (Proposed RSF/USF = 1.16)
Expansion/Reduction RSF:	6,126 Reduction
Current Usable Square Feet/Person:	185
Estimated Usable Square Feet/Person:	181
Expiration Dates of Current Lease(s):	11/23/2020, 8/31/2021
Proposed Maximum Leasing Authority:	20 years
Delineated Area:	Washington, DC, Central Employment Area
Number of Official Parking Spaces:	6
Scoring:	Operating Lease
Current Total Annual Cost:	$12,399,273 (leases effective 11/24/2010, 9/1/2016)
Estimated Rental Rate[1]:	$50.00 / RSF
Estimated Total Annual Cost[2]:	$13,240,350

Background

The mission of the Small Business Administration is to help Americans start, build, and grow businesses, throughout the United States, Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands, and Guam, by stressing the importance of creating entrepreneurs and small businesses. SBA does so through its contracting opportunities for small, small disadvantaged (including

[1] This estimate is for fiscal year 2021 and may be escalated by 2 percent annually to the effective date of the lease to account for inflation. The proposed rental rate is fully serviced including standard operating expenses, whether paid by the lessor or directly by the Government. GSA will conduct the procurement using prevailing market rental rates as a benchmark for the evaluation of competitive offers and as the basis for negotiating with offerors to ensure that lease award is made in the best interest of the Government.

[2] New leases may contain an escalation clause to provide for annual changes in real estate taxes and operating costs.

PROSPECTUS – LEASE
SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION
WASHINGTON, DC

Prospectus Number: PDC-04-WA19

8(a) Business Development concerns), women-owned small, Historically Underutilized Business Zone (HUBZone), veteran-owned small, and service disabled veteran-owned small business concerns, while increasing overall competition in the Federal acquisition process.

GSA will consider whether SBA's continued housing needs should be satisfied in the existing location based on an analysis of other potential locations within the delineated area. If other potential locations are identified, GSA will conduct a cost-benefit analysis to determine whether the Government can expect to recover the relocation and duplication costs of real and personal property needed for SBA to accomplish its mission.

Acquisition Strategy

To maximize the flexibility and competition in acquiring space for SBA, GSA may issue a single, multiple-award solicitation that will allow offerors to provide blocks of space able to meet requirements in whole or in part. All offers must provide space consistent with the delineated area defined by this prospectus.

Justification

The current location, 409 Third Street SW, houses the SBA Administrator, staff, and the SBA Program Offices' Headquarters. The SBA Program Offices' Headquarters establishes policy for the agency. The SBA facilitates small business growth throughout the nation. To bring small businesses the support they need, SBA is divided into several key functional areas: Advocacy, Laws and Regulations, Contracting, Counseling and Training, Disaster Assistance, Financial Assistance, International Trade, Management, and Small Business Audiences.

The current leases expire on November 23, 2020, and August 31, 2021. SBA requires continued housing to carry out its mission.

Summary of Energy Compliance

GSA will incorporate energy efficiency requirements into the Request for Lease Proposals and other documents related to the procurement of space based on the approved prospectus. GSA encourages offerors to exceed minimum requirements set forth in the procurement and to achieve an Energy Star performance rating of 75 or higher.

GSA **PBS**

PROSPECTUS – LEASE
SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION
WASHINGTON, DC

Prospectus Number: PDC-04-WA19

Resolutions of Approval

Resolutions adopted by the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure and the Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works approving this prospectus will constitute approval to make appropriations to lease space in a facility that will yield the required rentable area.

Interim Leasing

GSA will execute such interim leasing actions as are necessary to ensure continued housing of the tenant agency prior to the effective date of the new lease. It is in the best interest of the Government to avert the financial risk of holdover tenancy.

Certification of Need

The proposed project is the best solution to meet a validated Government need.

Submitted at Washington, DC, on December 21, 2018

Recommended: _____
Commissioner, Public Buildings Service

Approved: _____
Administrator, General Services Administration

January 2018

Housing Plan
Small Business Administration

PDC-04-WA19
Washington, DC

Leased Locations	CURRENT						ESTIMATED/PROPOSED					
	Personnel		Usable Square Feet (USF)[1]				Personnel		Usable Square Feet (USF)			
	Office	Total	Office	Storage	Special	Total	Office	Total	Office	Storage[5]	Special[6]	Total
409 3rd St SW	25	25	4,025	-	-	4,025	-	-	-	-	-	-
409 3rd St SW	1,235	1,235	153,664	53,412	22,138	229,214	-	-	-	-	-	-
Estimated/Proposed Lease	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,260	1,260	152,415	53,412	22,138	227,965
Total	1,260	1,260	157,689	53,412	22,138	233,239	1,260	1,260	152,415	53,412	22,138	227,965

Office Utilization Rate (UR)[2]		
	Current	Proposed
Rate	98	94

UR = average amount of office space per person
Current UR excludes 34,692 usf of office support space
Proposed UR excludes 33,531 usf of office support space

Overall UR[3]		
	Current	Proposed
Rate	185	181

R/U Factor[4]			
	Total USF	RSF/USF	Max RSF
Current	233,239	1.16	270,933
Estimated/Proposed	227,965	1.16	264,807

Special Space[6]	USF
Main Mailroom	2,520
Training/Multi-Purpose	8,680
Health Unit	1,330
Lactation Room	168
Security	3,010
LAN/IDF Closets	1,680
Server Room/Lab	1,400
AV and Graphics Studio	1,960
Private Restrooms	550
Credit Union	840
Total	22,138

NOTES:
[1] USF means the portion of the building available for use by a tenant's personnel and furnishings and space available jointly to the occupants of the building.
[2] Calculation excludes Judiciary, Congress, and agencies with less than 10 people
[3] USF/Person = housing plan total USF divided by total personnel
[4] R/U Factor (R/U) = Max RSF divided by total USF
[5] Storage excludes warehouse, which is part of Special Space.
[6] Special spaces listed are examples of such spaces and may be subject to change at the time a Request for Lease Proposal (RLP) is issued to meet specific agency requirements.

There was no objection.

PHARMACY DRUG PRICES

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

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the subject matter of my Special Order tonight.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I am grateful for the time tonight to talk about a very important subject. As many Members know, currently, I am the only pharmacist serving in Congress, and that is something I take very seriously.

Two of the things that I really wanted to concentrate on when I became a Member of Congress, among many things, but two of the main things were, first of all, prescription drug pricing—that is one of the things that we want to talk about here tonight—and the other thing that I wanted to concentrate on was the opioid epidemic. We have been very successful here in Congress in addressing that issue.

Tonight I want to talk about prescription drug pricing because I have witnessed it. I have witnessed what I would describe as truly a crisis.

After 30 years of practicing pharmacy, I have seen families struggle to pay for their medications. I have seen senior citizens at the counter across from me try to make a decision between buying medication and buying groceries. I have seen mothers literally in tears because they couldn't afford the medication for their children.

When I came up to Washington, that was one of the things I wanted to concentrate on. We are very fortunate we have a President and administration who are focused on this issue as well and have done some outstanding things. Two of those things that are being proposed by the administration right now I want to talk about tonight, but the main thing I want to talk about is the prescription drug chain.

Just earlier today, we had a hearing in the Energy and Commerce Committee, in the Health Subcommittee that I serve on, where we had representatives from the pharmaceutical manufacturers and from the PBMs, the pharmacy benefit managers, pointing fingers at each other and blaming each other for the problem.

□ 1900

I have to tell you, in full disclosure, I am a big fan of the pharmaceutical manufacturers. What I have seen over my years of pharmacy practice has been nothing short of phenomenal.

When I first started practicing pharmacy in the early 1980s, I can remember a time when, if you needed an antibiotic, you had to take 40 tetracycline. You had to take four a day for 10 days. Now you can take an antibiotic or get a shot in one day and be cured of some of the things that we were treating back there in 1980 with a 10-day supply.

I have seen illnesses such as hepatitis C—and hepatitis C, when I first started practicing pharmacy, was pretty much a death warrant. If you were diagnosed with hepatitis C, you were probably going to die.

Through the research and development of the pharmaceutical manufacturers, I have seen them come up with medication so that we can now treat hepatitis C. That is phenomenal. We can cure it with a pill, and it is because of the research and development that has been done through our pharmaceutical manufacturers and through the National Institutes of Health that we have reached this point.

However, the price of those medications, in many cases, makes it inaccessible for people. If you have to pay $85,000 for a medication to treat hepatitis C, for many people, that is just simply not accessible. If that medication is not accessible, it does you no good whatsoever.

I have called on the pharmaceutical manufacturers to do their part as well. They are not without responsibility here, and I think they understand that.

Tonight, what I want to concentrate on are the PBMs, the pharmacy benefit managers, the middlemen, if you will. If you look at their mission statement, they will tell you their mission is to lower drug costs.

My questions to you would be: How is that working out? If that is working out, if they are achieving their mission, why are we here? Why are we here tonight talking about this, the high prescription drug costs?

I submit to you that they bring no value whatsoever to the healthcare system.

Madam Speaker, I am very blessed tonight to have a number of speakers here with us to share their expertise, and I want to hear from some of them right now.

I want to begin with the gentleman from Kansas, Representative ROGER MARSHALL, who also is a physician, was a hospital administrator, and knows and understands this system.

Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Kansas (Mr. MARSHALL).

Mr. MARSHALL. Madam Speaker, I thank my colleague for yielding.

Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of the Trump administration's rule that will modernize Medicare part D and, as a result, lower drug prices, reduce out-of-pocket expenses for America's seniors, and make critical fixes to our systems that will help our local pharmacies.

Across Kansas, there are 506 chain drugstores and 253 independent community pharmacists. These pharmacists are honest, hardworking men and women who often go above and beyond to ensure that patients know how to manage their medications.

I have heard their stories, and they all share the same frustration: direct and indirect remuneration, or DIR, fees.

In many instances in rural America, the only healthcare professionals left standing are my good friends and colleagues from the noble pharmacy profession, and these DIR fees are running them out of town.

The increase of DIR fees over the last several years has raised out-of-pocket costs for our seniors and put our pharmacies at financial risk, often operating in negative margins.

Far too regularly, pharmacy benefit managers, or PBMs, collect DIR fees from pharmacies months and months after claims. It is completely unpredictable and unfair, and the benefits all go into the pockets of the pharmacy benefit managers.

Shame on them for doing this, but not anymore. This proposed rule will guarantee predictability by helping standardize the process and end the disparity between pharmacists, patients, and PBMs.

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services estimated that seniors will save up to $9 billion—$9 billion—over the next 10 years, and the Federal Government will save nearly $17 billion over that same timeframe.

I appreciate President Trump and his administration for addressing this concern and providing commonsense, financially responsible solutions.

It is my hope and the hope of pharmacists across the country that this rule will be finalized quickly so that it can go into effect next year.

I would like to recognize my colleague, pharmacist BUDDY CARTER, who may know this issue better than any of us, as our only pharmacist in Congress.

I thank my colleagues Dr. PHIL ROE, MORGAN GRIFFITH, and PETER WELCH for leading on this issue and bringing it front and center for both the Doctors Caucus and the Energy and Commerce Committee members.

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman for his keen insight on this subject. It is very important, and I appreciate his expertise.

Madam Speaker, what the gentleman from Kansas was speaking about are two proposals that are before CMS right now.

One proposal would do away with DIR fees. Now, let's make sure we understand that DIR stands for direct and indirect remuneration. This is when the PBMs go back months later—in some cases, years later—and recoup, or claw back, reimbursements for what they have already sent to the pharmacies.

You can imagine what kind of impact this would have on a business. There is

no sustainable business model out there that can absorb that.

I get texts all the time from small pharmacy chains that are telling me: I just got a bill from the PBM. Last year, my total DIR fees were $500,000, a half million dollars.

That is money they have already paid taxes on, but they are clawing it back. They are taking it back.

CMS has proposed that that end. I am in support of that, and I appreciate CMS doing this.

The other proposed rule that CMS has come out with has to do with the rebates, or discounts, if you will, that are offered to the PBMs by the pharmaceutical manufacturers—not offered to them, but the PBMs demand them from the pharmaceutical manufacturers. What CMS is proposing is that all of those rebates, or discounts, if you will, be given at the point of sale.

What we are trying to achieve here is to make sure that those rebates, that those discounts, are going where they are supposed to be going, and that is to the patients.

Keep in mind, everything we are talking about here is about the patient. We are talking about patient care.

My next guest speaker is also an expert in healthcare. In fact, he is another one of the members of our Doctors Caucus, a urologist from Florida, Representative NEAL DUNN, who, again, has practiced in the healthcare field and who has seen this with his patients.

Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Florida (Mr. DUNN).

Mr. DUNN. Madam Speaker, I thank Representative CARTER, who is a colleague, a friend, and a neighbor, and who also has genuine expertise on this subject.

The administration recently published two rules that tackle the issues faced by both our Medicare beneficiaries and the pharmacies that serve them.

One rule in particular, the ''Modernizing Part D and Medicare Advantage to Lower Drug Prices and Reduce Out-of-Pocket Expenses'' rule, addresses pharmacy direct and indirect remuneration fee reform by instituting that DIR fees will be negotiated at the point of sale instead of the underhanded and retroactive fashion by which the plans and PBMs currently operate.

Currently, pharmacies can face these clawback fees after they have already filled and sold a prescription for Medicare part D and Medicare Advantage patients.

DIR fees have become a catchall category for pharmacy benefit managers to collect more overhead after prescriptions are sold.

Pharmacies are often unaware of what they will owe, and the standards for these fees can be impossible to meet. As a result, many independent pharmacies in my district are forced to provide the drugs at below cost.

Imagine that for just a moment. DIR fees are causing pharmacies to operate in the red, all while they are providing lifesaving medication to America's seniors.

DIR fees have also led to drastic increases in out-of-pocket costs for our patients, which, in turn, forces seniors into the doughnut hole of Medicare part D even sooner.

To protect seniors and pharmacists in my district, and as a medical professional, I urge CMS to finalize the language included in the rule that reflects the negotiated price at the point of sale.

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I thank Dr. DUNN for his keen insight on this very important subject and for his comments.

Madam Speaker, I have a couple other comments about PBMs.

As I mentioned earlier, if you look at their website, if you look at what their mission statement is, it says that they are there to lower drug costs. Well, that is not working out very well.

Let me say this: I am not opposed to anybody making money. I get it. That is capitalism, and that is fine.

But three PBMs control 80 percent of the market—80 percent of the market. Three companies control that, three PBMs. The largest PBM, in 2016, had gross revenues that exceeded that of Ford Motor Company, Pfizer Pharmaceuticals, and McDonald's added together.

Again, I am not opposed to anybody making money, but tell me how a company can make more than Pfizer Pharmaceuticals, McDonald's, and Ford Motor Company combined.

To make matters even worse, those companies are worldwide. This PBM is just domestic. They are just here in America.

Again, I am not opposed to anybody making money, but tell me the value they are bringing to the system. They are not bringing any value to the system.

That is why I am in support of what CMS is proposing: doing away with the DIR fees; making sure that the rebates, the discounts, if you will, are given at the point of sale; and increasing transparency.

Madam Speaker, the next speaker is a good friend, a member of the Georgia delegation, Congressman RICK ALLEN from Augusta. RICK is a businessman, a very successful businessman. He understands the challenges in business. Certainly, healthcare costs, I am sure, were challenges for him.

Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. ALLEN).

Mr. ALLEN. Madam Speaker, I thank Congressman CARTER for yielding and for his efforts here this evening to shine a light on an issue that we all know is affecting far too many Americans.

It is a shame to keep doing things when they don't work. Something has to be done.

Madam Speaker, the rising cost of prescription drugs is causing significant financial burdens for millions of Americans, patients, seniors, and our businesses. Too often, Americans have to choose between much-needed prescriptions and household expenses.

However, President Trump made it clear to the American people during his State of the Union Address that lowering the cost of prescription drugs was one of his top priorities. As we have seen throughout his Presidency, promises made are promises kept.

Earlier this year, the Trump administration issued a proposal that would create incentives to lower list prices and reduce out-of-pocket spending on prescription drugs, potentially becoming the most sweeping change to how American drugs are priced, a much-needed change.

By delivering discounts directly to patients at the pharmacy counter and bringing long-overdue transparency to a broken system, we are putting patients and seniors first. That is how it should be.

It is high time to end these kickbacks to pharmacy middlemen, referred to as PBMs, in this process of dealing with these DIRs, which are putting many of those in the pharmaceutical business in my district out of business.

I thank the administration, Congressman CARTER, and my fellow colleagues this evening for their commitment to righting this ship and reducing drug prices for all Americans.

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman for his comments, and I certainly appreciate his leadership here in the House.

Madam Speaker, as you heard earlier from one of our speakers, CMS estimates that this change alone, doing away with the DIR fees—putting the discounts, the rebates, if you will, at the point of sale—will benefit the consumer, benefit the patient, and could save patients $7.1 to $9.2 billion.

□ 1915

Now, let me tell you, that is significant. That is significant for those senior citizens that I was talking about earlier who are trying to make a decision between buying medicine and buying groceries. That is significant to that mother who is trying to buy the medication for her child. Those savings will help. Transparency will help.

The savings are going to go much further than just this estimated seven to $9 billion, because as we get better transparency we will get lower drug prices. I am convinced of that.

Madam Speaker, my next speaker is a gentleman who certainly understands this issue and has worked closely on it. He has been a champion on this issue. Representative AUSTIN SCOTT, from Georgia, has gone to great lengths to study this issue. He has met with small pharmacies in his district. He has discussed with them the problem, and he understands it; and we are very, very fortunate to have him and his input.

Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT).

Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I want to thank my colleague, Representative CARTER, for his work on this. He was a small pharmacy owner before he got here.

Prior to my arrival in Congress, I was actually an insurance broker for many years, a health insurance broker. And it always amazed me, as pharmacy benefit managers tried to explain their business model, that they actually couldn't explain their business model.

So I rise today in support of our local pharmacies and the unique role that they play in serving patients. I stand here to commend the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services and the recently-proposed rule aimed at addressing direct and indirect remuneration, DIR, fees and drug rebates; rebates that don't go to the consumer, but rebates that go to multibillion-dollar corporations.

I frequently make stops at local pharmacies when I am back at my home in Georgia, and I appreciate the services that they provide their customers.

I am from a small town, and local pharmacists are a fixture in the community. They are the first line of defense in preventing and treating a customer's needs. They have known most of their customers in their community for many years.

I will give you one brief example. As an insurance broker, we had written a contract on a business and the cards had not come in yet. And there is a small-town pharmacy, and then there is the big chain pharmacy. One of the employee's children had gotten sick.

Guess which pharmacist was willing to work with the family to get them the medicine before the insurance card came in? And guess which pharmacist was blocked out of the plan by the pharmacy benefit managers? It was the same one, the local, small-town pharmacist.

I am troubled on many of these visits, because I know how these community pharmacies are finding it more and more difficult to serve their neighbors while remaining competitive in the larger healthcare marketplace.

I hear from my constituents regularly about the financial burden they face as drug prices continue to climb. And the price for a drug today, when they go to get it refilled a month from now may be totally different, and rarely is it lower.

Plain and simple, we pay too much for drugs in this country. I would hope that it is something that we could work together in a bipartisan manner. President Trump has already said that he is willing to sign a piece of legislation to reduce the cost of pharmaceuticals in this country, and it is something that we should be able to come together and pass to help the American citizens and reduce the cost of healthcare for the American family.

Most Americans assume that it is probably a pretty simple transaction for the pharmacist when the pharmacist purchases the drugs, even though they know it is a very complex transaction for them, never knowing what the drug is going to cost prior to going into the pharmacy.

But the pharmacy transaction is just as complex; and it is anything but clear and simple, and this is because of the pharmacy benefit managers.

They have used direct and indirect remuneration fees, DIR fees, to claw back money from pharmacies on individual claims, long after those claims are believed to have been resolved.

It means that a pharmacy doesn't know how the final reimbursement amount will be received for a claim for weeks or even months. And anyone who runs any business, healthcare business or any other business, knows you can't operate when you don't know what your reimbursement is.

CMS recently proposed drug pricing rules addressing this issue head-on by requiring all pharmacy price concessions, a subset of DIR, to be included in the negotiated price, which is the price the pharmacy will be reimbursed at the point of sale for dispensing the drug.

This directive would move negotiated drug prices much closer to the cost of the drug for the Part D sponsor, essentially eliminating retroactive pharmacy DIR fees.

Patients win when pharmacy price concessions are included in the negotiated price.

I want to commend the administration for making lowering drug prices a priority; and I want to challenge my colleagues in the Democratic Party to work with the administration and the Republicans in this House to push forward legislation that would continue to reduce the cost of healthcare, specifically pharmaceuticals, for the American citizen.

I, along with many of my colleagues on both sides of this aisle, have advocated for these sorts of reforms that bring transparency and accountability to the system.

Now who could be against transparency and accountability?

These are bipartisan issues on which we share broad agreement. I call on the leadership of this House to put the partisan politics aside; follow the lead of the administration; or walk with the administration to address the lack of transparency in the pharmaceutical industry. Give pharmacies a level playing field to compete, and provide Americans access to affordable prescription drugs.

This is something that we should have done for the American citizens long ago and it is something that we can do right now.

Madam Speaker, I thank my good friend and fellow Georgian, Mr. CARTER, for hosting this Special Order this evening. I look forward to continuing to resolve this issue for the American citizens.

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman for his comments, and I thank him for his work. He truly has been a champion for his constituents.

His father is a doctor and, certainly, he understands healthcare. As he mentioned, he was an insurance broker, he understands insurance. And a lot of what we talk about here is insurance.

Let me try to articulate, if you will, exactly what I am talking about here. Some of the folks back home who are watching may be thinking, well, I don't really understand why the pharmaceutical manufacturers have to go through the PBMs.

What happens is that insurance companies work on formularies. In other words, they say, if you have got this disease, or if you have got this health problem, these are the drugs that we are going to cover.

The pharmaceutical manufacturer, in order to get their drug on that formulary, has to go to the PBM, the middleman, and has to offer them discounts, rebates, if you will, in order to get their product on that formulary.

That is what we are talking about. That is where they have the pharmaceutical manufacturers by the short hairs, if you will. That is where they really put the pressure on. So that is really what we are talking about.

Look, again, as I have said before, I am not opposed to anybody making money, but show me the value.

I mentioned a hearing that we had earlier today in the Health Subcommittee of the Energy and Commerce Committee. I mentioned that we had some PBMs there. We had two PBMs there. One is one of the major PBMs that requires the pharmaceutical manufacturers to give them rebates in order to have their products listed on the formulary.

And then another PBM was there, and they are just a flat fee. In other words, they just charge an administrative fee. That is all they charge. Again, PBMs, that is the way they evolved. All they were to begin with, when they started way back when, were just simply processors.

But enough about what we have done here in Washington. Let's talk for just a minute about State legislators and what State legislative actions have been taken.

Let me clarify and let me point out that I am not talking about just red States. I am not talking about just blue States. I am not talking about big States. I am not talking about small States. I am talking about all States, all the States in our union;

I am talking about States like Ohio. Ohio's Department of Medicaid published a report in January detailing exactly how PBMs have been gaming the system; that's right; in Ohio.

Ohio found that CVS—CVS is Caremark—that they had been using their role as the PBM for their State Medicaid program to pay CVS pharmacies as much as 46 percent more than competing pharmacies.

Now, this is something else we need to talk about. We need to talk about

what is referred to as vertical integration. That is, right now, where the insurance company owns the PBM and owns the pharmacy.

The top three that I mentioned earlier that control 80 percent of the market, that is the case with all of them. CVS is the pharmacy. Caremark is the PBM. Aetna is the insurance company.

Now, when we were talking to the PBMs today in the committee, we would ask them, what are you doing with these discounts? What are you doing with these rebates that you get? And they would tell us, well, we give them back to the plan sponsors, and the plan sponsors decrease premiums.

Anybody seen their premium decreasing recently? I don't think I have.

But think about it for a moment. If the insurance company owns the PBM, and owns the pharmacy, if the PBM is going to give it back to the insurance company, isn't that just taking money out of one pocket and putting it in the other pocket?

I mean, if CVS—if Caremark is going to give back the money that they are saving in the third party with the PBMs to the insurance company, Aetna, that they also own—and they are not the only one.

What about Express Scripts? Express Scripts just recently bought Cigna. So you have got Cigna as the insurance company. You have got Express Scripts as the PBM. And, oh, by the way, Express Scripts has their own mail order pharmacy and in terms of volume, they are the third largest in America. So, again, we have the situation there.

Same thing goes with United, UnitedHealthcare owns Optum, and they have their own mail order pharmacy.

So, there you have the three top PBMs, controlling 80 percent of the market; that also have their own insurance company, and they also have their own pharmacy.

This is what happened in Ohio. Ohio discovered that Caremark, that third party, the PBM, was paying their pharmacy, CVS, 46 percent more than they were paying competing pharmacies. That is an example of where they were taking money out of one pocket and putting it in another pocket.

What about New York State? Their State Medicaid reported that PBMs were pocketing a 32 percent markup on generic drugs; 32 percent markup on generic drugs; the drugs patients traditionally rely on to be more affordable than their branded alternatives. But New York caught them red-handed.

I can go on and name State after State. The State of Arkansas called a special session to address the situation with PBMs.

Just yesterday, my home State of Georgia, the Governor signed into legislation two bills dealing with PBMs; one of them that would prohibit PBMs from steering their patients to their own pharmacies and steering them away from other pharmacies, independent pharmacies.

So this is just not the Federal Government acting on these issues. We have had States who have acted on these issues as well.

So let's talk about a couple of other things that we have done in Congress. One thing that I want to mention, because I thought it was such an egregious thing that the PBMs were doing in the past—we, thankfully, were able to address this—was called the gag clause.

Thankfully, we had legislation that I was honored to sponsor here in the House that was passed in the House, passed in the Senate, signed into law by the President. It addressed the gag clause.

What is a gag clause?

You want to talk about the audacity of the PBMs? Let me tell you about the audacity of the PBMs.

As I mentioned earlier, about the pharmaceutical manufacturers being under pressure to give the PBMs discounts, rebates, if you will, in order to get their drugs on the formularies; well, independent pharmacies are the same way. They are under pressure.

What the PBMs did is they told—they had a clause in their contract with the pharmacy, and it said that if a drug is cheaper if you buy it out of pocket, if you pay for it out of pocket, if you buy it for cash than the copay, you cannot tell the patient that.

□ 1930

And if you do tell the patient that, then you run the risk of being kicked out of the network. Well, the reality is you can't afford to be kicked out of the network. If you lose thousands of bodies because that PBM controls that network, then you are out of business.

So pharmacies had no other choice. Patients were paying more with their copay than what they would have paid for it if they would have simply paid out of pocket, just simply paid cash. We did away with that.

Thank you, Mr. President, for signing that legislation.

We addressed that in Congress. We said, no, that is not going to happen anymore. Now pharmacists can do what they were trained to do, and that is take care of their patients and tell them, Look, if you pay for this, you can buy it for $4 and you don't have to pay a $20 copay.

You say, Well, how often did that happen?

Well, let me give you just one example that happened in our committee, in the Energy and Commerce Committee. We actually had one of our Members who was the primary caregiver for her husband, who was very ill at the time. We had been talking about the gag clause, so she knew about it. She knew that pharmacists weren't allowed to offer that information.

So she went into the pharmacy, and she was told that her husband's medication, no exaggeration, was going to be $600. She knew to ask the pharmacist. She said, What if I just pay for it out of pocket? What if I just pay you cash? How much will it be?

$40. $40.

Now, granted, this is an extreme example, but it is an example.

Thank goodness we did away with that. I thank the Senate for passing this. I thank the House for passing it. I especially thank the President for signing this into law.

Madam Speaker, this is a real problem.

I want to conclude by saying that what we are trying to do here is to bring about transparency. Just show us what is happening. That is all we are asking for.

I want to applaud the administration. I want to thank President Donald J. Trump for bringing this issue to light. This has been an issue that he has worked on.

This is a nonpartisan issue. I never in my years of practicing pharmacy asked someone, Are you a Republican or a Democrat? That doesn't matter. This impacts everyone.

I thank the President for his leadership on this and I thank the administration for these two proposed rules: doing away with DIR fees, making the rebates at the point of sale, so that they will truly go to the patient.

These two rules that are being proposed by CMS will help get us to a point where we will have more transparency. That is what we need.

Folks, this is a serious subject, a very serious subject. I have witnessed it firsthand, witnessed it in my practice of pharmacy for over 30 years. It is horrible when you see someone suffering who can't afford a medication.

I call on the pharmaceutical manufacturers to do their part. They have got to do a better job with their pricing. They are not without responsibility here, and I think they understand that.

But, Madam Speaker, we have got to have these two rule proposals passed, and I encourage CMS to follow through on this, do away with DIR fees, put the rebates at the point of sale. This will bring about transparency.

I thank the administration for their support. I thank those who spoke here tonight.

Madam Speaker, thank you for giving me this opportunity to bring to light this extremely important subject.

Madam Speaker, I yield back.

THE MUELLER REPORT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2019, the gentlewoman from Illinois (Ms. SCHAKOWSKY) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Madam Speaker, the report on the investigation into Russian interference in the 2016 presidential election, more commonly known as the Mueller report, outlines efforts by the Russian Government to manipulate the United States election

system and directly attack American democracy. It outlines alleged coordination between individuals associated with one camp and Russia to influence our election.

It also documents multiple instances of potential obstruction of justice.

The report has been mischaracterized and spun in inappropriate ways in the Halls of Congress and within the media.

In reality, the report documents widespread activities undertaken by many in positions of power that were at best unethical and at worst illegal.

But you don't have to take my word for it. Instead, listen to the following examples taken directly from the report and judge for yourself.

I am going to begin with a quote from the Mueller report and then invite my colleagues to also simply read from the document, which the American people should know can be downloaded for free from the Department of Justice website.

''The evidence we obtained about the President's actions and intent present difficult issues that would need to be resolved if we were making a traditional prosecutorial judgment. At the same time, if we had confidence after a thorough investigation of the facts that the President clearly did not commit obstruction of justice, we would so state. Based on the facts and the applicable legal standards, we are unable to reach that judgment. Accordingly, while this report does not conclude that the President committed a crime, it also does not exonerate him.'' Volume II, page 8.

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

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from California (Mrs. DAVIS) to quote from the Mueller report.

Mrs. DAVIS of California. ''On Saturday, June 17, 2017, the President called McGahn and directed him to have the special counsel removed . . . In interviews with the Special Counsel's 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.' '' Volume II, page 85.

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from California (Ms. LEE).

Ms. LEE of California. ''Substantial evidence indicates that the catalyst for the President's decision to fire Comey was Comey's unwillingness to publicly state that the President was not personally under investigation, despite the President's repeated requests that Comey make such an announcement. Other evidence, however, indicates that the President wanted to protect himself from an investigation into his campaign.'' Volume II, pages 75 and 76.

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. CASTEN).

Mr. CASTEN of Illinois. Madam Speaker, this is in response to the attorney general's claim that the President has constitutional immunity from prosecution. Mr. Mueller writes: ''We were not persuaded by the argument that the President has blanket constitutional immunity to engage in acts that would corruptly obstruct justice through the exercise of otherwise valid Article II powers.''

He goes on at some length to talk about what that standard is, but I want to read the footnote in that section.

''A possible remedy through impeachment for abuses of power would not substitute for potential criminal liability after a President leaves office. Impeachment would remove a President from office, but would not address the underlying culpability of the conduct or serve the usual purposes of the criminal law. . . .

''Impeachment is also a drastic and rarely invoked remedy, and Congress is not restricted to relying only on impeachment, rather than making criminal law applicable to a former President . . . ''

That is from Volume II, page 178.

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from Michigan (Mrs. LAWRENCE).

Mrs. LAWRENCE. ''On Saturday, June 17, 2017, the President called McGahn and directed him to have the special counsel removed . . . In interviews with the special counsel's 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.' '' This is from Volume II, page 85.

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from Ohio (Mrs. BEATTY).

Mrs. BEATTY. Reading from Volume II, page 8: ''Congress has authority to prohibit a President's corrupt use of his authority in order to protect the integrity of the administration of justice.''

''Article II of the Constitution does not categorically and permanently immunize the President from potential liability for the conduct that we investigated. Rather, our analysis led us to conclude that the obstruction-of-justice statutes can validly prohibit a President's corrupt efforts to use his official powers to curtail, end, or interfere with an investigation.''

''The conclusion that Congress may apply the obstruction laws to the President's corrupt exercise of the powers of office accords with our constitutional system of checks and balances and the principle that no person is above the law.''

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from Minnesota (Ms. OMAR).

Ms. OMAR. Reading from Volume II, page 157: The ''investigation found multiple acts by the President that were capable of exerting undue influence over law enforcement investigations, including the Russian-interference and obstruction investigations. The incidents were often carried out through one-on-one meetings in which the President sought to use his official power outside of usual channels. These actions ranged from efforts to remove the special counsel and to reverse the effect of the attorney general's recusal; to the attempted use of official power to limit the scope of the investigation; to direct and indirect contacts with witnesses with the potential to influence their testimony. Viewing the acts collectively can help to illuminate their significance.'' Volume II, page 157.

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from New York (Mr. MORELLE).

Mr. MORELLE. ''After it was reported that Cohen intended to cooperate with the government, however, the President accused Cohen of 'making up stories in order to get himself out of an unrelated jam (taxicabs maybe?),' called Cohen a 'rat,' and on multiple occasions publicly suggested that Cohen's family members had committed crimes. The evidence concerning this sequence of events could support an inference that the President used inducements in the form of positive messages in an effort to get Cohen not to cooperate, and then turned to attacks and intimidation to deter the provision of information or undermine Cohen's credibility once Cohen began cooperating.'' Volume II, page 154.

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from California (Mr. LOWENTHAL).

Mr. LOWENTHAL. ''The President launched public attacks on the investigation and individuals involved in it who could possess evidence adverse to the President, while in private, the President engaged in a series of targeted efforts to control the investigation. For instance, the President attempted to remove the special counsel; he sought to have Attorney General Sessions unrecuse himself and limit the investigation; he sought to prevent public disclosure of information about the June 9, 2016, meeting between Russians and campaign officials; and he used public forums to attack potential witnesses who might offer adverse information and to praise witnesses who declined to cooperate with the government.'' Volume II, page 157.

□ 1945

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from California (Ms. LEE).

Ms. LEE of California. ''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 create a record stating 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.''

Volume II, pages 5 and 6.

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from New York (Mr. MORELLE).

Mr. MORELLE. ''Congress can permissibly criminalize certain obstructive conduct by the President, such as suborning perjury, intimidating witnesses, or fabricating evidence, because those prohibitions raise no separation of powers questions. . . . The Constitution does not authorize the President to engage in such conduct, and those actions would transgress the President's duty to 'take care that the laws be faithfully executed.' ''

Volume II, page 170.

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from Ohio (Mrs. BEATTY).

Mrs. BEATTY. ''On October 7, 2016, the media released video of candidate Trump speaking in graphic terms about women years earlier, which was considered damaging to his candidacy. Less than an hour later, WikiLeaks made its second release: thousands of John Podesta's emails that had been stolen by the GRU in late March 2016. The FBI and other U.S. Government institutions were at the time continuing their investigation of suspected Russian Government efforts to interfere in the Presidential election.

''That same day, October 7, the Department of Homeland Security and the Office of the Director of National Intelligence issued a joint public statement 'that the Russian Government directed the recent compromises of emails from U.S. persons and institutions, including from U.S. political organizations.' Those 'thefts' and the 'disclosures' of the hacked materials through online platforms such as WikiLeaks, the statement continued, 'are intended to interfere with the U.S. election process.' ''

Volume I, page 7.

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from Connecticut (Mrs. HAYES).

Mrs. HAYES. ''Further, the Office learned that some of the individuals we interviewed or whose conduct we investigated—including some associated with the Trump campaign—deleted relevant communications or communicated during the relevant period using applications that feature encryption or that do not provide for long-term retention of data or communications records. In such cases, the Office was not able to corroborate witness statements through comparison to contemporaneous communications or fully question witnesses about statements that appeared inconsistent with other known facts.''

Volume I, page 10.

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from Michigan (Mrs. LAWRENCE).

Mrs. LAWRENCE. ''Cohen also recalled speaking with the President's personal counsel about pardons after the searches of his home and office had occurred, at a time when the media had reported that pardon discussions were occurring at the White House. . . . Cohen understood, based on this conversation and previous conversations about pardons with the President's personal counsel, that as long as he stayed on message, he would be taken care of by the President, either through a pardon or through the investigation being shut down.''

Volume II, page 147.

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from California (Ms. LEE).

Ms. LEE of California. ''The investigation established that several individuals affiliated with the Trump campaign lied to the Office, and to Congress, about their interactions with Russian-affiliated individuals and related matters. Those lies materially impaired the investigation of Russian election interference. The Office charged some of those lies as violations of the Federal false statements statute.''

Volume I, page 9.

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from Connecticut (Mrs. HAYES).

Mrs. HAYES. ''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' and cooperate with the government.''

Volume II, page 131.

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from Ohio (Mrs. BEATTY).

Mrs. BEATTY. ''Immediately after the November 8 election, Russian Government officials and prominent Russian businessmen began trying to make inroads into the new administration. The most senior levels of Russian Government encouraged these efforts. The Russian Embassy made contact hours after the election to congratulate the President-elect and to arrange a call with President Putin. Several Russian businessmen picked up the effort from there.''

Volume I, page 7.

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. ''The President engaged in a second phase of conduct, involving public attacks of the investigation, nonpublic efforts to control it, and efforts in both public and private to encourage witnesses not to cooperate with the investigation.''

Volume II, page 7.

''The President's position as the head of the executive branch provided him with unique and powerful means of influencing official proceedings, subordinate officers, and potential witnesses.''

Volume II, page 7.

''Substantial 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.''

Volume II, page 97.

Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from California (Ms. LEE).

Ms. LEE of California. ''Two days after the President directed 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 with Corey Lewandowski in the Oval Office and dictated a message to be delivered to Attorney General Sessions that would have had the effect of limiting the Russia investigation to future election interference only.''

Volume II, page 90.

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

MARKING THE ONE-YEAR ANNIVERSARY OF THE FAMILY SEPARATION CRISIS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2019, the gentlewoman from Washington (Ms. JAYAPAL) is recognized for the remainder of the hour as the designee of the majority leader.

Ms. JAYAPAL. Madam Speaker, I thank Representative SCHAKOWSKY for her incredible leadership in the Congressional Progressive Caucus on so many issues, including bringing truth to the Mueller investigation and making sure people understand exactly what is going on.

Madam Speaker, for the rest of the Special Order hour, which is the Congressional Progressive Caucus' Special Order hour that we do each week, we are focusing on the 1-year anniversary of the family separation crisis. Any of our Members here who would like to speak are welcome to do so.

Let me start by saying, 1 year ago, I became the first Member of Congress to go into a Federal prison where hundreds of men and women, mothers and fathers, had been separated from their children and were being held in the prison system, in the Federal prison just south of my district.

I cannot, even today, 365 days later, forget the stories that these mothers and fathers told me. They told me about how immigration agents said to them, ''Your families don't exist anymore,'' and that they would never see their children again.

At the time that I saw them, it was already 3 to 4 weeks after they had been separated, and the majority of those parents had no idea where their children were.

In fact, that morning, some of them had been handed slips that supposedly

had the names of their children written on those slips of paper. One woman came over to me crying and she said: These are not my children.

That slip that supposedly had the names of her children did not match her actual children.

Can you imagine? I just think, as a mother, and for all the mothers and fathers out there, as a parent, can you imagine being separated from your child, in some cases children as young as 6 months, later we found out 3 months old, babies, who were torn off the breasts of their mothers?

These moms described immigration agents tearing them from their children without the opportunity to say good-bye. Some of them told me that when they went to go to the bathroom, they were told their children would still be there. When they came back, their children were gone. But they could hear them in the very next room crying for them, screaming for their parents, and these mothers were not able to go.

They told me how immigration agents put them in line with their children, and they would send the parents in one direction and the children in another direction.

One of the mothers told me how she left Guatemala with her 8- and 12-year-old children. Her husband is in prison. He was put in prison for raping a young child around the same age as her daughter. He was just about to come out of prison, and she was afraid that he would come out of prison and then go after their child, rape her daughter.

Another woman from El Salvador told me how she got a protection order against her ex-husband, who is a police officer, but the protection order was meaningless. He continued to antagonize her family, so she left.

Many of these mothers told me how they had left one or two of their children behind because they wanted to try to save one. It was too difficult to bring small children on the long journey that they were taking—the incredible sacrifice as a parent of trying to save one child.

One mother told me that she had three children. The first was shot and killed by gang members. The second was shot and paralyzed by gang members. She left the paralyzed child at home because she knew that he would not be able to make the journey. She took the final child. She tried to bring that child to safety.

□ 2000

After everything these mothers experienced—the trauma in their home countries, the cruel separation from their children—the treatment that they experienced in immigration custody was just outrageous.

Immigration agents told them that they were ''filthy.'' They used that word. Immigration agents laughed at these mothers when they cried about losing their children. And these mothers told me how they were detained in cells that were so cold that they called them ''the ice box'' because it was so cold.

Many of these mothers described being put there after crossing the Rio Grande River; and they were still wet, and they were put into these freezer boxes, these ice boxes, without blankets, without sleeping mats. Some mothers described how they went without water for 5 days.

After public outcry and pressure from elected officials, the government set up a number for parents to call to get information on their children, but some of the parents that I spoke to in Texas said that the number didn't work or that ICE wouldn't allow them to speak to their children.

One mother mentioned that she repeatedly tried to call her child to try to locate her child, but the number would not go through.

One mother told me that, when she requested to talk to her child, the ICE agents would get mad; and agents mentioned that, in some instances, families would have to pay for these phone calls.

And this isn't just anecdotal. The DHS inspector general's September 2018 report found mixed results among parents attempting to call their children and that important information about how to contact separated children was not always available.

Just this week, 2 days ago, Members of Congress had hoped to do the Special Order hour on the day of the anniversary. We had to do it today because this is our scheduled time. But the group Families Belong Together, a coalition of groups working on this issue, did an installation on our Capitol lawn with the shoes of tiny children all throughout and then an incredible 3–D statue of a mother reaching out to her child, and the child was in a cage.

I cannot imagine that this is the country that we call the greatest country in the world. I cannot imagine that my country that I am proud of, that I serve here as a Member of Congress for would do this to children.

And this administration has consistently demonized and vilified immigrants, but this policy of cruel family separation is hard to even describe, hard to imagine that it is happening in our borders.

I was privileged to co-chair, with Congresswoman LUCILLE ROYBAL-ALLARD, the Women's Working Group on Immigration Reform, and we led a trip to the border. I see my good friend Representative Jan Schakowsky, who was on that trip, and I just want to ask the gentlewoman, Representative SCHAKOWSKY, who has been so eloquent on this issue, I want to see if she wants to say a few words.

And then I know my friend BARBARA LEE is here, as well, about this crisis and about our commitment, as Democrats, to refuse to allow this to continue.

Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from Illinois (Ms. SCHAKOWSKY).

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. I thank the gentlewoman for yielding.

We have talked about how shocking it is for our country, the United States of America, which is, despite any effort to change, a country of immigrants. I know the gentlewoman, herself, is an immigrant to the United States of America.

My parents, neither were born in the United States of America. But this is a place where my family was able to find refuge from the pogroms in Eastern Europe and make a good life here. And yet, today, we are seeing such horror that, if it were another country, I think we would want sanctions. We would go to the United Nations. How could a country separate families?

And it is not just at the border, as Members know. Inside our country, in my city of Chicago, we are finding families that are scared all the time, mixed families where the children might be citizens and the parents undocumented. The kids are afraid to go to school, wondering if their parents will be there when they get home.

But that trip to the border that the Congresswoman helped organize is something that I will never, ever forget. Seeing people in cages, seeing that grandmother—remember?—who was inconsolable because she came with her 7-year-old granddaughter who was taken from her because our country did not recognize a grandmother as family. That child was redesignated as an unaccompanied minor, and she thought she may never see her granddaughter again, and maybe that is true.

There are thousands, we think, of children and families that are separated. We don't know. Nobody knows. The Department of Homeland Security doesn't know how many children have been separated from their parents.

We saw some moms who were being reunited with their children, and one of them was furious, and I was curious as to why. This mother said her 8-year-old daughter was told, ''Your mother abandoned you.'' Someone representing our country said that to a child.

Who does that?

''Your mother abandoned you, and you will be in a shelter until you are 18 years old.'' That reunion, mother and daughter, did not go smoothly at first, as you can imagine.

I mean, we saw a whole room full of people pleading guilty to crossing the border because it wasn't at a designated border crossing. It was so painful to see that. And that was the beginning of the zero-tolerance policy. And we are still seeing families separated, families suffering 1 year later.

And, Madam Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman for calling attention to this and for organizing that visit to the border, which is forever in my mind.

Ms. JAYAPAL. Madam Speaker, I thank Representative SCHAKOWSKY for her comments.

My colleague, the gentlewoman from California, BARBARA LEE, has been such a champion for families, for children,

for people of color, for low-income families across this country and knows the history of this country. This is not the first time that we have separated children from their parents.

Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from California (Ms. LEE) to say a few words on this, as well.

Ms. LEE of California. Madam Speaker, I thank Representative JAYAPAL for yielding, and I thank her for her tremendous leadership and for staying steady and focused. And, also, I just have to recognize her for the input which she has provided to the conference committee to keep the government open, but, also, it was a conference committee to fund Homeland Security. Her input and what she gave us really was extremely important to get that done. We have a lot of work to do. So I thank her very much for that, also.

Yes, our Nation has yet to recover from the Trump administration's cruel zero-tolerance, zero-humanity prosecution policy that tore and is tearing thousands of children from their parents and guardians, which was announced 1 year ago this week.

Since Donald Trump started his zero-humanity policy—and that is exactly what it is—we have learned more and more disturbing evidence.

We know that the Trump administration piloted family separation on a limited basis and planned to impose a policy of mass separating of children from their moms and dads—a policy. We have seen the administration's memos contemplating how this could be done and the resources needed to separate and detain thousands of children and parents.

The Government Accountability Office has investigated, finding that, despite the administration's contemplation, this is a very serious, serious problem, that they were unaware the then-Attorney General, Jeff Sessions, intended to launch this zero-humanity policy. They didn't even know this, they said.

At least as of February this year, we know that the Justice Department and their attorneys are still not tracking when they prosecute parents and legal guardians separated from their children.

And that brings me to what may be the most disturbing part of it all: The Department of Health and Human Services' inspector general found that the total number of children separated from a parent or guardian by immigration authorities is unknown and that thousands of children may have been separated.

So the bottom line is that Donald Trump and his administration, showing horrific cruelty and disregard for the well-being of children, planned for months—this was a plan—to tear children from their parents' arms.

Key officials were warned about the potentially lifelong harm to children, and Donald Trump and his administration still did absolutely nothing to ensure children could be reunited with their parents.

Yes, Congresswoman JAYAPAL, this is not a stain, but this is yet another stain on the United States.

I am reminded that 400 years ago, when the first Africans were brought to this country to begin the horrific, inhumane institution and government-sanctioned slavery, children were separated from their parents. And that was a plan, just as it is a plan now. African families were split and destroyed.

We still experience, in the Black community, generational trauma from these crimes against humanity. I couldn't help but be reminded of what my ancestors experienced as I visited McAllen, Texas, and Brownsville, Texas, last year.

I saw children sleeping on concrete floors, behind barbed wire, crying for their parents. I spoke with mothers and fathers who did not know where their children were after several months. And we were told that they could make these phone calls, but also that these calls cost money.

Where do they have money? How could they get any money?

These children and their parents had no access to mental health professionals.

Now, my background is psychiatric social work, and I know the trauma of separation of children from their parents, just within 24 hours that trauma settles in.

They had no access to legal services. And, yes, I couldn't believe it when I saw that these detention centers were prisons. They reminded me of San Quentin.

I saw mothers in prison uniforms. These were asylum seekers. They were put behind barbed wire in prison uniforms. This was like something I had never seen in my life.

And yet it took me back to what our government sanctioned and promoted and had as its policy 400 years ago.

Yes, I was born in a border city, El Paso, Texas. I was just there with Congresswoman ESCOBAR on Monday. And El Paso, the people of El Paso are doing everything they can to help with the children and with the families that are being so ruthlessly treated by our immigration officials.

Now, I just have to tell you, these children will grow up with a disdain for America; okay? Their trauma will turn into anger. And I know that, professionally. I know what is going to happen to these kids.

The long-term impact will not be good for our country, so this administration better figure this out pretty quickly. There are so many dimensions to what they are doing. I don't think they even get it.

The humane and the humanitarian crisis that we are experiencing is first and foremost, but we also have to remind the Trump administration they are creating children now who will be adults soon, and this trauma is going to stay with them all of their lives. So we better get it right, and get it right quickly.

Madam Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman from Washington (Ms. JAYAPAL) for her leadership. We have done much work in the Appropriations Committee.

Thank God we were able to pass some of the amendments last year that would not allow the immigration officials to chain pregnant women—get it?—chain pregnant women. We got rid of that. Hopefully, they are implementing that properly.

So there is a lot to do, but this is something that cannot last. This is America, and we should not—the world should not see us leading an immigration policy or promoting an immigration policy that, central to it, destroys families and children and lives.

These are human beings. They don't deserve this, and we have to do more to stop it.

Madam Speaker, I again thank the gentlewoman for yielding.

Ms. JAYAPAL. Madam Speaker, I thank Congresswoman LEE for her work, for her leadership. I was thinking about what she said about children and the impact on them, even within 24 hours.

We had the then-Director of the Office of Refugee Resettlement, Scott Lloyd, who was in to testify before us in the Judiciary Committee.

□ 2015

We also had other career child welfare experts that were there on the panel, including one who testified to us on the committee that he warned the director and those above him about the increasing family separations and the incredibly significant, and potentially lifelong risks to those children; not only the ones that weren't reunited—because at that point there was still, as there are today, over 300 families today that still aren't reunited—but not only to the ones that weren't reunited, but he said even the ones who were reunited with their families, but they spent 3 months or even a week, or even 3 weeks—most of them spent months separated from their parents—that lifelong—and he used that—lifelong damage to those children would be intense.

I asked Scott Lloyd as the then-director of the Refugee Resettlement Program: Did you do anything? Did you take that information that you got, that this was going to be lifelong, irreversible—he used the word irreversible, the witness who testified about the damage to children—did you do anything with that information about the lifelong, irreversible damage to thousands of children that you, this administration, has caused?

And he said: No, didn't share it with anybody. Didn't do anything about it.

On the same day that the Trump administration said that it would reunite thousands of children—because this is not a Democrat or a Republican issue—people across this country were outraged by what they saw.

I remember First Lady Laura Bush wrote an amazing op-ed talking about this is not us, this is not America. Independents, Republicans, and Democrats knew that the Trump zero-humanity policy was wrong, it was cruel, and it was un-American.

The same day that the Trump administration said: Okay, we hear the outrage. We will reunite thousands of children that it had separated through a central database, a government official admitted in an email that the Trump administration only had enough information at that point to reconnect 60 parents with their kids; 60 parents out of nearly 3,000 children that we know of.

Because later, we also found out that there were more children that we didn't know about in a ''pilot project'' that was even before the scrutiny came.

Let me remind people that at the time that this was happening, DHS Secretary, then-DHS Secretary Kirstjen Nielsen and other Trump officials claimed repeatedly—not just once, not just twice—but repeatedly in testimony, in hearings, that they were keeping track of separations, and that claim had simply no basis in reality.

The truth is that DHS has better systems in place to track the property that people who were in custody left, but not the children. Trump's Department of Homeland Security did not see fit to track children, including infants and toddlers.

A Federal judge recently ordered the Trump administration to locate the children that were still remaining, potentially numbering in the thousands, over the next 6 months as opposed to the 2 years that the Trump administration requested. Just imagine, the Trump administration said give us 2 years to try to reunite these kids with their parents.

But the truth is, Congresswoman LEE and everybody that is watching, we may never know the number of children who were separated by the Trump administration. There are children who may never ever be reunited with their parents.

We are, of course, trying to get to the bottom of this. We are trying to get accountability on this, but we know that DHS is still separating families. We see the relentless efforts of this administration to cut people off from seeking asylum, which is, by the way, a lawful act, not only by our own domestic laws. We are signatory to human rights treaties, international treaties, which require us to allow people to seek asylum.

Last week I reintroduced my Dignity for Detained Immigrants Act with my colleagues, Congressman ADAM SMITH, and Senator BOOKER introduced it in the Senate. Last cycle, this bill had over half of the Democratic Caucus. I think it was like 167 cosponsors. We intend to get more of our Democratic Caucus. My office spent 8 months working on this bill in the last Congress with stakeholders from across the country.

I am proud to say that as we reintroduce it, we have also made sure—and, frankly, it would have addressed the humanitarian crisis that we saw through family separation. Last year already made it extremely difficult to detain children and families. This year, what we did is, we added explicit language that bars Immigration and Customs Enforcement officials from detaining children under 18 years.

We actually had the provision of not allowing for pregnant women to be shackled. Why do we need provisions saying pregnant women can't be shackled?

What this bill is about is denying this administration and any administration in the future—Democratic or Republican—from using detention to facilitate the cruel separation of families.

I am hoping—I know the gentlewoman is either on the bill or is going to be on the bill—but I am hoping that every single one of my colleagues joins me in transforming a cruel, abusive system; a detention system that takes these children and puts them—we should call them jails because that is what they are. They are not detention facilities. Most of the actual facilities, as the gentlewoman saw, are just like jails.

And, in fact, they are using more and more jails. But that system is now detaining 52,000 people a day, which is why we need to make sure that we address this in appropriations. We need to make sure that we address this through legislation.

So I am still astounded by the profound cruelty of this administration and this policy of family separation, of zero humanity that was imposed on children and families seeking asylum.

Ms. LEE of California. Will the gentlewoman yield?

Ms. JAYAPAL. Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from California.

Ms. LEE of California. Madam Speaker, Congresswoman JAYAPAL's bill is extremely important, and I hope that Republicans also join us in this effort because this is a concern that should be bipartisan or nonpartisan.

But let me just mention a couple of things. Everyone who is a parent, a grandparent, or has ever babysat children, or who has been around children, if a child walks off, or you can't locate the child that you are caring for, I know you have felt the panic. I know when my children were small, and I would turn around and they were gone it was like: Oh, my God, what has happened? And the anxiety and the fear, and just getting very emotionally distraught behind not knowing where my children were, will always be with me.

So I think everyone in our country should understand what these parents are going through and what a lost child is feeling if they have had that experience before.

We had a hearing on this family separation policy in the Appropriations Committee, the Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Services Subcommittee, and we had a panel of individuals. Some were mental health professionals. And we were told in no uncertain terms that a day or two of counseling is not going to get it. These parents and these children need a specific form of psychotherapy, and it has got to be sustained. It has got to be professional, and it has got to be the type of therapy that addresses specifically trauma.

So I am not sure that DHS even understands this. So it is on the record, and we have been trying now to make sure that we can provide the funding for the proper type of mental health services so that we can begin to deal with this trauma that has to be addressed early on. Because otherwise, this, again, is not going to be only these kids. This will be generational because there are DNA changes through the generations as a result of family separation and children being separated from their parents at an early age.

Ms. JAYAPAL. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman for pointing that out. The head of the American Academy of Pediatrics has come. We have had a number of forums where people have been able to ask questions. Our Members have been able to ask questions, and I am very grateful to many of the Members who have taken it upon themselves to go and visit these detention facilities, go to the border with us and on other trips as well, and see exactly what is happening. Because I don't think you can really imagine it unless you see it.

I don't think you can imagine what it is like to go into a giant facility where children are being held, 6, 7, 8 years old, being held in cages with no place to sleep.

Ms. LEE of California. Peeping out at you, begging for help.

Ms. JAYAPAL. Yes, begging for help. And I think about the children, the parents that I talked to, and some of the reunifications that we saw when I led that trip to the border and thinking about these parents who had to experience their children not wanting to come to them.

Representative SCHAKOWSKY talked about one mom that we met who was reunited with her 8-year-old daughter. The daughter had been told that the mother had abandoned her, and for months, she thought the mother had abandoned her and that she was going to go into a shelter, or a foster home because her mother had abandoned her.

So you can imagine when the mother came to be reunited with the child, the mother was so happy that she finally was getting to see her child, and the child did not want to go to her mother. She didn't want to go to her mother. It took some time for them to actually be reunited and for the mother to say: No, I did not abandon you. But if you are

an 8-year-old child, how do you understand that?

Ms. LEE of California. It is hard to process that.

Ms. JAYAPAL. How do you process it? And I think that in the end, I continue to think about the ways in which we are criminalizing migrants, criminalizing people who are fleeing violence, tremendous violence in their countries.

Just the other day there was an article in The New York Times, I think, that talked about in Honduras, which is where many of the parents that I met with that were in that Federal prison separated from their children, many of them were from Honduras. This article described how you have two choices: You either get killed by the gangs or you leave. That is the only choice you have.

I also went to Tijuana. I think I was the first Member to go to Tijuana, and I met with a 15-year-old boy who had been shot in both knees. And he had a phone message on his cell phone from his mother who said: Please do not come back here. Just go. Just go. Get to the United States. Get to a place of safety. Seek asylum. I will be devastated to have you leave me, but I just want you to stay alive.

What parent doesn't want their child to stay alive? And this young man who talked to me was a strong young man, but he started weeping, talking about how he had to leave his mother and come to the United States as an unaccompanied child. It was devastating to hear, absolutely devastating to hear.

As we celebrate this 1-year anniversary—not celebrate, memorialize, I should say—this 1-year anniversary of this cruel, zero-humanity policy of family separation, I urge all of my colleagues to sign on to my Dignity for Detained Immigrants bill, to work in appropriations in every committee that we have, to remember that we still have children who are separated from their parents, still to this day.

We still have families that are being separated from their parents as we speak. We still do not know how many thousands more children were separated from their parents as a result of this administration's cruel policies that undermine who we are.

I see I have been joined by an incredible colleague, a leader on the Judiciary Committee, a leader in the Progressive Caucus, and also somebody who was on our trip to Texas, to the border, but also is from Texas.

I yield to the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON LEE), my colleague, for her comments on this.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman for yielding.

I want to join both Congresswoman JAYAPAL and Congresswoman LEE on just reinforcing the devastation and the dastardliness of child separation from their parents. I would just like to very briefly say that this sad commemoration should equate to a commitment of zero tolerance for separating children from their families.

We should end the migrant policy that includes child separation, the position of remaining in Mexico as you seek asylum, the losing of your space, or your bed, if you are in a shelter and have to be sent back to Mexico when you actually apply for asylum. All of these migrant policies, which included child separation, clearly can devastate the families.

So I want to emphasize just one point that included my many trips to the border, including the time we had the opportunity to travel together, and I want to focus on the psychological and maybe irreparable damage that is being done particularly to children in the understandable period. That is not a technical term. I am not a sociologist or a psychologist, but in that period where the child may be somewhere between 4 and 15, or 4 and 12. Those are really years when, whether it is a boy or girl, they are bonding with mom. People must realize that those children traveled thousands of miles or 1,000-plus miles with that parent and mostly that mother, and it has been a dad.

□ 2030

So that mother made a sacrifice, either out of lack of understanding of the language or signing a paper that she did not understand or thinking that she needed to separate because of the housing situation, and many of us saw the housing situation and the metallic blankets and the lack of space.

Let me just say this for the personnel on the border. We found some very empathetic personnel on the border, men and women who do their job. But the resources of the facilities are absolutely inadequate and disgraceful, and they have been like that on the border of Texas for a very long time.

So I am grateful for Congresswoman LEE and Congresswoman LUCILLE ROYBAL-ALLARD, those who realize we have to really overhaul those facilities, that will include healthcare facilities and otherwise.

But in that reunion, you might say—and there were good staff people who thought they were doing the right thing, and they were excited with the expectation. They had brought the children.

I remember two little boys. First of all, there wasn't a dry eye in the room of those of us who had come. It was just unspeakable. It was overwhelming. It brought back memories. You thought about your children or your extended family members.

So two little boys, crisp little white shirts on over at a table playing with the best red fire truck and truck that they could find. In walk mothers who went to different corners. But in walks this mother with her belongings, as I recollect, like in a pillowcase, not even a suitcase. Obviously, you have traveled 1,000 miles plus, and then you have been detained somewhere and your child went off some other place.

She comes with those welled-up eyes of expectation. She stood by that table for the longest period of time.

We all know there is no way you don't know someone is standing behind you or there is no way you don't recognize your mom even in the sight of your eye who was walking in. We know how mom and children are, mom and dad. They break that big grin, and they run like they have never run before to get into the arms of that mom and dad.

This mom stood there with her pillowcase belongings for the longest period of time, and those little boys continued to play and ignore and play and ignore and play and ignore. I almost wanted to reach out and turn that little face back here.

There was no way they did not know mom was standing there, but the detachment was so devastating. When that mom put her arms around precious little boy, he was so stiff that I knew this was going to take a very long time.

What I was fearful of was, where they would be destined, there would be no resources for his treatment, for his ability to understand what happened.

How callous this policy is, to date, that there are still some separated children; and with the leadership we have now, we don't know whether they will do it again.

So I thank the gentlewoman for doing this because, even now, my eyes well up because children are children, and we will never repair the damage, but we must stop this policy. It must be zero tolerance. We must not have this policy ever again. It is truly inhumane, and it is not representative of the values of this Nation, in spite of some of the history we have had as a country.

This is a nation where people believe in that sense of dignity and equality. Our values say that. We need to act on that and, certainly, humanity, which is so very important.

Ms. JAYAPAL. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman from Texas for her leadership, for her words, and for her work on this issue.

I would just say that, as we get ready to close, here, this Special Order hour, we are thinking, keeping in our minds and in our hearts the thousands of families across this country and across the world that have been separated from their children, and we will do everything we can to continue to fight for justice.

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

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

SOUTHERN BORDER

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2019, the Chair recognizes the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. GROTHMAN) for 30 minutes.

Mr. GROTHMAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to talk about the crisis at our southern border.

Obviously, we have a big problem on the southern border. If you have been paying attention to what is on TV, at the beginning of the year, about 50,000 people were arriving here every month. We are now, we believe, at 100,000 people illegally entering this country.

One of the reasons this is happening, it is not surprising that people from other countries think the United States does not enforce their immigration laws. Many local governments are sanctuary cities, sanctuary counties, or even sanctuary States, sending the clear message to people in other parts of the world: the United States does not enforce their immigration laws.

Sadly, even in my home State of Wisconsin, the Governor of Wisconsin pulled the Wisconsin Air National Guard off the border, sending the message that a Governor of a State does not apparently believe we should be spending money enforcing our immigration laws.

The chief executives of the biggest city in the country and the biggest State in the country have both made it clear that they will provide, or want to provide, free medical care to people who come here.

By the way, I should point out that, right now, at a time when so many Americans have huge deductibles, they are almost better off being here illegally and getting the free medical care than our citizens are.

In any event, it is not surprising that we are flooded with people who want to come here.

Another evidence of that is this body's refusal to appropriate enough money to build the wall. Now, in the last week—at least, it has been put out there—we have the majority party's suggestion or guidance for where we are going to spend money in the next budget.

Now, Madam Speaker, given the crisis at the border, you would think the biggest increase in the next budget compared to the 2020 budget would be at Homeland Security—but, no.

So the people back home understand, when we pass our annual appropriations, when we fund the budget, we break it into 12 different subcommittees, subcommittees like Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies; subcommittees like State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs; subcommittees like Defense and the subcommittee in charge of protecting our southern border, Homeland Security.

Of the 12 groups that this body is going to vote on, which classification is getting the smallest increase in this budget? Homeland Security. One more time, the Congress itself is sending the message that we do not take our immigration laws seriously.

It is time for us to send the message to people abroad that they should be taking our immigration laws seriously. After all, given the complete irresponsibility from so many politicians up here, it doesn't surprise me people think we don't take our immigration laws seriously.

What can we do?

Well, recently FAIR came out with a report in which they guessed that maybe over half the people who are in this country illegally are getting some sort of public benefit. When I went down to the border in Arizona awhile back and talked to Customs people who went through people's wallets and people's purses, they found evidence of people receiving public benefits who were not citizens here.

I am glad our HUD Secretary is beginning to look into the, I believe, large number of people here illegally taking advantage of low-income housing.

I want to point out, there is nothing wrong with legal immigrants coming here. Neither myself nor Donald Trump, who ran on this issue, want to decrease the 700,000 people who are sworn in every year as legal immigrants, and we do not want to decrease the 4 million people who are here on legal work visas. As a matter of fact, we said, if need be, we would even increase that.

But to have so many people come here illegally is, no question, a huge problem. I would suggest to President Trump, because you can't wait for Congress to do anything around here, that he send a message that, when Secretary Carson finds people in low-income housing who are here illegally, they should be deported.

I certainly have anecdotal evidence from back home that people who are here illegally are benefiting from SNAP benefits; and people who are, again, here illegally taking—not deporting everybody, but if they are taking advantage of our public benefits, again, they should return home and try to make a living in their home country or get benefits available in their home country.

The next thing I would like to see happen, I know it is something President Trump ran on—I think it is time he rings the bell—is ending birthright citizenship. Birthright citizenship is something that can cause somebody to become legal here whose parents are illegal.

We should not reward illegal behavior by having people come here illegally and have a child in the country; not to mention, it is not right to encourage pregnant people to just fly here and have a baby in this country and wind up having their family stay here legally by that way as well.

One thing that intrigues me is that apparently Canada is looking to get rid of their birthright citizenship law, one of the few other Western countries that has it. It would be very embarrassing if Justin Trudeau's Canada gets rid of the antiquated birthright citizenship law ahead of Donald Trump's United States.

In any event, I strongly encourage President Trump to counteract the message being sent by so many other elected officials and make it clear that our immigration laws are to be taken seriously.

Please, Mr. Trump, send the message. Congress is paralyzed. Stand up not only to the people overtly discouraging and ignoring our immigration laws, but stand up to the Chamber of Commerce lobby and say that, in the future, we want our immigrants to be picked, merit-based immigrants, not whoever decides to break the law.

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

BLACK MATERNAL HEALTH CAUCUS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2019, the Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Ms. ADAMS) for 30 minutes.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. ADAMS. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the subject of my Special Order.

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

There was no objection.

Ms. ADAMS. Madam Speaker, I rise today as the founder and co-chair of the Black Maternal Health Caucus. I want to take this time to briefly speak about the importance of Black maternal health.

Our country is in the midst of a national public crisis. Black mothers are dying.

Across the country, Black women from all walks of life are dying from preventable pregnancy-related complications at three to four times the rate of non-Hispanic White women. Sixty percent of maternal deaths are preventable. Their infants are twice as likely to die by their first birthday as infants born to White mothers.

Black women are 50 percent more likely than non-Hispanic White women to give birth preterm, accounting for more than half of the disparity in infant mortality rates among Black and non-Hispanic White women.

Reducing this gap through interventions like better medical care and increased social support can improve maternal outcomes for African American women, while also reducing racial disparities in infant mortality.

Research suggests that the cumulative stress of racism and sexism undermines Black women's health, making them more vulnerable to complications that endanger their lives and the lives of their infants. Unfortunately, current healthcare practices are inadequate in addressing the health consequences of living with the stress.

As a Black mother and as a grandmother, this issue is very personal to me. That is why Representative LAUREN UNDERWOOD and I founded the Black Maternal Health Caucus, with

the goal of closing the racial disparities gap.

The caucus aims to raise awareness about this crisis, to educate Members of Congress, and to find meaningful legislative solutions to improve maternal health outcomes. We intend to amplify the voices and needs of mothers and families all across this Nation.

I have been working closely with healthcare providers and with stakeholders and policymakers to begin identifying a comprehensive path forward for eliminating these disparities.

On average, African American women receive lower quality healthcare than their non-Hispanic White peers. This disparity in care quality starts as early as birth, with African American infants in neonatal intensive care units receiving lower quality care than non-Hispanic White infants.

□ 2045

This continues throughout adulthood with three out of four Black women giving birth at low-quality hospitals where their risk of poor maternal health outcomes is the highest.

More than a third of Black women undergo cesarean sections, C-sections, even for low-risk pregnancies. This is 4 percent higher than the U.S. average, higher than any other racial or ethnic group.

Although a C-section can save lives when a pregnancy is high risk, it is, nevertheless, a major surgical procedure accompanied by risks, including surgical injury to either the mother or infant, infection, and heavy bleeding.

Here we have a few areas that we need to focus on. We must improve access to critical services. We must improve the quality of care provided to pregnant women. And we must address maternal and infant mental health.

May is Mental Health Month. Too often, however, maternal and infant mental health problems go unrecognized or unaddressed, particularly for women and infants of color, with devastating consequences.

We should also enhance supportive services for families before and after birth. All families need support to thrive, but not all have the support that they need.

Adjusting to parenthood can be especially difficult for families experiencing economic insecurity. As a consequence of structural racism, many families experiencing this insecurity are in lower-income communities of color.

Programs that help families meet their basic needs—including nutrition assistance, housing assistance, and other social supports—are underfunded, and the application and enrollment process can be difficult and time-consuming.

We must also improve data collection and oversight. Collecting and sharing reliable, consistent data on maternal and infant mortality is essential to developing solutions.

Although some progress has been made, such as H.R. 1318, which helped to provide States with resources for maternal mortality review committees, there is still more work we need to do.

To address these problems, Federal policymakers should help States standardize and improve the quality of the data being collected and ensure diversity among stakeholders who serve on mortality review committees.

There is no easy fix for this issue. It is going to require many steps to begin closing the gaps.

I look forward to working with my colleagues to begin implementing some of these important strategies to save our mothers.

Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from Michigan (Mrs. LAWRENCE), my good friend who is co-chair of the Democratic Women's Caucus.

Mrs. LAWRENCE. Madam Speaker, I am proud to be here today, and I thank my colleagues, Representative ADAMS and Representative UNDERWOOD, for establishing the Black Maternal Health Caucus, of which I am a proud member.

I also want to recognize my colleague ROBIN KELLY for her continuous leadership in healthcare when it comes to maternal health.

I am also here to let the public know that this issue of maternal health is a priority for the Women's Caucus here in Congress. As my colleague ALMA ADAMS has said, we in America have a crisis. Maternal mortality is not only a public health crisis, but it is also an American crisis.

It is an American crisis because we are the highest for any developed country in the world when it comes to deaths from maternal mortality. The CDC reported this week that most of the maternal mortality deaths in our country are preventable.

It saddens me that the maternal mortality rate in the United States, again, is the highest among developed countries in the world. We have women, mostly Black women and women of color, dying for no reason. It is unacceptable. It is heartbreaking.

In my home State of Michigan, 80 to 90 maternal deaths occur every year. These are women who are losing their lives to give birth.

We must do all that we can to end this crisis. As a leader on this issue, joining my other colleagues in their leadership, I look forward to working on both sides of the aisle to address this issue.

Madam Speaker, when we elected a record number of women to Congress this Congress, this issue, which has been escalating year after year, has finally been brought to the forefront. I am proud to say, when a woman sits at the table, the conversation changes, and we will fight for the lives of women giving birth.

To every woman who has given birth, who has been a parent, I want to say happy Mother's Day. We are fighting to make sure that every woman coming forth to be a mother can live.

Ms. ADAMS. Madam Speaker, I thank the congresswoman from Michigan, not only for her work with the Women's Caucus but all of her work in this area.

Of course, when we can improve the quality of health for women, we are going to make our families much more sustainable.

Madam Speaker, it is my pleasure to welcome someone who has been a leader on the issue of health, who chairs the CBC Health Braintrust, and who has continued to lift her voice in the area of health.

She is a member, as well, of the Energy and Commerce Committee. She is also the founder of the Black Women and Girls Caucus.

I am pleased to have my colleague from the State of Illinois, ROBIN KELLY, join us this evening to speak on this issue.

Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from Illinois (Ms. KELLY).

Ms. KELLY of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I thank my colleague from the great State of North Carolina and my colleague from the great State of Michigan.

I rise today because American moms are tragically dying. The majority of these deaths are entirely preventable, as we have heard.

This weekend is Mother's Day, the day when we celebrate our mothers, grandmothers, aunts, stepmothers, and all the women who love and nurture us. There will be brunches and mimosas, cards and flowers, backyard barbecues and fancy dinners. Or it might just be a quick call saying: Hey, Mom, I love you.

But each year, more than 700 American kids begin their lives without moms. Nearly 100 of these deaths are in my State of Illinois. These kids will never know their moms or celebrate a Mother's Day with her because of America's embarrassing maternal mortality crisis.

Perhaps most shocking of all, a recent CDC report shows that 60 percent of these deaths are entirely preventable.

While hundreds die, thousands suffer severe health complications that can endanger their lives and limit the ability of mothers to care for their families.

Recently, Serena Williams and Beyonce have boldly spoken out about their personal experiences with these terrifying complications.

As the mother and stepmother of adult daughters, it worries me that it will be more dangerous for them to have a baby today than it was for me to have them 20 years ago.

On nearly every health issue, death rates have declined, except for pregnancy and birth-related deaths. In fact, America is the only developed Nation where the number of women dying continues to grow.

We can and must do better because all mommas deserve the chance to be mommas.

What can be done? Last year, Congress came together in a moment of bipartisanship to pass the Preventing

Maternal Deaths Act thanks to the leadership of Congresswoman HERRERA BEUTLER and Senator Heitkamp. This law will standardize data and reporting so we have a clearer picture of this crisis.

Building on this bipartisan progress, I have proposed a comprehensive, multipronged approach called the Mothers and Offspring Mortality and Morbidity Awareness Act, or, simply, the MOMMA's Act.

It starts by expanding what is working. It builds on last year's work to further standardize data and reporting. It also takes the highly successful Alliance for Innovation on Maternal Health program, called the AIM program, developed by our Nation's obstetricians and gynecologists and grows it.

AIM's emergency protocols and best shared practices are already saving lives in hundreds of U.S. hospitals. The MOMMA's Act would leverage Federal resources and publications to grow this proven program.

It also uses another proven strategy to prevent future deaths: mortality review committees. These committees examine every tragic death in great detail to prevent further ones.

When the city of Philadelphia established one, it cut the number of deaths by 75 percent in just 1 year. Imagine what we could do with a nationwide committee.

The MOMMA's Act also addresses a bizarre gap in current law that prevents many mothers from seeing their doctor. We know that one-third of deaths occur after giving birth. Right now, moms on Medicaid lose their coverage just 60 days after giving birth, but it takes a woman's body a full year to recover.

More than 70 percent of moms will have some complications within a year of giving birth. These mothers should be able to see their doctors and get the care they need.

While we are seeing approximately the same rate of maternal deaths regardless of a woman's income, education level, or other demographics, the recent CDC report shows that Black, American Indian, and Native Alaskan mothers are dying at more than three times the rate of White mothers. In my home State of Illinois, that disparity climbs to six times more likely to die for Black moms.

My bill directly addresses this disparity by pushing for culturally competent care throughout the care continuum.

As we celebrate Mother's Day, I hope my colleagues will join me in working to ensure that everyone gets a chance to know a mother's warm love and affection.

We can prevent mothers from dying. We know how. The question is, do we have the will?

Ms. ADAMS. Madam Speaker, I thank my colleague from Illinois, not only for her comments tonight but for all the work that she has done in this area.

It is a preventable issue and something that we can do something about. That is why we are here tonight to shed some more light on this, Madam Speaker, and to try to make sure that we are all educated so that we will know.

This comes right on the heels of Mother's Day. As we think about our mothers, our grandmothers, and all of those who have been mentors to us, this is an issue that we want to try to make right.

Madam Speaker, I am pleased to welcome the congresswoman from California, who is a senior member on the Appropriations Committee, has been a champion of reproductive rights, and sits on the Budget Committee.

Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from California (Ms. LEE), my colleague.

Ms. LEE of California. Madam Speaker, I thank Representative ADAMS.

First, I have to thank the gentlewoman for her tremendous leadership on so many issues. Our young people at our Historically Black Colleges and Universities really owe her a debt of gratitude.

I thank her and Congresswoman UNDERWOOD for forming the Black Maternal Health Caucus, and also Congresswoman ROBIN KELLY, who has been such a tremendous leader in healthcare. Her MOMMA's Act, which I am proud to cosponsor, is really, truly, making a huge difference already.

The horror of health disparities for African American women in many ways is very personal to me. Let me just share a quick story about my birth.

When my mother, Congresswoman ADAMS, went into labor—this was in El Paso, Texas—she went to the hospital, and she needed a cesarean section. They refused her admission, and she nearly died as a result.

By the time the very racist—it was a hospital that did not allow African Americans into the hospital. By the time they allowed her in, though, after my grandmother had to fight to get her in—as she told me the story over and over again as a child—they put her on a gurney in the hall. They just left her there. Again, she needed a C-section.

She became delirious, became unconscious. Somebody finally saw her. By then, it was too late to do a C-section.

They pulled her in, and the doctors really didn't know quite what to do. They finally decided to deliver me using forceps.

My mother almost died. I almost didn't get here. And I bore those scars on my eye, the forceps scars, for many years. They went away just a few years ago, actually.

□ 2100

I share that story because here we are now, in 2019, and we are talking about many of the same issues that my mother had to face, maternal death, infant mortality with African American women now here in this country.

We have gone backwards. The United Nations did a report indicating that we have gone back 25 years in this country. This is unacceptable. It is totally unacceptable.

As a member of the Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies Appropriations Subcommittee, though, we are working every day to address the crisis swiftly and with a firm resolve to turn the tide on these unacceptable disparities in health plaguing the African American community and African American women.

It is utterly unacceptable that Black women are four times more likely to die—again, I have to think about my mother tonight—four times more likely to die from preventable pregnancy complications than White women. We do have a Black maternal health crisis in America.

So as we celebrate Mother's Day, and as we honor our grandmothers and our aunts and our mothers for giving us life, let us recommit ourselves, on their behalf, to improving Black maternal outcomes.

But also, as Congresswoman ADAMS continues to remind us, we must address the structural racism, structural racism which is really at the core of this deadly issue. And it is a deadly issue.

So let me just remind us tonight that Black lives do matter.

Ms. ADAMS. Madam Speaker, I thank Congresswoman LEE. Black lives matter, and Black mamas' lives matter.

As you talked about your mother giving birth to you and the story that she told, I thought—I was reminded of 13 years ago, my daughter giving birth to her daughter who, they both almost didn't make it. She had a very difficult pregnancy, right at the end. She had to have a Cesarean, what we call a C-section, and she had to give blood. All kinds of things started going wrong at the last minute.

And once she did return home—because the baby was premature, 2 months early, once she did go home, probably less than 10 days, she had to go back, she was having complications.

So the problems that our women have don't always occur while you are in the hospital, so they need to have that support, not only before the baby is born, but even after.

I thought about that, and it was a very difficult time for us. But now you wouldn't believe my granddaughter is taller than I am, and she is a really healthy young lady, a beautiful young lady.

But you have to think about that, that it does not matter. I think I may have heard the gentlewoman or one of our other speakers say, even your socioeconomic status, all those things really don't matter. Sometimes doctors don't really listen to women.

Ms. LEE. Madam Speaker, I say to Congresswoman ADAMS, race is a factor in everything in this country, and especially in terms of maternal deaths and

infant mortality rates with Black women.

Ms. ADAMS. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman for her leadership and for all that she continues to do. I appreciate that very, very much; and thank her for being here as we kick off this Mother's Day. I am missing my mom. I know the gentlewoman is missing hers because they passed away very close to each other.

Ms. LEE. Madam Speaker, it was very close, very close. It is very difficult coming toward this Mother's Day, but we have to thank them and honor them for giving us life.

Ms. ADAMS. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman for being here and for her support of what we are trying to do collectively here in Congress.

Madam Speaker, it is my pleasure at this point to introduce another warrior, a champion here in the U.S. House, a member of the Judiciary Committee, Homeland Security Committee, who has continued to lift her voice over and over and over again.

Madam Speaker, how much time do I have remaining?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentlewoman from North Carolina has 6½ minutes remaining.

Ms. ADAMS. Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON LEE).

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Madam Speaker, first of all, let me thank Congresswoman ALMA ADAMS for gathering us a couple of weeks ago to stand and be counted as members of the Black Maternal Mortality Caucus; and to continue her recognition that if we don't become problem solvers the problems will continue.

So I want to join with my colleagues, and, in particular, Congresswoman ADAMS and Congresswoman LEE, both of whom I knew in the time that they were going through the loss of their moms.

A mom and a mother are always a mom and a mother, so let me, in the name of my late mother, who I continue to remember, Ivalita Bennett Jackson, indicate that we stand here in your name and in the names of young mothers around the Nation and young mothers-to-be.

I don't believe we could be doing a more important task than what we are doing, to not only bring relevance and substance to this question of why Black women, African American women, suffer more with maternal mortality and infant mortality; because we know what happens when that bond is broken by death or sickness, particularly in the infant stages of a young child's life.

So I want to remind us of the beauty of pregnancy, and particularly, those pregnancies that these young women are certainly evidencing, just the beauty of the spirit, the softness of their faces and the contours of their body, excitement. If you have been around a pregnant expectant mother, meaning expectant of joy and excitement, then you understand.

Should they not live? Should they not live, and should their children, their babies not live?

We have come to find out that Black women are three to four times as likely than White women to die of pregnancy-related causes. A Black baby born today is twice as likely as a White baby born the same day, in the same California city—and I will mention the fact that California has made great strides—to perish before she can take her first steps or experience her first birthday.

One in seven babies are born too soon or too small. We have euphemisms that mask the real impact of the maternal healthcare crisis. Good prenatal and maternity care is critically important for healthy pregnancies and healthy children.

Congresswoman ADAMS knows that we have been on the floor discussing access to healthcare. We know that pregnancy has been described as a preexisting condition, which means that women, even if they could, could not access good healthcare.

Collectively, we need to make greater efforts to arm the next generation with the right mix of robustness and agility and, I would say, righteousness; that we are righteously indignant that we live in the greatest Nation in the world, and here we are talking about the death of mothers and the death of their infant child.

As I listened to Congresswoman ADAMS speak of her beautiful, taller-than-her grandchild, imagine that she says the healthcare that her daughter had, in spite of the horrific challenges—just think if she did not, or no one had listened to her about the pain in her body or how she felt.

That is one the things that we find with Black women, that, in fact, they are not paid attention to as relates to the pain and medical symptoms that are represented by them. They are dismissed or taken less seriously.

Let me quickly say that, as the senior member on the Crime Subcommittee, I have had the privilege of knowing that crime impacts humanity in many different ways. And so I introduced legislation called H.R. 5130, the Stop Infant Mortality and Recidivism Reduction Act of 2016.

I am very glad, as I wrote the Violence Against Women Act, that I was able to include the SIMARRA Act in the 115th Congress, but it was proudly passed in H.R. 1585, the Violence Against Women Reauthorization Act of 2019.

The SIMARRA Act permits the Bureau of Prisons to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of Federal prison systems for pregnant offenders, many of whom are African American, by establishing a pilot program, a critical stage, and developmental nurseries in Federal prisons for children born to inmates.

The SIMARRA Act helps decrease, unprecedentedly high current infant mortality rates by allowing inmate mothers to provide healthy and safe gestation for their unborn, as well as providing a space for bonding with infants during their first 30 months of life.

It is important to administer effective services for pregnant, incarcerated women and transcend our divide, to protect families and continue sheltering the lives of our most vulnerable children, babies born to mothers in prison.

And although males account for 96 percent of the deaths, according to the U.S. Department of Justice, in 2014, the number of female prisoners who died was 154.

I use this example to simply say, we found a problem in incarcerated women, many of them African American, and we sought to get in the way of that problem by finding a solution, to be able to help those mothers have a healthy pregnancy and those babies be born.

So let me just simply say that I am glad to be on the floor to be with my sisters. I am unhappy to be on the floor because, as we stand here today, some African American mother is losing her life in birth or losing the life of her child. That is how devastating maternal mortality is.

I thank the gentlewoman for her leadership, and I am here to stand with her and fight with her, and this caucus is going to help save lives. We are saving lives tonight.

Ms. ADAMS. Madam Speaker, I want to thank all of my colleagues for being here, and I yield back.

BILL PRESENTED TO THE PRESIDENT

Cheryl L. Johnson, Clerk of the House, reported that on May 2, 2019, she presented to the President of the United States, for his approval, the following bill:

H.R. 1222. To amend the Pittman-Robertson Wildlife Restoration Act to facilitate the establishment of additional or expanded public target ranges in certain States.

ADJOURNMENT

Ms. ADAMS. Madam Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 9 o'clock and 11 minutes p.m.), the House adjourned until tomorrow, Friday, May 10, 2019, at 9 a.m.

EXPENDITURE REPORTS CONCERNING OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL

Reports concerning the foreign currencies and U.S. dollars utilized for Official Foreign Travel during the first and second quarters of 2019, pursuant to Public Law 95–384, are as follows:

(AMENDED) REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, DELEGATION TO BELGIUM, EXPENDED BETWEEN FEB. 16 AND FEB. 21, 2019

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem [1]		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]
Hon. Michael Turner	2/17	2/21	Belgium		1,474.59		1,739.83				3,214.42
Hon. Filemon Vela	2/18	2/20	Belgium		1,338.59						1,338.59
Hon. Gerald Connolly	2/17	2/21	Belgium		1,474.59						1,474.59
Hon. Joe Wilson	2/17	2/21	Belgium		1,474.59		1,053.80				2,528.39
Kate Knudson	2/17	2/21	Belgium		1,429.05						1,429.05
Collin Davenport	2/17	2/21	Belgium		1,610.59						1,610.59
Edmund Rice	2/17	2/21	Belgium		1,610.59						1,610.59
Hon. Brett Guthrie	2/17	2/21	Belgium		1,610.59						1,610.59
Hon. James Costa	2/17	2/20	Belgium		1,224.97		4,472.72				5,697.70
Hon. John Shimkus	2/17	2/21	Belgium		1,610.59						1,610.59
Hon. Rick Larsen	2/17	2/21	Belgium		1,610.59						1,610.59
Committee total					16,469.33		7,266.35				23,735.68

[1] Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.
[2] If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY, March 25, 2019.

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, DELEGATION TO CROATIA, EXPENDED BETWEEN MAR. 29 AND APR. 1, 2019

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem [1]		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]
Hon. Brendan F. Boyle	3/29	4/1	Croatia		252.00		6,010.23		327.94		6,590.17
Hon. Michael Turner	3/29	4/1	Croatia		252.00		8,405.23		327.94		8,985.17
Committee total					504.00		14,415.46		655.88		15,575.34

[1] Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.
[2] If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.

HON. BRENDAN F. BOYLE, April 25, 2019.

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, DELEGATION TO UKRAINE, GEORGIA, ARMENIA, AND MOLDOVA, EXPENDED BETWEEN APR. 12 AND APR. 20, 2019

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem [1]		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]
Hon. David Price	4/13	4/15	Ukraine		869.76		(3)				869.76
Hon. Vern Buchanan	4/13	4/15	Ukraine		869.76		(3)				869.76
Hon. Dina Titus	4/13	4/15	Ukraine		869.76		(3)				869.76
Hon. Mike Conaway	4/13	4/15	Ukraine		869.76		(3)				869.76
Hon. Gerry Connolly	4/13	4/15	Ukraine		869.76		(3)				869.76
Hon. Adrian Smith	4/13	4/15	Ukraine		869.76		(3)				869.76
Hon. Barbara Lee	4/13	4/15	Ukraine		869.76		(3)				869.76
Hon. Terri Sewell	4/13	4/15	Ukraine		869.76		(3)				869.76
Shalanda Young	4/13	4/15	Ukraine		869.76		(3)				869.76
Justin Wein	4/13	4/15	Ukraine		869.76		(3)				869.76
Sean Brady	4/13	4/15	Ukraine		869.76		(3)				869.76
Hon. David Price	4/15	4/17	Georgia		608.96		(3)				608.96
Hon. Vern Buchanan	4/15	4/17	Georgia		608.96		(3)				608.96
Hon. Dina Titus	4/15	4/17	Georgia		608.96		(3)				608.96
Hon. Mike Conaway	4/15	4/17	Georgia		608.96		(3)				608.96
Hon. Gerry Connolly	4/15	4/17	Georgia		608.96		(3)				608.96
Hon. Adrian Smith	4/15	4/17	Georgia		608.96		(3)				608.96
Hon. Barbara Lee	4/15	4/17	Georgia		608.96		(3)				608.96
Hon. Terri Sewell	4/15	4/17	Georgia		608.96		(3)				608.96
Shalanda Young	4/15	4/17	Georgia		608.96		(3)				608.96
Justin Wein	4/15	4/17	Georgia		608.96		(3)				608.96
Sean Brady	4/15	4/17	Georgia		608.96		(3)				608.96
Hon. David Price	4/17	4/19	Armenia		478.70		(3)				478.70
Hon. Vern Buchanan	4/17	4/19	Armenia		478.70		(3)				478.70
Hon. Dina Titus	4/17	4/19	Armenia		478.70		(3)				478.70
Hon. Mike Conaway	4/17	4/19	Armenia		478.70		(3)				478.70
Hon. Gerry Connolly	4/17	4/19	Armenia		478.70		(3)				478.70
Hon. Adrian Smith	4/17	4/19	Armenia		478.70		(3)				478.70
Hon. Barbara Lee	4/17	4/19	Armenia		478.70		(3)				478.70
Hon. Terri Sewell	4/17	4/19	Armenia		478.70		(3)				478.70
Shalanda Young	4/17	4/19	Armenia		478.70		(3)				478.70
Justin Wein	4/17	4/19	Armenia		478.70		(3)				478.70
Sean Brady	4/17	4/19	Armenia		478.70		(3)				478.70
Hon. David Price	4/19	4/20	Moldova		242.39		(3)				242.39
Hon. Vern Buchanan	4/19	4/20	Moldova		242.39		(3)				242.39
Hon. Dina Titus	4/19	4/20	Moldova		242.39		(3)				242.39
Hon. Mike Conaway	4/19	4/20	Moldova		242.39		(3)				242.39
Hon. Gerry Connolly	4/19	4/20	Moldova		242.39		(3)				242.39
Hon. Adrian Smith	4/19	4/20	Moldova		242.39		(3)				242.39
Hon. Barbara Lee	4/19	4/20	Moldova		242.39		(3)				242.39
Hon. Terri Sewell	4/19	4/20	Moldova		242.39		(3)				242.39
Shalanda Young	4/19	4/20	Moldova		242.39		(3)				242.39
Justin Wein	4/19	4/20	Moldova		242.39		(3)				242.39
Sean Brady	4/19	4/20	Moldova		242.39		(3)				242.39
Committee total					24,197.91						24,197.91

[1] Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.
[2] If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.
[3] Military air transportation.

HON. DAVID E. PRICE, May 2, 2019.

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN JAN. 1 AND MAR. 31, 2019

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem [1]		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]

HOUSE COMMITTEES

Please Note: If there were no expenditures during the calendar quarter noted above, please check the box at right to so indicate and return. ☒

[1] Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.
[2] If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.

HON. COLLIN C. PETERSON, April 29, 2019.

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN JAN. 1 AND MAR. 31, 2019

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem [1]		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]
Hon. Mario Diaz-Balart	2/16	2/18	Colombia		631.00		1,281.03		1,456.00		3,368.03
Matthew Bower	2/16	2/19	Afghanistan		99.00		13,563.83				13,662.83
	2/19	2/22	Jordan		2,132.44		68.57		76.12		2,277.13
David Bortnick	2/16	2/19	Afghanistan		99.00		13,107.83				13,206.83
	2/19	2/22	Jordan		2,132.44		69.35		76.12		2,277.91
Hayden Milberg	2/17	2/20	Afghanistan				12,595.53				12,595.53
	2/20	2/23	Egypt		819.00				189.00		1,008.00
Hon. Debbie Wasserman Schultz	3/8	3/10	Colombia		721.00		3,473.23		4,141.50		8,335.73
Hon. Ed Case	3/17	3/19	Japan		330.00		7,883.63		1,667.83		9,881.46
Hon. Debbie Wasserman Schultz	3/16	3/18	Poland		540.38						540.38
	3/18	3/20	Hungary		693.00						693.00
	3/20	3/21	Ukraine		374.00				142.40		516.40
	3/21	3/24	Brussels		999.21				168.91		1,168.12
Committee total					9,570.47		52,043.00		7,917.88		69,531.35

[1] Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.
[2] If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.

HON. NITA M. LOWEY, April 29, 2019.

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION AND LABOR, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN JAN. 1 AND MAR. 31, 2019

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem [1]		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]

HOUSE COMMITTEES

Please Note: If there were no expenditures during the calendar quarter noted above, please check the box at right to so indicate and return. ☒

[1] Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.
[2] If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.

HON. ROBERT C. ''BOBBY'' SCOTT, April 23, 2019.

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND COMMERCE, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN JAN. 1 AND MAR. 31, 2019

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem [1]		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]
Hon. Lisa Blunt Rochester	2/15	2/17	Guatemala		457.43						457.43
	2/17	2/17	Honduras								
	2/17	2/19	El Salvador		414.90						414.90
Commercial transportation							1,953.85				1,953.85
Hon. Greg Gianforte	2/14	2/16	Germany		523.76						523.76
	2/16	2/18	Kosovo		336.06						336.06
	2/18	2/20	Israel		1,040.00						1,040.00
	2/20	2/22	Ethiopia		794.48						794.48
	2/22	2/23	Rwanda		336.00						336.00
	2/23	2/24	Algeria		237.77						237.77
	2/24	2/25	Spain		200.51		(3)				200.51
Committee total					4,340.91		1,953.85				6,294.76

[1] Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.
[2] If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.
[3] Military air transportation.

HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR., April 29, 2019.

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, COMMITTEE ON ETHICS, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN JAN. 1 AND MAR. 31, 2019

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem [1]		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]

HOUSE COMMITTEES

Please Note: If there were no expenditures during the calendar quarter noted above, please check the box at right to so indicate and return. ☒

[1] Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.
[2] If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.

HON. THEODORE E. DEUTCH, April 29, 2019.

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, COMMITTEE ON FINANCIAL SERVICES, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN JAN. 1 AND MAR. 31, 2019

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem [1]		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]
HOUSE COMMITTEES											
Please Note: If there were no expenditures during the calendar quarter noted above, please check the box at right to so indicate and return. ☒											

[1] Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.
[2] If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.

HON. MAXINE WATERS, April 30, 2019.

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN JAN. 1 AND MAR. 31, 2019

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem [1]		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]
Hon. Karen Bass**	2/8	2/11	Ethiopia		**		**		**		**
Hon. Brad Sherman**	2/8	2/11	Ethiopia		**		**		**		**
Hon. Ilhan Omar**	2/8	2/11	Ethiopia		**		**		**		**
Janette Yarwood**	2/8	2/11	Ethiopia		**		**		**		**
Hon. Karen Bass*	3/1	3/3	Ethiopia		788.96		8,442.03		734.28		9,965.27
Delegation expenses*	3/2	3/3	Eritrea		221.64				5,226.04		5,447.68
Janette Yarwood	3/1	3/3	Ethiopia		788.96		8,442.03				9,230.99
	3/2	3/3	Eritrea		221.63						221.63
Hon. Ilhan Omar	3/1	3/1	Ethiopia		618.96		12,660.03				13,278.99
	3/2	3/3	Eritrea		113.64						113.64
Hon. Tom Malinowski	2/14	2/17	Germany		760.59		(3)				760.59
Hon. Lee Zeldin	2/15	2/17	Germany		826.06		(3)				826.06
	2/17	2/18	France		793.33		(3)				793.33
	2/18	2/20	Cyprus		515.22		(3)				515.22
	2/20	2/23	Austria		1,686.16		(3)				1,686.16
Mira Resnick	2/17	2/20	UAE		1,111.94		11,858.79				12,970.73
	2/20	2/22	Saudi Arabia		968.57						968.57
Hon. Eliot Engel*	3/28	3/29	Colombia		359.00		(3)		13,974.00		14,333.00
Delegation expenses*	3/29	3/31	El Salvador		533.00		(3)		2,310.28		2,843.28
Delegation expenses*	3/31	4/1	Mexico		244.00		(3)		3,224.00		3,468.00
Hon. Michael McCaul	3/28	3/29	Colombia		359.00		(3)				359.00
	3/29	3/31	El Salvador		415.00		(3)				415.00
Hon. Adriano Espaillat	3/28	3/29	Colombia		359.00		(3)				359.00
	3/29	3/31	El Salvador		533.00		(3)				533.00
	3/31	4/1	Mexico		244.00		(3)				244.00
Hon. John Curtis	3/28	3/29	Colombia		359.00		(3)				359.00
	3/29	3/31	El Salvador		533.00		(3)				533.00
	3/31	4/1	Mexico		244.00		(3)				244.00
Eric Jacobstein	3/28	3/29	Colombia		359.00		(3)				359.00
	3/29	3/31	El Salvador		509.90		(3)				509.90
	3/31	4/1	Mexico		244.00		(3)				244.00
Janice Kaguyutan	3/28	3/29	Colombia		359.00		(3)				359.00
	3/29	3/31	El Salvador		509.90		(3)				509.90
	3/31	4/1	Mexico		244.00		(3)				244.00
Rachel Levitan	3/28	3/29	Colombia		359.00		(3)				359.00
	3/29	3/31	El Salvador		509.90		(3)				509.90
	3/31	4/1	Mexico		244.00		(3)				244.00
Samantha Stiles	3/28	3/29	Colombia		359.00		(3)				359.00
	3/29	3/31	El Salvador		509.90		(3)				509.90
	3/31	4/1	Mexico		244.00		(3)				244.00
Tim Mulvey*	3/16	3/18	UAE		828.76		4,716.53		167.73		5,713.02
Delegation expenses*	3/18	3/20	Kuwait		762.62				70.00		832.62
Delegation expenses*	3/20	3/22	Czech Republic		721.00						721.00
Peter Billerbeck	3/16	3/18	UAE		828.76		3,183.83				4,012.59
	3/18	3/20	Kuwait		762.82						762.82
	3/20	3/22	Czech Republic		721.00						721.00
Ryan Doherty	3/16	3/18	UAE		828.85		4,716.53				5,545.38
	3/18	3/20	Kuwait		762.54						762.54
	3/20	3/22	Czech Republic		724.34						724.34
Lesley Warner	3/15	3/16	Switzerland		469.32		11,656.83				12,126.15
Delegation expenses*	3/16	3/17	Kenya		267.00				1,050.00		1,317.00
	3/17	3/19	Somalia		132.00						132.00
	3/19	3/20	Kenya		266.00						266.00
Delegation expenses*	3/20	3/22	Sudan		773.68				104.55		878.23
Committee total					26,897.95		65,676.60		26,860.88		119,435.43

[1] Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.
[2] If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.
[3] Military air transportation.
* Indicates Delegation costs.
** Indicates a cancelled mission.
*** Indicates lack of expenditure reporting due to dates: report will be amended once receipts are provided.

HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL, April 30, 2019.

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN JAN. 1 AND MAR. 31, 2019

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem [1]		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]
Hon. Dan Crenshaw	2/15	2/17	Germany		194.00						194.00
Hon. J. Luis Correa	2/15	2/19	Guatemala, Honduras & El Salvador				1,634.33				1,634.33
	2/15	2/17	Guatemala		192.00						192.00
	2/17	2/17	Honduras								
	2/17	2/19	El Salvador		186.00						186.00
	3/16	3/16	Mexico		78.00						78.00
Committee total					650.00		1,634.33				2,284.33

[1] Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.
[2] If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON, April 30, 2019.

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, COMMITTEE ON HOUSE ADMINISTRATION, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN JAN. 1 AND MAR. 31, 2019

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem [1]		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]

HOUSE COMMITTEES

Please Note: If there were no expenditures during the calendar quarter noted above, please check the box at right to so indicate and return. ☒

[1] Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.
[2] If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.

HON. ZOE LOFGREN, April 30, 2019.

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN JAN. 1 AND MAR. 31, 2019

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem [1]		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]
Hon. Jerrold Nadler	3/28	3/31	Colombia, El Salvador, Mexico		1,136.00		(3)				1,136.00
Hon. Zoe Lofgren	3/28	3/31	Colombia, El Salvador, Mexico		1,136.00		(3)				1,136.00
Hon. Pramila Jayapal	3/28	3/31	Colombia, El Salvador, Mexico		1,136.00		(3)				1,136.00
Joshua Beisblatt	3/28	3/31	Colombia, El Salvador, Mexico		1,112.00		(3)				1,112.00
David Shahoulian	3/28	3/31	Colombia, El Salvador, Mexico		1,112.00		(3)				1,112.00
Carlton Davis	3/28	3/31	Colombia, El Salvador, Mexico		1,112.00		(3)				1,112.00
Hon. Joseph Neguse	2/28	3/4	Ethiopia, Eritrea		909.00		8,472.03				9,381.03
Committee total					7,653.00		8,472.03				16,125.03

[1] Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.
[2] If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.
[3] Military air transportation.

HON. JERROLD NADLER, April 29, 2019.

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN JAN. 1 AND MAR. 31, 2019

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem [1]		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]
Hon. Russ Fulcher	3/16	3/18	Poland		540.38						540.38
	3/18	3/20	Hungary		696.00				610.00		1,306.00
	3/20	3/21	Ukraine		374.00				248.56		622.56
	3/21	3/24	Belgium		999.21				641.92		1,641.13
Committee total					2,609.59				1,500.48		4,110.07

[1] Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.
[2] If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.

HON. RAÚL M. GRIJALVA, April 29, 2019.

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND REFORM, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN JAN. 1 AND MAR. 31, 2019

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem [1]		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]

HOUSE COMMITTEES

Please Note: If there were no expenditures during the calendar quarter noted above, please check the box at right to so indicate and return. ☒

[1] Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.
[2] If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.

HON. ELIJAH E. CUMMINGS, April 30, 2019.

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE, SPACE, AND TECHNOLOGY, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN JAN. 1 AND MAR. 31, 2019

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem [1]		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]

HOUSE COMMITTEES

Please Note: If there were no expenditures during the calendar quarter noted above, please check the box at right to so indicate and return. ☒

[1] Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.
[2] If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON, April 30, 2019.

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN JAN. 1 AND MAR. 31, 2019

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem [1]		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]
Hon. Lloyd Doggett	2/15	2/17	Germany		1,234.38		(3)				1,234.38
	2/17	2/18	France		614.00		(3)				614.00
	2/19	2/20	Cyprus		1,420.90		(3)				1,420.90
	2/20	2/23	Austria		1,318.21		(3)				1,318.21
Hon. Donald Beyer	2/15	2/17	Guatemala		457.43		(4)				457.43
	2/17	2/19	San Salvador		252.00		1,933.25				2,185.25

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN JAN. 1 AND MAR. 31, 2019—Continued

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem [1]		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]
Committee total					5,296.92		1,933.25				7,230.17

[1] Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.
[2] If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.
[3] Military air transportation.
[4] Commercial airfare.

HON. RICHARD E. NEAL, April 30, 2019.

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, PERMANENT SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN JAN. 1 AND MAR. 31, 2019 *

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem [1]		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]

HOUSE COMMITTEES
Please Note: If there were no expenditures during the calendar quarter noted above, please check the box at right to so indicate and return. ☒

[1] Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.
[2] If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.
* In accordance with title 22, United States Code, Section 1754(b)(2), information as would identify the foreign countries in which Committee Members and staff have traveled is omitted.

HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF, April 30, 2019.

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, SELECT COMMITTEE ON THE CLIMATE CRISIS, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN JAN. 1 AND MAR. 31, 2019

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem [1]		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]

HOUSE COMMITTEES
Please Note: If there were no expenditures during the calendar quarter noted above, please check the box at right to so indicate and return. ☒

[1] Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.
[2] If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.

HON. KATHY CASTOR, April 29, 2019.

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, JOINT COMMITTEE ON TAXATION, EXPENDED BETWEEN JAN. 1 AND MAR. 31, 2019

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem [1]		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]
Kristine A. Roth	3/12	3/15	France	467.78	525.00		1,474.73				1,999.73
Nita P. Asher	3/12	3/15	France	467.78	525.00		1,474.73				1,999.73
Committee total				935.56	1,050.00		2,949.46				3,999.46

[1] Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.
[2] If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.

HON. RICHARD E. NEAL, April 18, 2019.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

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

944. A letter from the Chief Counsel, FEMA, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Suspension of Community Eligibility (Alabama: Baldwin County, Unincorporated Areas, et al.); [Docket ID: FEMA-2019-0003; Internal Agency Docket No.: FEMA-8575] received May 3, 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.

945. A letter from the Deputy Secretary, Division of Investment Management, Securities and Exchange Commission, transmitting the Commission's interim final rule — Amendments to the Timing Requirements for Filing Reports on Form N-Port [Release No.: IC-33384; File No. S7-02-19] (RIN: 3235-AL42) received May 3, 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.

946. A letter from the Acting Secretary, Division of Trading and Markets, Securities and Exchange Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule — Disclosure of Order Handling Information [Release No.: 34-85714; File No. S7-14-16] (RIN: 3235-AL67) received May 3, 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.

947. A letter from the Associate General Counsel for Legislation and Regulations, Office of the Chief Procurement Officer, Department of Housing and Urban Development, transmitting the Department's final rule — HUD Acquisition Regulation (HUDAR) [Docket No.: FR-6041-F-02] (RIN: 2501-AD85) received May 6, 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.

948. A letter from the Senior Procurement Executive, Office of Acquisition Policy, General Services Administration, transmitting the Administration's summary presentation of final rules — Federal Acquisition Regulation; Federal Acquisition Circular 2019-02; Introduction [Docket No.: FAR 2019-0001, Sequence No.: 1] received May 6, 2019, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Oversight and Reform.

949. A letter from the Senior Procurement Executive, Office of Acquisition Policy, General Services Administration, transmitting the Administration final rule — Federal Acquisition Regulation: Governmentwide and Other Interagency Contracts [FAC 2019-02; FAR Case 2018-015; Item II; Docket No.: 2018-0015; Sequence No.: 1] (RIN: 9000-AN74) received May 6, 2019, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Oversight and Reform.

950. A letter from the Senior Procurement Executive, Office of Acquisition Policy, General Services Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Federal Acquisition Regulation: Special Emergency Procurement Authority [FAC 2019-02; FAR Case 2017-009; Item I; Docket No.: 2017-0009, Sequence No.: 1] (RIN: 9000-AN45) received May 6, 2019, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Oversight and Reform.

951. A letter from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's temporary rule — Fisheries of the Northeastern United States; Summer Flounder Fishery; 2018 Commercial Quota Harvested for the State of Rhode Island [Docket No.: 170828822-70999-02] (RIN: 0648-XG692) received May 3, 2019, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

952. A letter from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's temporary rule — Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Pollock in Statistical Area 620 in the Gulf of Alaska [Docket No.: 170816769-8162-02] (RIN: 0648-XG380) received May 3, 2019, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

953. A letter from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's temporary rule — Atlantic Highly Migratory Species; Atlantic Bluefin Tuna Fisheries [Docket No.: 150121066-5717-02] (RIN: 0648-XG163) received May 3, 2019, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

954. A letter from the Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's temporary rule — Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Pollock in Statistical Area 630 in the Gulf of Alaska [Docket No.: 170816769-8162-02] (RIN: 0648-XG776) received May 3, 2019, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

955. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Standard Instrument Approach Procedures, and Takeoff Minimums and Obstacle Departure Procedures; Miscellaneous Amendments [Docket No.: 31247; Amdt. No.: 3847] May 6, 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.

956. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Rolls-Royce plc Turbofan Engines [Docket No.: FAA-2018-0611; Product Identifier 2018-NE-21-AD; Amendment 39-19620; AD 2019-07-09; (RIN: 2120-AA64) received May 6, 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.

957. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Establishment of Class E Airspace; Coushatta, LA [Docket No.: FAA-2018-0787; Airspace Docket No.: 18-ASW-12] (RIN: 2120-AA66) received May 6, 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.

958. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Amendment of Class D and Class E Airspace, and Revocation of Class E Airspace; Brooksville, FL [Docket No. FAA-2019- 0086; Airspace Docket No.: 19-ASO-1] (RIN: 2120-AA66) received May 6, 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.

959. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; The Boeing Company Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2018-0899; Product Identifier 2018-NM-099-AD; Amendment 39-19615; AD 2019-07-04] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received May 6, 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.

960. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Dassault Aviation Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2018-0706; Product Identifier 2018-NM-086-AD; Amendment 39-19612; AD 2019-07-01] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received May 6, 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.

961. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Airbus SAS Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2018-0903; Product Identifier 2018-NM-113-AD; Amendment 39-19616; AD 2019-07-05] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received May 6, 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.

962. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Airbus Helicopters Deutschland GmbH Helicopters [Docket No.: FAA-2016-9395; Product Identifier 2016-SW-027-AD; Amendment 39-19618; AD 2019-07-07] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received May 6, 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.

963. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; GA 8 Airvan (Pty) Ltd Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2018-0771; Product Identifier 2018-CE-029-AD; Amendment 39-19619; AD 2019-07-08] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received May 6, 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.

964. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; The Boeing Company Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2018-0899; Product Identifier 2018-NM-099-AD; Amendment 39-19615; AD 2019-07-04] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received May 6, 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.

965. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Amendment of Restricted Area R-2101; Anniston Army Depot, AL [Docket No.: FAA-2019-0223; Airspace Docket No.: 19-ASO-4] (RIN: 2120-AA66) received May 6, 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.

966. A letter from the Senior Regulations Analyst, Office of the Secretary, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Conforming Amendments and Technical Corrections to Department Rules Implementing the Transportation Industry Drug Testing Program (RIN: 2105-AE78) received May 6, 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.

967. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; The Boeing Company Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2017-1241; Product Identifier 2017-NM-117-AD; Amendment 39-19611; AD 2019-06-13] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received May 6, 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.

968. A letter from the Senior Regulations Analyst, Office of the Secretary, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Elimination of Obsolete Provisions and Correction of Outdated Statutory References in Aviation Economic Regulations [Docket No.: DOT-OST-2014-0140] (RIN: 2105-AD86) received May 6, 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.

969. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA0, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's temporary rule — Amendment of Class E Airspace; Hamilton, OH [Docket No.: FAA-2019-0040; Airspace Docket No.: 19-AGL-5] (RIN: 2120-AA66) received May 6, 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.

970. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Amendment of Class E Airspace; Connersville and Richmond, IN [Docket No.: FAA-2019-0039; Airspace Docket No.: 19-AGL-4] (RIN: 2120-AA66) received May 6, 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.

971. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Northrop Grumman LITEF GmbH LCR-100 Attitude and Heading Reference System Units [Docket No.: FAA-2017-0522; Product Identifier 2015-SW-068-AD; Amendment 39-19621; AD 2019-07-10] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received May 6, 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.

972. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Bombardier, Inc., Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2018-0965; Product Identifier 2018-NM-124-AD; Amendment 39-19617; AD 2019-07-06] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received May 6, 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.

973. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Standard Instrument Approach Procedures, and Takeoff Minimums and Obstacle Departure Procedures; Miscellaneous Amendments [Docket No.: 31248; Amdt. No.: 3848] received May 6, 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.

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. SEAN PATRICK MALONEY of New York:

H.R. 2608. A bill to require the testing of perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances under the Toxic Substances Control Act, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. CRENSHAW:

H.R. 2609. A bill to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to establish the Acquisition Review Board in the Department of Homeland Security, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security.

By Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER (for herself and Mr. WALBERG):

H.R. 2610. A bill to establish a Senior Scams Prevention Advisory Council to collect and disseminate model educational materials useful in identifying and preventing scams that affect seniors; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. HUFFMAN (for himself, Ms. ESHOO, and Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi):

H.R. 2611. A bill to support the establishment and improvement of communications sites on or adjacent to Federal lands under the jurisdiction of the Secretary of the Interior or the Secretary of Agriculture through the retention and use of rental fees associated with such sites, 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. HICE of Georgia:

H.R. 2612. A bill to require the disclosure of pension records under the Freedom of Information Act, and for other purposes.amend title 5, United States Code, to require the disclosure, public documentation, and reporting of Federal employee bonuses, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Oversight and Reform.

By Mr. GONZALEZ of Ohio (for himself and Mr. EMMER):

H.R. 2613. A bill to require the Director of the Financial Crimes Enforcement Network to carry out a study on the use of emerging technologies within the Financial Crimes Enforcement Network, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. BURGESS:

H.R. 2614. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to increase the dollar limitation on employer-provided group term life insurance that can be excluded from the gross income of the employee; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. ENGEL (for himself, Mr. MCCAUL, Mr. SIRES, Mr. ROONEY of Florida, Mrs. TORRES of California, Mrs. WAGNER, and Mr. CUELLAR):

H.R. 2615. A bill to support the people of Central America and strengthen United States national security by addressing the root causes of migration from El Salvador, Guatemala and Honduras; 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. DESAULNIER (for himself, Ms. PORTER, and Mr. ROUDA):

H.R. 2616. A bill to amend title 23, United States Code, to establish a grant program for the installation of electric vehicle charging infrastructure and hydrogen fueling infrastructure along the National Highway System, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mr. GARAMENDI (for himself and Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia):

H.R. 2617. A bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to enhance recordkeeping with respect to exposure by members of the Armed Forces to certain occupational and environmental hazards while deployed overseas, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Armed Services, and in addition to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. BANKS (for himself, Mrs. DAVIS of California, and Mr. CHABOT):

H.R. 2618. A bill to amend the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act to provide a guarantee of residency for registration of businesses of spouses of members of the uniformed services, to improve occupational license portability for military spouses through interstate compacts, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Armed Services, and in addition to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. RYAN:

H.R. 2619. A bill to amend title 11, United States Code, to include certain pension as administrative expenses in bankruptcy, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. BISHOP of Georgia (for himself, Mrs. RODGERS of Washington, Mr. BILIRAKIS, Mr. COHEN, Mr. O'HALLERAN, Mr. SCHNEIDER, and Mr. FITZPATRICK):

H.R. 2620. A bill to advance treatment and cures for blindness and other retinal conditions and to promote competitiveness in the United States through a pilot program to increase funding for translational research, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. ROSE of New York:

H.R. 2621. A bill to direct the Under Secretary for Intelligence and Analysis of the Department of Homeland Security to develop and disseminate a threat assessment regarding terrorist use of ghost guns, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security.

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

H.R. 2622. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend the credit for production of refined coal; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. TAYLOR (for himself, Miss RICE of New York, Mr. MEADOWS, Mr. FITZPATRICK, Mr. NORCROSS, Mr. GOTTHEIMER, Mr. CRENSHAW, Mr. PANETTA, and Mr. WALTZ):

H.R. 2623. A bill to require search and rescue dogs to be treated in the same manner as seeing-eye dogs in the event of a federally declared disaster, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Ms. SHERRILL (for herself, Ms. STEFANIK, Mr. CISNEROS, and Mr. KING of New York):

H.R. 2624. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to increase the limitation on the deduction for State and local taxes; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Ms. ADAMS (for herself and Mr. FITZPATRICK):

H.R. 2625. A bill to amend section 28 of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 to include eating disorders prevention within the nutrition education and obesity prevention grant program and the local wellness program; and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture, and in addition to the Committee on 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. UPTON (for himself, Mrs. DINGELL, Mr. WALBERG, and Mr. KILDEE):

H.R. 2626. A bill to encourage Federal agencies to expeditiously enter into or amend cooperative agreements with States for removal and remedial actions to address PFAS contamination in drinking, surface, and ground water and land surface and subsurface strata, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committees on Transportation and Infrastructure, and 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 Mrs. BEATTY:

H.R. 2627. A bill to assist survivors of stroke and other debilitating health occurrences in returning to work; to the Committee on Education and Labor.

By Mr. BILIRAKIS (for himself, Mr. FERGUSON, Mr. VAN DREW, Mr. MAST, Mr. HASTINGS, and Miss GONZÁLEZ-COLÓN of Puerto Rico):

H.R. 2628. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to authorize the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to provide administrative support to providers of dental care who provide such care to veterans that is not furnished under such title, to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to establish a pilot program for the provision of dental care to certain veterans, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. BRINDISI (for himself, Mr. RESCHENTHALER, Mr. KATKO, and Mr. MEADOWS):

H.R. 2629. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to expand eligibility for mental health services from the Department of Veterans Affairs to include members of the reserve components of the Armed Forces, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. CICILLINE (for himself, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Mr. CUMMINGS, Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi, Mr. MCGOVERN, Ms. OMAR, Ms. PRESSLEY, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. VEASEY, and Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN):

H.R. 2630. A bill to make it unlawful for any physical retail establishment to refuse to accept cash as payment, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. CICILLINE (for himself, Mr. REED, Mr. RYAN, Ms. BROWNLEY of California, Mr. SCHRADER, and Mrs. BUSTOS):

H.R. 2631. A bill to improve the competitiveness of United States manufacturing by designating and supporting manufacturing communities; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts (for herself, Mr. YOUNG, and Ms. SCHRIER):

H.R. 2632. A bill to reauthorize the child care access means parents in school program; to the Committee on Education and Labor.

By Mr. COX of California (for himself, Ms. FINKENAUER, and Mrs. RADEWAGEN):

H.R. 2633. A bill to require the Administrator of the Small Business Administration to submit a report on the Office of Rural Affairs; to the Committee on Small Business.

By Mr. CROW (for himself, Mr. NEGUSE, Mr. PERLMUTTER, Mr. HASTINGS, Ms. SHALALA, Mr. DEUTCH, and Ms. NORTON):

H.R. 2634. A bill to prohibit a Federal firearms licensee from transferring a long gun to a person who the licensee knows or has reasonable cause to believe does not reside in (or if the person is a corporation or other business entity, does not maintain a place of business in) the State in which the licensee's place of business is located; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. CUMMINGS (for himself and Ms. DEAN):

H.R. 2635. 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, and in addition to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Ms. DELBENE (for herself and Mr. LUJÁN):

H.R. 2636. A bill to promote the use of smart technologies and systems in communities, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committees on Science, Space, and Technology, Education and Labor, and Foreign Affairs, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. ESPAILLAT (for himself, Mr. GARCÍA of Illinois, and Miss RICE of New York):

H.R. 2637. A bill to prevent the Secretary of Homeland Security from closing certain international field offices, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security, 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 Mrs. FLETCHER:

H.R. 2638. A bill to direct the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency to issue guidance on minimizing the use of firefighting foam containing PFAS, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Ms. FUDGE (for herself, Mr. SCOTT of Virginia, and Mr. SABLAN):

H.R. 2639. A bill to establish the Strength in Diversity Program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and Labor.

By Ms. HAALAND (for herself and Mr. LUJÁN):

H.R. 2640. A bill to withdraw certain Bureau of Land Management land from mineral development; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. HIMES:

H.R. 2641. A bill to require the President, or a designee of the President, to provide frequent press briefings covering the official business of the President to the White House press corps; to the Committee on Oversight and Reform.

By Mr. KILMER:

H.R. 2642. A bill to designate and expand wilderness areas in Olympic National Forest in the State of Washington, and to designate certain rivers in Olympic National Forest and Olympic National Park as wild and scenic rivers, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. LATTA (for himself and Mr. WELCH):

H.R. 2643. A bill to direct the Federal Communications Commission to establish a challenge process to verify fixed and mobile broadband service coverage data; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. LATTA (for himself, Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana, Mr. HUDSON, Mr. BILIRAKIS, Mr. KINZINGER, Mr. LONG, and Mrs. RODGERS of Washington):

H.R. 2644. A bill to direct the Secretary of Commerce to conduct a study and submit to Congress a report on the state of the internet-connected devices industry in the United States; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mrs. LEE of Nevada (for herself, Mr. COLLINS of Georgia, Mrs. WALORSKI, and Ms. HOULAHAN):

H.R. 2645. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to improve the care provided by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to newborn children; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York (for herself, Ms. BONAMICI, Mr. FOSTER, Ms. JAYAPAL, Mr. MOULTON, Miss RICE of New York, Mr. GALLEGO, Mr. SCHIFF, Ms. MCCOLLUM, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. RASKIN, Ms. DELAURO, Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHI, Mr. POCAN, Mr. AGUILAR, and Mr. KHANNA):

H.R. 2646. A bill to direct the Federal Trade Commission to prescribe rules prohibiting deceptive advertising of abortion services, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Ms. MATSUI (for herself, Mr. GRIFFITH, Mr. RUSH, and Mr. CÁRDENAS):

H.R. 2647. 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 Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. NADLER (for himself, Mr. KATKO, Mr. CICILLINE, Ms. SCANLON, Mr. SWALWELL of California, Mr. NEGUSE, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Mr. CONNOLLY, Ms. LOFGREN, Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. COHEN, Ms. JACKSON LEE, Ms. DEAN, and Mr. CORREA):

H.R. 2648. A bill to provide bankruptcy relief for student borrowers; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. PASCRELL (for himself, Mr. BEYER, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. HIGGINS of New York, Mr. SOTO, Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN, Ms. VELÁZQUEZ, Ms. LEE of California, and Miss GONZÁLEZ-COLÓN of Puerto Rico):

H.R. 2649. A bill to provide for a Federal match for earned income credit expansion for Puerto Rico; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. PAYNE:

H.R. 2650. A bill to prohibit retail businesses from refusing cash payments, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. POCAN (for himself, Mr. KATKO, Mr. LEVIN of Michigan, and Ms. STEFANIK):

H.R. 2651. A bill to amend the Child Nutrition Act of 1966 to clarify the availability and appropriateness of training for local food service personnel, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and Labor.

By Mr. POCAN:

H.R. 2652. A bill to require the use of voting machines manufactured in the United States; to the Committee on House Administration.

By Ms. SÁNCHEZ (for herself, Mr. KATKO, Mr. POCAN, Mr. YOUNG, Ms. PORTER, and Mr. KING of New York):

H.R. 2653. A bill to amend the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 to address and take action to prevent bullying and harassment of students; to the Committee on Education and Labor.

By Ms. SÁNCHEZ (for herself, Mr. POCAN, Mr. LYNCH, Mr. CARTWRIGHT, Mr. COHEN, Ms. LEE of California, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Ms. WILD, Ms. NORTON, Ms. PINGREE, Ms. MCCOLLUM, Mr. RICHMOND, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, Mr. SMITH of Washington, Mr. RUSH, and Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi):

H.R. 2654. A bill to improve the retirement security of American families by strengthening Social Security; to the Committee on Ways and Means, and in addition to the Committee on 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. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia (for himself, Mr. GARAMENDI, Mr. PANETTA, Mrs. HARTZLER, and Mr. CRAWFORD):

H.R. 2655. A bill to amend title II of the Social Security Act to establish a disability benefit offset for Purple Heart recipients, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia (for himself, Mr. GARAMENDI, Mrs. HARTZLER, and Mr. CRAWFORD):

H.R. 2656. A bill to amend title II of the Social Security Act to disregard certain contributions to ABLE accounts when determining an individual's ability to engage in substantial gainful activity, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. TURNER:

H.R. 2657. A bill to provide priority under certain federally assisted housing programs to assist youths who are aging out of foster care, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. WITTMAN:

H.R. 2658. A bill to amend the Department of Defense Appropriations Act, 2005 to provide for the inclusion of certain workers in the exemption from numerical limitations on H-2B workers, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. GRAVES of Missouri (for himself, Mr. LOEBSACK, Mr. THOMPSON of California, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. BOST, Mr. GUTHRIE, Mr. EMMER, Ms. DELBENE, Mr. LUETKEMEYER, Mr. FITZPATRICK, Ms. DAVIDS of Kansas, and Mrs. HARTZLER):

H. Res. 363. A resolution recognizing the roles and contributions of America's teachers to building and enhancing the Nation's civic, cultural, and economic well-being; to the Committee on Education and Labor.

By Mr. PETERS (for himself, Mrs. DAVIS of California, Mr. LEVIN of California, Mr. PAYNE, Mr. LOWENTHAL, Mr. PANETTA, Mr. SWALWELL of California, Mr. CISNEROS, Mrs. BUSTOS, Ms. LOFGREN, Mr. ESPAILLAT, Mr. PRICE of North Carolina, Mr. ROUDA, Mrs. LOWEY, Mrs. TORRES of California, Mr. QUIGLEY, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Mr. COHEN, Mr. VARGAS, Ms. HILL of California, Mr. MICHAEL F. DOYLE of Pennsylvania, Mr. ENGEL, Ms. DELBENE, Miss RICE of New York, Mr. BACON, Ms. OMAR, Mr. FLEISCHMANN, Ms. BROWNLEY of California, Ms. BASS, Ms. MENG, Mr. GOTTHEIMER, Mr. DEUTCH, and Mr. KILMER):

H. Res. 364. A resolution condemning the horrific anti-Semitic attack on the Chabad of Poway Synagogue near San Diego, California, on April 27, 2019; to the Committee on Oversight and Reform.

By Ms. DEAN (for herself, Mr. BRENDAN F. BOYLE of Pennsylvania, and Ms. SCANLON):

H. Res. 365. A resolution expressing support for the designation of May 10, 2019, as ''World Lupus Day''; to the Committee on Oversight and Reform.

By Mrs. BEATTY:

H. Res. 366. A resolution expressing support for designation of May as Stroke Awareness Month; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. ESPAILLAT (for himself, Ms. MOORE, Ms. JAYAPAL, and Ms. OMAR):

H. Res. 367. A resolution recognizing that climate change most severely impacts vulnerable and disadvantaged communities in the United States and around the world, and that it is the responsibility of the United States Government to work with its global partners to promote environmental justice and climate justice; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Ms. JOHNSON of Texas (for herself, Mr. JOYCE of Ohio, Ms. GABBARD, Mr. FITZPATRICK, Ms. WILD, Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD, Ms. BONAMICI, Ms. FUDGE, Ms. NORTON, Ms. SEWELL of Alabama, Mr. COHEN, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. PAPPAS, Ms. CASTOR of Florida, Mr. HORSFORD, Mrs. AXNE, Ms. KELLY of Illinois, and Mr. SUOZZI):

H. Res. 368. A resolution expressing support for the designation of the week of May 6 through May 12, 2019, as National Nurses Week; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Ms. NORTON (for herself, Ms. LEE of California, and Ms. MOORE):

H. Res. 369. A resolution expressing the sense of the House of Representatives supporting the Federal workforce; to the Committee on Oversight and Reform.

By Mr. PHILLIPS (for himself, Mr. TIMMONS, and Ms. VELÁZQUEZ):

H. Res. 370. A resolution expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that small business owners seeking financing have fundamental rights, including transparent pricing and terms, competitive products, responsible underwriting, fair treatment from financing providers, brokers, and lead generators, inclusive credit access, and fair collection practices; to the Committee on Small Business.

By Mr. THOMPSON of California (for himself and Ms. LEE of California):

H. Res. 371. A resolution recognizing the 10th anniversary of Outdoor Afro; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY STATEMENT

Pursuant to clause 7 of rule XII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the following statements are submitted regarding the specific powers granted to Congress in the Constitution to enact the accompanying bill or joint resolution.

By Mr. SEAN PATRICK MALONEY of New York:

H.R. 2608.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8

By Mr. CRENSHAW:

H.R. 2609.

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 Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER:

H.R. 2610.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3 of the U.S. Constitution.

By Mr. HUFFMAN:

H.R. 2611.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article IV, Section 3, Clause 2

By Mr. HICE of Georgia:

H.R. 2612.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 18 of the Constitution states ''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. GONZALEZ of Ohio:

H.R. 2613.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, 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 therof.

By Mr. BURGESS:

H.R. 2614.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section VIII, clause 1 enumerates that, ''The Congress shall have power to lay and collect taxes, duties, imposts and excises . . .'' Further, Amendment XVI states that ''The Congress shall have power to lay and collect taxes on incomes, from whatever source derived, without apportionment among the several states, and without regard to any census or enumeration.''

By Mr. ENGEL:

H.R. 2615.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8 of the U.S. Constitution.

By Mr. DESAULNIER:

H.R. 2616.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8.

By Mr. GARAMENDI:

H.R. 2617.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8

By Mr. BANKS:

H.R. 2618.

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 Mr. RYAN:

H.R. 2619.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8: ''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. BISHOP of Georgia:

H.R. 2620.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

The Commerce Clause, Article 1, Section 8, Clause 3

By Mr. ROSE of New York:

H.R. 2621.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Under Article I, Section 8 of the Constitution, Congress has the power ''to make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or any Department or Officer thereof''.

By Mr. GIANFORTE:

H.R. 2622.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Clause 8, Section 1

By Mr. TAYLOR:

H.R. 2623.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 3, and Article 1, Section 8, Clause 18 of the United States Constitution.

By Ms. SHERRILL:

H.R. 2624.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 1 of the Constitution

By Ms. ADAMS:

H.R. 2625.

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. UPTON:

H.R. 2626.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, section 8 of the U.S. Constitution grants Congress the 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.

By Mrs. BEATTY:

H.R. 2627.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I of the U.S. Constitution.

By Mr. BILIRAKIS:

H.R. 2628.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

This bill is enacted pursuant to Article I, Section 8, Clause 1 of the Constitution of the United States and Article I, Section 8, Clause 7 of the Constitution of the United States.

Article I, section 8 of the United State Constitution, which grants Congress the power to raise and support an Army; to provide and maintain a Navy; to make rules for the government and regulation of the land and naval forces; and provide for organizing, arming, and disciplining the militia.

By Mr. BRINDISI:

H.R. 2629.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8 of the U.S. Constitution.

By Mr. CICILLINE:

H.R. 2630.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8

By Mr. CICILLINE:

H.R. 2631.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8

By Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts:

H.R. 2632.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, clause 1

By Mr. COX of California:

H.R. 2633.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1 Section 8 of the US Constitution.

By Mr. CROW:

H.R. 2634.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 3

By Mr. CUMMINGS:

H.R. 2635.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause I of the United States Constitution related to general welfare of the United States. [Page H1338]

By Ms. DELBENE:

H.R. 2636.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8 of the United States Constitution

By Mr. ESPAILLAT:

H.R. 2637.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 4: ''The Congress shall have Power [. . .] To establish a uniform Rule of Naturalization . . . ''

By Mrs. FLETCHER:

H.R. 2638.

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 Ms. FUDGE:

H.R. 2639.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

To regulate commerce with foreign nations, and among the several states, and with the Indian tribes;

By Ms. HAALAND:

H.R. 2640.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8.

By Mr. HIMES:

H.R. 2641.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 1 of the United States Constitution, as this legislation provides for the general welfare of the United States.

By Mr. KILMER:

H.R. 2642.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 1 (relating to providing for the general welfare of the United States); Article I, Section 8, Clause 18 (relating to the power to make all laws necessary and proper for carrying out the powers vested in Congress); and Article IV, Section 3, Clause 2 (relating to the power of Congress to dispose of and make all needful rules and regulations respecting the territory or other property belonging to the United States).

By Mr. LATTA:

H.R. 2643.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3: Congress shall have the Power . . . ''to regulate Commerce with foreign Nations, and among the several States, and with the Indian tribes.''

By Mr. LATTA:

H.R. 2644.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3 of the United States Constitution.

By Mrs. LEE of Nevada:

H.R. 2645.

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 1 of the United States Constitution.

By Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York:

H.R. 2646.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8 of the U.S. Constitution

By Ms. MATSUI:

H.R. 2647.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8

By Mr. NADLER:

H.R. 2648.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 4

By Mr. PASCRELL:

H.R. 2649.

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. PAYNE:

H.R. 2650.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I Section 8 Clause 3—Congress has the ability to regulate Commerce with foreign Nations, and among the several States, and with the Indian Tribes.

By Mr. POCAN:

H.R. 2651.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3

The Congress shall have Power . . . To regulate Commerce with foreign Nations, and among the several States, and with the Indian Tribes.

By Mr. POCAN:

H.R. 2652.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8 of the U.S. Constitution.

By Ms. SÁNCHEZ:

H.R. 2653.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Art. I, Sec. 8

By Ms. SÁNCHEZ:

H.R. 2654.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Art. I, Sec. 8

By Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia:

H.R. 2655.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, United States Constitution

By Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia:

H.R. 2656.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, United States Constitution

By Mr. TURNER:

H.R. 2657.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 1 of the United States Constitution, to ''provide for the common Defence and general Welfare of the United States . . . ''

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3 (the Commerce Clause) of the United States Constitution, to ''regulate Commerce with foreign Nations, and among the several States, and with the Indian Tribes.''

Article I, Section 8, Clause 18 of the United States Constitution, ''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. WITTMAN:

H.R. 2658.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, clauses 3, 4 and 11–16.

ADDITIONAL SPONSORS

Under clause 7 of rule XII, sponsors were added to public bills and resolutions, as follows:

H.R. 38: Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota.

H.R. 95: Ms. CHENEY, Mr. DUNN, Ms. KENDRA S. HORN of Oklahoma, and Mr. CLOUD.

H.R. 117: Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia.

H.R. 220: Mr. ROSE of New York.

H.R. 230: Mr. GREEN of Texas.

H.R. 277: Mrs. CRAIG.

H.R. 303: Mr. GOTTHEIMER, Mr. SPANO, and Mr. CUNNINGHAM.

H.R. 366: Mr. SOTO.

H.R. 445: Mrs. AXNE.

H.R. 451: Mr. LYNCH.

H.R. 497: Mr. WATKINS and Mr. GOSAR.

H.R. 500: Mr. NEAL, Mr. GARAMENDI, Mr. COX of California, Mr. ENGEL, Mr. THOMPSON of California, Mr. VARGAS, Ms. PLASKETT, Ms. LEE of California, Ms. SPANBERGER, Ms. UNDERWOOD, Mr. O'HALLERAN, and Mr. ESTES.

H.R. 510: Mr. MCEACHIN, Mr. LANGEVIN, Mr. PALLONE, Mr. ALLEN, Mr. KINZINGER, Mr. BACON, Ms. WILSON of Florida, Mr. COHEN, Mr. PERLMUTTER, and Mr. CRIST.

H.R. 517: Mr. LOUDERMILK.

H.R. 526: Mr. MARCHANT.

H.R. 535: Ms. SCANLON and Mrs. LURIA.

H.R. 553: Mr. MARCHANT, Mr. SCALISE, Mr. CUNNINGHAM, Mr. BILIRAKIS, Mr. PHILLIPS, Mr. LONG, and Mr. MCNERNEY.

H.R. 555: Mr. LOWENTHAL and Mr. SWALWELL of California.

H.R. 586: Mr. HIGGINS of Louisiana, Mr. ALLEN, Mr. RATCLIFFE, Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia, Mr. LOUDERMILK, Mr. WITTMAN, and Mr. CARTER of Georgia.

H.R. 590: Mrs. LURIA.

H.R. 619: Mr. CICILLINE.

H.R. 628: Ms. SHERRILL.

H.R. 635: Ms. JACKSON LEE and Mr. PAYNE.

H.R. 641: Mr. VELA.

H.R. 662: Ms. WEXTON.

H.R. 668: Ms. JAYAPAL.

H.R. 678: Ms. DELBENE.

H.R. 683: Mr. UPTON.

H.R. 692: Mr. HAGEDORN, Mr. LAHOOD, Mr. BUCSHON, Mr. GOODEN, Mr. COOK, Mr. BAIRD, Mr. GALLAGHER, and Mr. MULLIN.

H.R. 693: Mrs. LURIA, Mr. WILLIAMS, Ms. FUDGE, Mr. LEWIS, Mr. JEFFRIES, Ms. FINKENAUER, Mrs. MURPHY, and Mr. CASTRO of Texas.

H.R. 708: Mr. LAMBORN and Mrs. HARTZLER.

H.R. 724: Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN and Mr. CUNNINGHAM.

H.R. 763: Mr. RASKIN.

H.R. 788: Mr. CALVERT.

H.R. 801: Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania, Mr. COURTNEY, and Ms. GRANGER.

H.R. 808: Mr. SOTO and Mr. CLINE.

H.R. 810: Mrs. BEATTY, Mr. GRIJALVA, Ms. DELBENE, and Mr. ROUDA.

H.R. 835: Mr. JORDAN.

H.R. 860: Ms. FINKENAUER.

H.R. 864: Miss RICE of New York.

H.R. 929: Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHI, Ms. MENG, Mr. LYNCH, Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of

New York, Ms. MOORE, Mr. WILSON of South Carolina, Mr. SOTO, Mr. KILMER, Mrs. DEMINGS, Mr. CLAY, Mr. CALVERT, Ms. DELAURO, Mr. KILDEE, Mr. MARCHANT, Ms. WILD, Mr. WESTERMAN, Mr. BABIN, Mr. POSEY, Mr. MOULTON, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. GUTHRIE, Mr. BUDD, Mr. DUNCAN, Mr. MORELLE, Ms. BROWNLEY of California, Mr. TRONE, Mr. BISHOP of Utah, Mr. UPTON, Mr. TAKANO, Mr. CICILLINE, and Ms. FINKENAUER.

H.R. 939: Mr. FOSTER and Mr. GRIJALVA.

H.R. 945: Mr. WELCH.

H.R. 946: Ms. FINKENAUER and Mr. KILDEE.

H.R. 961: Mr. MCEACHIN.

H.R. 965: Mr. CISNEROS and Mr. CONNOLLY.

H.R. 983: Ms. WILSON of Florida.

H.R. 987: Mr. SIRES, Ms. HOULAHAN, Mrs. DINGELL, Ms. SCANLON, Ms. MOORE, and Mr. KHANNA.

H.R. 998: Mr. NEWHOUSE.

H.R. 1004: Ms. SPEIER.

H.R. 1012: Ms. MUCARSEL-POWELL.

H.R. 1019: Mr. WALBERG.

H.R. 1044: Mr. MITCHELL, Mr. TAYLOR, Mr. SERRANO, Mrs. DAVIS of California, Mr. AMODEI, and Mrs. HARTZLER.

H.R. 1058: Ms. SCANLON and Mr. MORELLE.

H.R. 1066: Mr. FORTENBERRY.

H.R. 1073: Mr. PETERS.

H.R. 1083: Mr. UPTON, Mr. FITZPATRICK, Mr. COLLINS of New York, and Miss GONZÁLEZ-COLÓN of Puerto Rico.

H.R. 1109: Mr. KENNEDY.

H.R. 1111: Ms. KELLY of Illinois.

H.R. 1139: Ms. WATERS, Mr. SCHNEIDER, Ms. WILD, Ms. SÁNCHEZ, and Ms. HAALAND.

H.R. 1140: Mr. LEWIS, Ms. BASS, Mr. KENNEDY, and Ms. ESHOO.

H.R. 1154: Mr. SUOZZI, Mr. NORCROSS, and Ms. SCANLON.

H.R. 1185: Ms. WATERS.

H.R. 1223: Ms. PINGREE.

H.R. 1224: Mr. SOTO, Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania, Mr. QUIGLEY, Ms. NORTON, Ms. SPANBERGER, Mr. LYNCH, and Mr. CARTWRIGHT.

H.R. 1240: Mr. SOTO.

H.R. 1256: Mr. HARDER of California.

H.R. 1257: Mr. POCAN, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Mr. KING of Iowa, and Mr. BILIRAKIS.

H.R. 1277: Mr. SOTO and Mr. CARBAJAL.

H.R. 1289: Mr. CUNNINGHAM.

H.R. 1309: Mr. KIM, Ms. JOHNSON of Texas, Mr. RUPPERSBERGER, Mr. JEFFRIES, Mr. HASTINGS, Mr. BROWN of Maryland, Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts, Mr. GOMEZ, Mr. TED LIEU of California, and Ms. FINKENAUER.

H.R. 1314: Mr. CASE.

H.R. 1346: Mr. KHANNA.

H.R. 1370: Ms. KUSTER of New Hampshire and Ms. NORTON.

H.R. 1373: Mr. TAKANO, Mr. SOTO, Mr. PASCRELL, and Mr. BROWN of Maryland.

H.R. 1379: Ms. OMAR, Mr. KIM, Mr. WATKINS, Mr. KILDEE, Mr. PASCRELL, and Mr. SOTO.

H.R. 1418: Mr. PALAZZO and Mr. WESTERMAN.

H.R. 1434: Ms. CHENEY and Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana.

H.R. 1446: Mr. COHEN, Mr. CASE, Mr. GARAMENDI, Mr. SOTO, Mr. BUCHANAN, Mr. COLLINS of New York, and Mr. ESPAILLAT.

H.R. 1456: Ms. BASS.

H.R. 1499: Mr. SMITH of Washington, Mr. CONNOLLY, and Ms. UNDERWOOD.

H.R. 1530: Mr. VAN DREW, Mr. CUNNINGHAM, Mr. WESTERMAN, and Mr. MICHAEL F. DOYLE of Pennsylvania.

H.R. 1570: Mr. WALBERG and Mr. LATTA.

H.R. 1592: Mrs. CRAIG and Mr. MCCAUL.

H.R. 1594: Mr. BOST.

H.R. 1595: Ms. TORRES SMALL of New Mexico, Ms. KENDRA S. HORN of Oklahoma, and Mr. VAN DREW.

H.R. 1605: Mr. HUDSON, Mr. CRAWFORD, and Mr. MCCLINTOCK.

H.R. 1630: Ms. MUCARSEL-POWELL.

H.R. 1650: Mr. NEWHOUSE.

H.R. 1652: Mr. DIAZ-BALART, Mr. BRENDAN F. BOYLE of Pennsylvania, Mr. YOHO, Mr. KILDEE, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, and Mr. RUTHERFORD.

H.R. 1694: Mrs. LEE of Nevada.

H.R. 1697: Mr. RIGGLEMAN.

H.R. 1708: Ms. ESHOO.

H.R. 1709: Mr. MCNERNEY, Mr. CLAY, Ms. HOULAHAN, Mr. KILMER, Mrs. MURPHY, Mr. LEWIS, Mr. TED LIEU of California, and Ms. FINKENAUER.

H.R. 1739: Mrs. MILLER.

H.R. 1748: Mr. HIGGINS of New York, Mr. PAYNE, Mrs. BEATTY, Mr. LIPINSKI, Mr. SWALWELL of California, and Mrs. LURIA.

H.R. 1754: Ms. CLARKE of New York, Mr. HIGGINS of New York, Mr. JEFFRIES, Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts, and Ms. MATSUI.

H.R. 1770: Mrs. CRAIG, Ms. PINGREE, Mr. LOEBSACK, Ms. MCCOLLUM, Mr. HURD of Texas, Mr. LAMALFA, Mr. BOST, Mr. DAVID P. ROE of Tennessee, and Mr. MOOLENAAR.

H.R. 1776: Mr. PAPPAS.

H.R. 1784: Ms. FINKENAUER.

H.R. 1786: Mr. CÁRDENAS and Ms. MENG.

H.R. 1793: Mrs. BEATTY, Mr. PASCRELL, and Mr. ESPAILLAT.

H.R. 1794: Ms. NORTON and Mr. GARAMENDI.

H.R. 1830: Ms. DAVIDS of Kansas, Mr. LUETKEMEYER, Mr. GRAVES of Louisiana, and Ms. SCANLON.

H.R. 1832: Mr. COHEN.

H.R. 1837: Ms. WEXTON, Mr. PALAZZO, Ms. DEGETTE, Mr. ARRINGTON, Mr. NORMAN, Mr. ABRAHAM, Mr. BANKS, Mr. ROSE of New York, Ms. GARCIA of Texas, Mr. JOHN W. ROSE of Tennessee, Mr. PAPPAS, Mr. RATCLIFFE, Mr. STEWART, Mr. HASTINGS, and Mr. ROUDA.

H.R. 1869: Mr. RUPPERSBERGER, Mr. GONZALEZ of Ohio, Mr. DELGADO, Mr. COLLINS of New York, Mr. GONZALEZ of Texas, Mr. MOONEY of West Virginia, Mr. CARBAJAL, and Mr. BACON.

H.R. 1895: Mr. HARDER of California.

H.R. 1911: Mr. HUDSON.

H.R. 1931: Mr. COOPER.

H.R. 1948: Ms. TLAIB, Mr. SOTO, Ms. OCASIO-CORTEZ, Mr. SMITH of Washington, Ms. DELBENE, Mr. SIRES, Mr. BISHOP of Georgia, Mr. O'HALLERAN, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Mr. LAMALFA, Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD, Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi, Mr. BILIRAKIS, Mr. ROUDA, Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania, Mr. RUPPERSBERGER, Mr. LUCAS, Mr. BERA, and Ms. KENDRA S. HORN of Oklahoma.

H.R. 1963: Mr. VAN DREW.

H.R. 1982: Mr. ZELDIN, Ms. VELÁZQUEZ, Mr. KING of New York, and Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD.

H.R. 1992: Mr. PASCRELL.

H.R. 1997: Mr. WITTMAN, Mrs. HARTZLER, Mr. LAMB, and Ms. WILD.

H.R. 2000: Mr. SOTO.

H.R. 2010: Mr. GREEN of Tennessee, Mr. PALMER, Mr. DAVID P. ROE of Tennessee, Mr. CHABOT, Mr. YOHO, Mr. HUIZENGA, and Mr. LAMBORN.

H.R. 2013: Mr. BLUMENAUER, Ms. GABBARD, and Mr. LARSON of Connecticut.

H.R. 2015: Mr. CASE, Mr. DAVID P. ROE of Tennessee, and Mr. VAN DREW.

H.R. 2035: Mr. VAN DREW.

H.R. 2050: Mr. ROUDA.

H.R. 2062: Mr. CROW, Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota, and Mr. VAN DREW.

H.R. 2074: Mr. STIVERS, Mr. COHEN, Mr. LIPINSKI, and Mr. VAN DREW.

H.R. 2085: Ms. TLAIB, Ms. JUDY CHU of California, Mr. SOTO, and Mr. KHANNA.

H.R. 2086: Mr. HUIZENGA and Mr. VISCLOSKY.

H.R. 2093: Ms. DELBENE, Mr. CROW, Mr. SMITH of Washington, and Mr. BACON.

H.R. 2108: Mr. BIGGS.

H.R. 2111: Ms. MUCARSEL-POWELL.

H.R. 2116: Mr. BEYER, Ms. PINGREE, and Mr. PENCE.

H.R. 2121: Mr. WATKINS.

H.R. 2134: Mr. CARTWRIGHT.

H.R. 2139: Mr. LYNCH.

H.R. 2142: Mrs. CRAIG.

H.R. 2146: Mr. PAYNE.

H.R. 2148: Ms. SPANBERGER and Miss RICE of New York.

H.R. 2149: Mr. WEBER of Texas, Mr. FLORES, Mr. LAWSON of Florida, and Ms. MOORE.

H.R. 2150: Mr. SMITH of Missouri and Mr. BLUMENAUER.

H.R. 2153: Mr. ZELDIN and Mr. BROWN of Maryland.

H.R. 2156: Mr. GUTHRIE and Mr. STIVERS.

H.R. 2164: Ms. HILL of California.

H.R. 2184: Mrs. HARTZLER.

H.R. 2204: Mr. STEUBE.

H.R. 2207: Mr. CARBAJAL.

H.R. 2209: Mr. FULCHER.

H.R. 2213: Mrs. RODGERS of Washington.

H.R. 2214: Mr. LOWENTHAL, Mr. SCHIFF, Mr. MORELLE, Mr. VARGAS, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER, and Mr. VELA.

H.R. 2218: Mr. WALBERG.

H.R. 2219: Mr. GREEN of Tennessee.

H.R. 2222: Ms. HAALAND.

H.R. 2249: Ms. GABBARD, Mr. ROY, Mr. CHABOT, Mr. HUIZENGA, Mr. SHIMKUS, Mr. CORREA, and Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia.

H.R. 2271: Mr. KIND.

H.R. 2276: Ms. STEFANIK.

H.R. 2283: Mr. FITZPATRICK, Ms. KUSTER of New Hampshire, Mr. HIGGINS of New York, Mr. DEFAZIO, and Ms. WATERS.

H.R. 2291: Mr. NEWHOUSE and Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota.

H.R. 2294: Mr. AMODEI and Mr. LOUDERMILK.

H.R. 2298: Mr. CASE and Mr. GARCÍA of Illinois.

H.R. 2314: Mr. MEUSER.

H.R. 2315: Ms. WILD.

H.R. 2319: Mr. LAHOOD.

H.R. 2331: Mrs. CRAIG.

H.R. 2333: Mr. LYNCH, Ms. KENDRA S. HORN of Oklahoma, Mr. STEUBE, and Mrs. CRAIG.

H.R. 2334: Ms. GARCIA of Texas.

H.R. 2340: Mrs. CRAIG.

H.R. 2344: Mr. STIVERS.

H.R. 2345: Mrs. CRAIG.

H.R. 2352: Mr. ROONEY of Florida, Mr. ROUDA, and Mr. HASTINGS.

H.R. 2354: Ms. PINGREE, Ms. SPEIER, and Mr. RUSH.

H.R. 2355: Mr. PAYNE, Mr. GRIJALVA, and Mr. HARDER of California.

H.R. 2359: Mr. FITZPATRICK.

H.R. 2368: Mr. STIVERS.

H.R. 2373: Mr. SCALISE.

H.R. 2381: Mr. GALLAGHER.

H.R. 2382: Mr. MCKINLEY, Ms. PRESSLEY, Mr. SUOZZI, Ms. VELÁZQUEZ, Mr. ROSE of New York, Mr. RUSH, Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi, Mr. RYAN, Mrs. DAVIS of California, Mrs. KIRKPATRICK, Mr. RESCHENTHALER, and Ms. HAALAND.

H.R. 2385: Mr. FITZPATRICK.

H.R. 2386: Mr. GIANFORTE, Mr. BALDERSON, and Mr. WITTMAN.

H.R. 2388: Mr. STEUBE, Mrs. LURIA, and Mr. DEUTCH.

H.R. 2402: Ms. STEFANIK, Mrs. DEMINGS, Mr. RYAN, Mr. DEUTCH, Mr. SWALWELL of California, Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York, Ms. SPEIER, Mr. COOPER, Mr. TONKO, Ms. JAYAPAL, Mr. MICHAEL F. DOYLE of Pennsylvania, Mr. DEFAZIO, Mrs. DAVIS of California, Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN, Mr. SOTO, Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHI, Mr. FOSTER, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. COX of California, Mr. RUSH, Mr. CONNOLLY, Mrs. BEATTY, Ms. DELBENE, and Mr. POCAN.

H.R. 2408: Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania, Mr. DEUTCH, Mr. MARSHALL, Mr. COLE, Mr. VISCLOSKY, and Mr. DELGADO.

H.R. 2420: Mr. AGUILAR.

H.R. 2435: Mr. MEADOWS and Mr. HASTINGS.

H.R. 2438: Mr. YOUNG and Mr. O'HALLERAN.

H.R. 2439: Mr. FITZPATRICK.

H.R. 2441: Mr. DEFAZIO, Ms. BONAMICI, and Ms. SHALALA.

H.R. 2452: Mr. KHANNA.

H.R. 2460: Mr. GIANFORTE, Mrs. WALORSKI, and Mr. HOLLINGSWORTH.

H.R. 2463: Mr. KHANNA and Mr. ROUDA.

H.R. 2474: Mr. SEAN PATRICK MALONEY of New York, Mr. PANETTA, Mrs. BUSTOS, Ms. OCASIO-CORTEZ, Mr. PASCRELL, and Mr. TONKO.

H.R. 2476: Mr. LATTA and Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHI.

H.R. 2480: Ms. STEVENS and Mr. HUFFMAN.

H.R. 2481: Mr. COOPER, Mr. SMITH of Missouri, Mr. BRINDISI, Mr. YOUNG, Mr. FLORES, Mr. VAN DREW, Mr. HASTINGS, Ms. HOULAHAN, Mr. GALLEGO, Ms. NORTON, Mr. BROWN of Maryland, Mr. DEUTCH, Mr. LAMB, Mr. CARTER of Georgia, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. CONNOLLY, Ms. SLOTKIN, Mr. GARAMENDI, and Mr. FERGUSON.

H.R. 2482: Mr. BRINDISI, Mr. ROSE of New York, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. RASKIN, Mr. SIRES, Mr. HOLLINGSWORTH, and Mr. KHANNA.

H.R. 2489: Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. PAYNE, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, and Mr. GRIJALVA.

H.R. 2525: Mr. FITZPATRICK.

H.R. 2531: Mr. ARMSTRONG and Mr. NEWHOUSE.

H.R. 2535: Mrs. LEE of Nevada.

H.R. 2538: Mr. LAMALFA.

H.R. 2541: Ms. JOHNSON of Texas.

H.R. 2557: Mr. STEUBE.

H.R. 2560: Mr. CUNNINGHAM and Mr. PASCRELL.

H.R. 2561: Mr. BLUMENAUER, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. COX of California, Mr. LOWENTHAL, and Mr. RUSH.

H.R. 2585: Mr. COHEN, Mr. NEGUSE, Ms. WILD, Mrs. MCBATH, Ms. MUCARSEL-POWELL, Ms. KELLY of Illinois, Ms. JACKSON LEE, and Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi.

H.R. 2597: Ms. BONAMICI.

H.R. 2605: Mr. LEVIN of Michigan and Ms. HAALAND.

H.R. 2607: Mr. STAUBER, Mr. BISHOP of Georgia, Mr. HICE of Georgia, and Mr. PETERSON.

H.J. Res. 2: Mr. BERA and Ms. GABBARD.

H.J. Res. 33: Mr. BRENDAN F. BOYLE of Pennsylvania.

H.J. Res. 57: Mr. TAKANO and Mr. DEFAZIO.

H. Con. Res. 27: Mr. SUOZZI.

H. Res. 49: Mr. KING of New York.

H. Res. 54: Mr. DOGGETT, Mr. SMITH of Washington, and Ms. HAALAND.

H. Res. 60: Mrs. CRAIG and Ms. HAALAND.

H. Res. 116: Mr. PHILLIPS.

H. Res. 189: Ms. MCCOLLUM and Mr. GARCÍA of Illinois.

H. Res. 219: Ms. DAVIDS of Kansas.

H. Res. 231: Mr. LOWENTHAL and Mrs. TORRES of California.

H. Res. 246: Mrs. WALORSKI, Mr. VEASEY, Mrs. LESKO, Mr. GUTHRIE, Mr. PALAZZO, Mr. JOHN W. ROSE of Tennessee, Ms. GRANGER, and Mr. WOODALL.

H. Res. 250: Mr. MCGOVERN.

H. Res. 255: Mr. LUETKEMEYER, Mr. BOST, Mrs. LESKO, and Mr. GROTHMAN.

H. Res. 259: Mr. CUELLAR and Mr. VARGAS.

H. Res. 276: Ms. ESHOO.

H. Res. 326: Mr. BLUMENAUER, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Ms. PINGREE, and Ms. SCHAKOWSKY.

H. Res. 337: Mrs. TORRES of California.

H. Res. 350: Mr. WEBER of Texas and Mr. GREEN of Tennessee.

H. Res. 353: Mr. KILMER.

United States of America

Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 116th CONGRESS, FIRST SESSION

Vol. 165 WASHINGTON, THURSDAY, MAY 9, 2019 No. 77

Senate

The Senate met at 9:30 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable THOM TILLIS, a Senator from the State of North Carolina.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Eternal Spirit, the center of our joy, guide and bless our lawmakers. Inspire their minds; assist their wills; and strengthen their hands that they may not falter or fail. Do for them more than they can ask or imagine as You continue to use them as instruments for Your glory. Lord, give to all who labor in this Chamber the wisdom, humility, and competence sufficient for this day. May the words of their mouths and the meditations of their hearts be acceptable to You, O God, our rock and our redeemer.

Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Presiding Officer 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.

APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mr. GRASSLEY).

The legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, May 9, 2019.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable THOM TILLIS, a Senator from the State of North Carolina, to perform the duties of the Chair.

CHUCK GRASSLEY,
President pro tempore.

Mr. TILLIS thereupon assumed the Chair as Acting President pro tempore.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

NOMINATIONS

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, the Senate has continued to make significant progress in the personnel business. After 2 years of systematic heel-dragging from our friends across the aisle, even on the least controversial nominations, the modest reform the Senate adopted last month is helping us to get back on track.

Another slate of capable nominees is now on its way to work for the American people. They are precisely the same sort of unobjectionable sub-Cabinet nominees who, until very recently, would have been subjected to 30 hours of debate. They would have tied up the floor for days before being confirmed anyway. They are perfect examples of why the Senate returned to our long-standing norms of processing lower level nominations. Now the American people are getting the government they elected at a more reasonable pace.

To be clear, the silly partisan games haven't all been cleared away from our work on nominations. For example, just yesterday, we confirmed Judge Joseph Bianco to serve on the Second Circuit by a relatively close vote of 54 to 42. Remember, for a judge, in the scope of Senate history, that counts as a close shave. So are we looking at a controversial person? Are we looking at an individual whom the Senators agonized over and painstakingly studied?

Judge Bianco brings a unanimous ''well-qualified'' rating from the ABA, and he has already served as a judge for 13 years in the Eastern District of New York. Oh, by the way, he was confirmed to that position by a voice vote. In fact, back then in 2005, one of Mr. Bianco's most vocal supporters in the Senate was none other than our friend the Democratic leader. Here is how he praised his New Yorker to the Judiciary Committee in 2005.

Senator SCHUMER said: ''I am proud to support someone as outstandingly qualified and well respected as Mr. Bianco.''

Well, that was then and this is now.

The nominee is the same. Actually, he is not quite the same because now he has been a very highly regarded district judge for 13 years, so this nominee is actually even better. Yet the occupant of the White House is different. In this political moment, as we know, my Democratic colleagues' commitment to the ''outrage industrial complex'' seems to crowd out reasonable judgment.

So now, this week, the Democratic leader lumped the same individual he used to champion into what he described as ''hard-right nominees.'' Then the Democratic leader and almost every other Member of his conference proceeded to vote against him. He voted against the same nominee he praised in such generous terms before.

I can only conclude that now the ''outrage industrial complex'' comes first, not the facts, not the nominee's qualifications. The ''outrage industrial complex'' comes first. The individual whom the Democratic leader used to champion and who passed by a voice vote in 2005 now receives this partisan treatment. What was once a routine matter for acclamation becomes a party-line vote just because this President is the one who nominated him.

Look, fortunately, at the end of the day, the outcome is the same. Judge Joseph Bianco, along with a slate of other well-qualified nominees, is now on the job, and the Republicans will

● This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

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continue our work to give the people the government they chose, the government they deserve.

ECONOMIC GROWTH

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, on another matter, as I mentioned, we are in the middle of a historic economic moment for the American people.

Last week, the nationwide unemployment rate fell to its lowest level since December of 1969. In just the year and a half since the Republicans passed comprehensive tax reform, 19 States have set new alltime lows in their unemployment rates, including in the Commonwealth of Kentucky.

If you compare today to November 2016, there are now nearly 70 percent more job openings in durable goods manufacturing and more than twice as many job openings in construction. We are talking about hundreds of thousands of new job openings in these sectors alone.

Overall, under the Republicans' policies of the last 2 years, for the first time in recorded history, the number of job openings across the country has surpassed the number of Americans who are looking for work. Think about that. There is more than one job opening for every American who wants a job.

So this economic moment, helped along by Republican policies, has placed American workers in much higher demand, and we know what happens when American workers are in high demand—they get paid more. Sure enough, from late 2017 to late 2018, wage growth for U.S. workers logged its fastest full-year growth rate in a decade.

What is more, the New York Times reported:

> The recent gains are going to those who need it most. Over the past year, low-wage workers have experienced the fastest pay increases, a shift from earlier in the recovery, when wage growth was concentrated at the top.

Of course, that phrase ''earlier in the recovery'' is code for during the Obama administration.

How often do we hear the left invoke the stale talking point that pro-growth policies only help wealthy people? Anyone who has cracked open a history book knows it is absurd to say that American free enterprise only helps wealthy people and that State-controlled socialism helps everyone else. Anyone who has picked up a newspaper in the last year and a half knows it as well.

Capitalism and free enterprise are the best tools humanity has ever discovered for lifting up the vulnerable and for empowering people. It was true in the 19th century; it was true in the 20th century; and it is still proving to be true in 2019.

It has been on the Republicans' watch that we have actually seen low-wage workers and nonmanagement workers receive the fastest wage growth. It has been on the Republicans' watch that the unemployment rate specifically for Americans without high school diplomas has fallen to its lowest rate since 1992. It has been on the Republicans' watch that newspapers have described ''a wave of disabled Americans'' who have been able to join or return to the workforce.

My Republican colleagues and I could not be more proud of the conditions our policies have helped to create for all kinds of American workers and their families, and we will continue to defend these gains, to put pro-growth, pro-opportunity reforms in place, and to stand up against the far-left grab bag of socialist ideas that would threaten America's progress.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mrs. HYDE-SMITH). The Senator from Montana.

Mr. DAINES. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved. 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 Michael H. Park, of New York, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Second Circuit.

ABORTION

Mr. DAINES. Madam President, a few weeks ago, I stood right here condemning Virginia Governor Ralph Northam's chilling remarks about infanticide. Since then, the American people have continued to witness disturbing abortion extremism by Democratic public lawmakers. So here I am again today to condemn and address these horrific remarks and the unfortunate reality we are living in today in this country.

Last week, while opposing a bill to protect unborn human life, Democratic Alabama State Representative John Rogers said: ''Some kids are unwanted, so you kill them now or you kill them later.'' He went on to say: ''You bring them in the world unwanted, unloved, you send them to the electric chair. So you kill them now or you kill them later.''

These reprehensible remarks reveal a disturbing abortion extremism that has become far too normal, too accepted by the Democrats. All human life is precious, no matter the stage of development or disability. We must never forget these are innocent babies we are talking about.

Just this week, Democratic Pennsylvania State Representative Brian Sims posted a disgraceful video of himself online—I encourage you to go and watch it—a disgraceful video of himself online harassing three teenage girls who were praying outside a Planned Parenthood abortion clinic. He went as far as promising to pay $100 to anyone who would identify these innocent teenage girls.

Horrific comments like Representative Rogers' and harassment of pro-life teens by Representative Sims should be condemned at the State and the national level by all, regardless of political party. We must not let this continue to be the norm in our society. We must fight back.

I yield the floor.

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senate Democratic leader is recognized.

GUN VIOLENCE

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, on Tuesday afternoon, our country suffered another shooting—this time in Highlands Ranch, CO. It was the second shooting of the week following a weekend where at least 19 people were shot in Baltimore, 16 in St. Louis, and 28 in Chicago.

My grandson is less than a year old. He turned over in his crib last night—great accomplishment. But on a serious note, I don't want him to live in a world where this is the norm. I don't want him to see this on TV every other week. I don't want him to come home after school to tell his parents about learning to hide under a desk with the lights off. I don't want him to grow up in a country where children and adolescents are more than 20 times more likely to be killed with guns than their peers in other high-income countries.

I want him—little Noah and every other child in America—to live in a world where America's gun violence epidemic is a thing of the past. It may seem a naive thought in a cynical time, but I believe we can get there. We can take steps right now to make these incidents less likely. Nothing will prevent them, but there are lots of things we can do to make them a lot less frequent. A few months ago, the House did just that. The House passed legislation to close the loopholes in Federal background checks—something that more than 90 percent of all Americans support.

No one here pretends that we can prevent every incident, but we have a choice to face between moving in the right direction in a significant way and doing nothing. That is why I am so disappointed once again that Leader MCCONNELL and the Republican majority have turned this Chamber into a

legislative graveyard where even the most bipartisan, broadly supported legislation like background checks can't even get a vote or a discussion. Here we are at the end of another week in the Senate. This week, we have done nothing but process nominations. It is not because there is nothing else to do. There are over 100 bills—many noncontroversial and many bipartisan—that have passed the House and are awaiting Senate action, but Leader MCCONNELL has turned the Senate into a legislative graveyard.

When the American people demand action, Leader MCCONNELL does nothing. When the American people demand action, the Senate Republicans are in obeisance to this strategy of a graveyard, even when in their hearts they may know doing that is not right and they would like to debate the issues, whatever their views.

Leader MCCONNELL promised to preside over an open Senate, with vigorous debate and amendment votes and the ability to vote on issues of the day. He promised that, and he said no matter which party offered the ideas. Leader MCCONNELL is breaking those promises when he consigns bill after bill—every one of them needed by America, needed by the middle class, needed by working people—every one of them to a legislative graveyard. So there are no debates, no amendments, no progress, no hope for the American people as the Senate continues to be in such a legislative graveyard.

PUERTO RICO

Madam President, on Puerto Rico, last night President Trump held his first Florida rally of the year in Panama City, in the heart of the Florida Panhandle, which was so awfully devastated by Hurricane Michael last year. President Trump's speech contained all the usual demagoguery and bloviating, but one thing in particular stuck in his craw. The President used his rally in Florida to denigrate once again the island of Puerto Rico, to repeat falsehoods about how much aid it has received, and to pit one American against another, which seems to be his MO.

Again, the President said that Puerto Rico has gotten $91 billion of disaster aid—flat-out false. They received a hair over $11 billion.

Mr. President, ask your budget people how many dollars Puerto Rico has received, and they will not tell you the $91 billion falsehood you have repeated over and over.

Again, I saw the President pit Americans against each other, going so far as to hold up a flimsy graphic to get Floridians in his audience to turn against Americans in Puerto Rico. At a time when we need unity, at a time when we should be together, with all the threats challenging us—domestic and foreign and all the other types of challenges—all the President can do is to appeal to people's worst instincts and divide us. We are humans. We are made by God. We have good and bad in each of us. The President should be appealing to the good side, not the bad side, but all he does is the bad side. It is a shame.

Of course, he said that Puerto Ricans should be grateful for whatever disaster aid they have received, as a pretext for not doing more. Does he say that to the people of Florida: You shouldn't get any more aid because you received some already and you should be grateful. Of course not, it is a double standard. President Trump ought to be ashamed of himself for condescending to and publicly mocking a community that is still suffering. These are men, women, and children. They still don't have their homes, their hospitals, their schools. They can't go on with life, and he is mocking them? What did they do wrong? They are American citizens. I sometimes cannot believe the depth of cruelty that the President uses to treat fellow American citizens this way.

The fact remains, we can end the impasse over disaster aid at a moment's notice. To the people of Florida: All you have to do is tell your Senators to vote for the full aid package, including aid to Puerto Rico, and you will get all the aid you need, all the aid that Congress has allocated. Just do that.

But Republican Senators, after Donald Trump went in and said no more aid to Puerto Rico, blindly bowed in obeisance. The House will never pass a bill that doesn't treat Puerto Rico as fairly as it treats the other States of the Union.

Let's decide now that we are going to help every corner of America that is hit by disaster, because that is what Americans have always done.

CLIMATE CHANGE

Madam President, on the climate and dark money, I want to return to the topic of climate change, specifically today. Why in our political system has progress on climate change been so slow? Why is it that so many Republicans here in the Senate are afraid to say yes to three questions: Is climate change real? Is it caused by humans? Should we do something about it? They are afraid to say yes on any of those. Why? It is so obvious to almost everybody else.

Well, one of the dominant reasons is that for decades Big Oil, Big Gas, and Big Coal have devoted huge financial resources to stymie political progress and sow doubt about climate science. For years, one of the biggest perpetrators of this anti-climate campaign has been the U.S. Chamber of Commerce.

The national chamber of commerce, which bears almost no resemblance to local chambers across the country, has acted like a fossil fuel front group. It accepts millions of dollars in dark money, will not reveal its secret donors, and has consistently fought any attempts by our government to grapple with climate change—carbon pricing, reducing methane emissions, and even the Paris climate accords.

The game has become so obvious that major American corporations have disassociated themselves with the chamber over its climate policies.

Recently, the chamber has begun to talk as if it intends to get better on climate change. They added a new page to their website and announced an ''energy innovation'' agenda. I welcome the progress. But truthfully, the chamber has made a shocking about-face from climate denier to supposed climate believer and advocate. It is hard not to be skeptical. Now, if the chamber were serious about combating climate change, it would disclose its donors and let the world see that it is finally changing. Maybe it would even start endorsing different candidates or getting behind truly bold legislation. Maybe they can come here and lobby that we should support the Paris accords. Until that day, the chamber's so-called big change on climate seems to be cosmetic.

It may seem that I am spending an awful lot of time on one group, but it matters. The chamber is part of a vast network of generally rightwing organizations that accept and disseminate billions of dollars of special interest money with zero disclosure. It has warped our political process by creating a financial incentive for many of my colleagues on the other side of the aisle to oppose climate policies that deal with climate change, to oppose appropriate consumer protections, to oppose environmental protections, and to oppose issues such as gun safety, as well.

Senator SHELDON WHITEHOUSE of Rhode Island has done an amazing—an outstanding job—of bringing this issue to the forefront and exposing the web of dark money that lurks evilly behind our politics. I want to thank and commend him for it.

I am glad that organizations like the chamber are feeling the heat for opposing climate change and proposed solutions. They should. But the bigger and more pervasive issue is that dark money will continue to flow into our political system until we change it. Until we deal with it or until groups start voluntary disclosures, in all likelihood these organizations will continue to frustrate the progress behind the scenes and the longing we all have to keep our planet the beautiful place that it is and to prevent the seas from rising and the weather from changing and the coral reefs from disappearing. That will not become a reality as long as this dark money is still having a stranglehold on so many of the other party.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Ms. CORTEZ MASTO. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Ms. CORTEZ MASTO. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that I be permitted to speak as in morning

business for up to 5 minutes, and that following my remarks, Senator ROSEN be recognized to speak as in morning business for as much time as she may consume.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

WELCOMING SENATOR ROSEN OF NEVADA

Ms. CORTEZ MASTO. Thank you, Madam President. I come to the floor today to honor my colleague and dear friend, Senator JACKY ROSEN, as she prepares to deliver her maiden speech in this Chamber.

Senator ROSEN has spent her career pushing boundaries and advocating for innovation and inclusivity. She is bringing that vision to the U.S. Senate, where she has already proved herself to be a strong advocate for Nevadans by fighting to bolster our State's tech industries, supporting our veterans, and protecting Nevadans' healthcare.

When JACKY was elected to the Senate, we sat down and talked about how we could best serve Nevada together. We requested different committee assignments so we could be sure we were covering all the issue areas that are important to Nevadans. We made sure our staffs were connected and working together on projects, not only in DC but in the great Silver State of Nevada.

We committed to coming together every Wednesday morning in DC to welcome Nevadans to the Capitol and hear their stories. Those Wednesday morning constituent coffees are one of the highlights, I think, of both of our weeks. Anyone lucky enough to work with JACKY knows that she works tirelessly to build consensus and find solutions that help better the lives of Nevada families. I am honored to work beside her every day to serve the people of Nevada. I am proud to call her my friend, and I want to congratulate her on making her maiden speech this morning. I look forward to this and to many more as we continue to fight together for the Silver State.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Nevada.

MAIDEN SPEECH

Ms. ROSEN. Madam President, I thank Senator CORTEZ MASTO for that great introduction.

I am honored and humbled to address this distinguished body as the newest Senator from the great State of Nevada and to stand alongside an exceptional group of colleagues with a shared commitment to public service. I am especially honored to hold this seat, as it once belonged to a great Nevada public servant, Senator Richard Bryan. Senator Bryan served in just about every position in government, from assemblyman to Governor. He worked tirelessly to advance civil rights, empower women in government, and defend Nevada's public lands. I am so honored to carry his values with me to move Nevada forward.

As I take up this mantle in the Senate, I am prepared to continue Senator Bryan's legacy and work for Nevadans, while also building toward a legacy of our own. I stand here as Nevada's 28th Senator and, for the first time in history, as one of two women to represent our State in the Senate. I am proud to be part of such an incredible movement of strong, passionate, trailblazing women like Senator CATHERINE CORTEZ MASTO, who became the first female Senator to represent the great State of Nevada and the first Latina elected to serve in the Senate.

Everywhere, we are seeing women who are stepping up to lead, and I am thrilled to have the chance to empower women who are looking to break barriers along the way. By bringing more women to the decision-making table, we can open doors and make progress on issues that affect us and our hard-working families on a daily basis. When women put their minds together, there is no new ground we cannot break, and there is no glass ceiling we cannot shatter.

I stand here today to share my vision for how we can work together—on both sides of the aisle—to lay down a framework for progress because Nevadans and Americans everywhere are counting on us to go above and beyond, to overcome obstacles before us, and to find commonsense, forward-thinking solutions for the challenges of this new era—challenges like immigration reform, which protects our Dreamers and TPS recipients; challenges like a changing 21st century economy and climate change; and, of course, an issue that is so important to hard-working families everywhere, the challenge of access to affordable, quality healthcare.

Before I discuss where we are going, let me tell you just a bit about where I come from—my values and the ways in which my story has helped to shape who I am and how it will shape who I will be as Nevada's newest Senator.

I am the proud granddaughter of immigrants and a first-generation college graduate who worked my way through college waiting tables. Yes, I am a former member of the Culinary Workers Union, and I saved my tips in envelopes to pay for that college tuition. I am a computer programmer and a systems analyst who worked my way up in what has been long considered a male-dominated industry.

I am a wife to my husband Larry, a radiologist, whom I can always count on to be by my side. I am a mother to my wonderful daughter Miranda, whom I am so proud of and who inspires me every day to build a better future for our country.

I am a former president of my synagogue—the largest synagogue in Nevada—and during my tenure, I witnessed the beauty of our country's religious diversity and how community engagement strengthens America. I also learned the importance of working together to fight against anti-Semitism, which we are seeing now, once again, rear its ugly head here at home and around the globe.

Remembering where I come from, my story, my roots, this is what guides me every day to make decisions to help working families. When it comes to issues like college affordability and education, equal pay for equal work, labor rights, combating hate and anti-Semitism, and standing up for Israel, I can speak from personal experience.

I am reminded that my story is just one of many from Las Vegas to Reno, to Searchlight, to Lovelock, and everywhere in between because I hear from Nevadans who share some of those same stories from every part of the rich, vibrant fabric that makes up our diverse State, including Latinos, Asian Americans, African Americans, Tribal communities, and beyond.

When I think of the shores of Lake Tahoe and of Lake Mead, the majestic canyons of Red Rock, the open skies across the desert, and the mountains that shine below them like jewels in the sun, I think of home. Nothing rings more true to me than saying home means Nevada to me.

YUCCA MOUNTAIN

Madam President, we are a State that was born to take on challenges. We come together from every walk of life to make cities that shine from out of the desert. We are battle born, and we are battle tested, and it is our grit, our perseverance, and our diversity that truly capture who we are. It is those same qualities that will help us change the face of our Nation.

Remembering where we come from—that philosophy—is a driving force behind my support for environmental policies that will protect our States' treasures, including our mountains, rivers, and lakes.

I am honored to represent the most beautiful State in the country, but there is one environmental issue that threatens Nevada's beautiful landscapes and the families that call our State home, and that is Yucca Mountain. Nevada has made it clear time and again that we will not become the Nation's dumping ground for nuclear waste. Yet we continue to see relentless efforts to turn our State into the Nation's sole nuclear waste repository without our consent, even after we have made our voices heard, even though Nevada does not create nuclear waste. Congress must respect our will and our rights as a State because our voice matters. I stand prepared to use every tool at my disposal to defend our State from attempts to revive this project.

I will continue to fight to keep our State beautiful by standing up for clean air and clean water, by protecting public lands and investing in clean energy, by taking real action to address climate change. I know we can leave the world a better place for future generations.

We also know there are commonsense ways to address our climate challenges, including investing in renewable energy right at home. In Nevada, solar

energy is both creating jobs and helping us to lead a way toward a clean energy future. That is why, last year in the House, I led the charge against harmful solar tariffs that threatened to roll back the progress we have made and why I introduced legislation to train our veterans for good-paying jobs—solar jobs—that can both support families and reduce our carbon footprint.

I will continue these efforts here in the Senate because our energy independence and the future of our planet should never be partisan issues.

HIRE STUDENT VETERANS ACT

Madam President, in Nevada, we care for one another, and we believe in looking out for one another, and that is especially true for our veterans, who make up a significant part of our State. Over 226,000 veterans call Nevada home. Our heroes in the armed services and their families risk everything—everything—to protect our Nation. One way we can honor them is by helping our heroes successfully transition to civilian life once they have completed their military service.

After talking to countless veterans and military families in Nevada, I introduced the Hire Student Veterans Act as my first bill in the Senate. This bipartisan legislation incentivizes business to hire our student vets who are currently using their benefits to study. We made a promise to take care of our veterans when they return home, and the last thing they should have to worry about is not being able to obtain a good education or a good-paying job. I know this commonsense legislation will further ensure that our student vets are on the pathway toward success and that Nevada and our Nation will benefit from their continued contributions.

ECONOMIC GROWTH

Madam President, in Nevada, we are leading the way; we are doing right by hard-working families in areas like clean energy and technology. As a former computer programmer, I am so excited about our State's growing tech industry, and I look forward to working with my colleagues on the Small Business Committee to provide our tech startups the tools they need to succeed and create jobs and on the Commerce Committee, where we are tackling important issues like cyber security and privacy and, for our rural communities, critical access to rural broadband, which they sorely need.

In all of these efforts, I look forward to bringing new stakeholders to the table because we can all gain so much insight when we listen to our constituents and we embrace bold ideas to improve their lives.

We have also grown our economy and created good-paying jobs by legalizing recreational marijuana in our State. This industry is bringing millions of dollars in revenue to Nevada. Yet our marijuana businesses continue to operate on a cash-only basis as a result of outdated Federal laws that are blocking their access to important financial services. We cannot expect these businesses to succeed when the Federal Government refuses to keep up with the times. That is why I am supporting bipartisan legislation to give marijuana businesses access to our banking system so that they can safely operate and continue contributing to our economy.

It is through bipartisan action that we can encourage economic growth in every corner of our State and every corner of our country.

Since coming to Congress, I have consistently made it a priority to reach across the aisle on issues where both parties can find common ground. At a time of increasing political division and partisan gridlock, it is even more important for both sides to come together, to make progress on the issues that are impacting Americans at home.

I am so proud of the work I have been able to do with my colleagues from both parties. Last Congress, I was named one of the most bipartisan freshman Members during my first term and was one of the first Democrats to be recognized with an award by the U.S. Chamber of Commerce for supporting pro-growth policies.

I will continue to take every action to fight for Nevada's hard-working families. We must act boldly, and we must do more to provide opportunities—opportunities for our children through improving education and working across the aisle to invest in our children's future.

BUILDING BLOCKS OF STEM ACT

Madam President, earlier this year, I introduced the Building Blocks of STEM Act. In the Senate we are going to try to make those investments in early childhood STEM education. My bipartisan, bicameral bill will give our kids the opportunities to explore STEM-related fields at an early age and set them up for success because we need a 21st century education if we hope to succeed in a 21st century economy.

It is only through robust, quality education that we can build that strong workforce that will grow our Nation's economy and ensure that our children and our Nation will ultimately succeed.

Protecting our environment and public lands, embracing clean energy, honoring America's heroes and their families, supporting economic growth, investing in our children's education, these are just a few of the ways we can work together across the aisle.

We can improve lives by listening to the voices of those who sent us here to represent us and by working together to create a healthy, educated, and economically empowered future for all and, most importantly, by agreeing everywhere we can, especially on the issues that matter most to families at home.

HEALTHCARE

Madam President, there is no issue that matters more than healthcare. I have met with countless parents, grandparents, families, who rely on access to healthcare to keep themselves and their precious loved ones healthy.

One of the reasons Nevada ranks near the bottom when it comes to access to care is that we continue to face a shortage of physicians, particularly in primary care. This is especially true for Nevadans living in rural and Tribal communities, with many of our State's residents having to drive hundreds of miles to seek medical care or they simply go without care.

We know that many other States face similar problems. We need forward-thinking solutions to make sure that States like ours have enough doctors to serve our population. We need to help communities in rural and underserved areas gain access to telehealth programs so that we are able to provide better access to critical services, not just to Nevadans but to all Americans, no matter where they live.

We need transparency when it comes to drug pricing because no person should be forced to decide between paying their bills and buying lifesaving medication. Let's not forget that we need equal access to healthcare for women, for LGBTQ, and for underrepresented communities.

We must protect our healthcare system from sabotage by this administration. This month, the Trump administration made yet another move to take healthcare coverage and critical protections away from millions nationwide, instructing our own Justice Department to refuse to defend the Affordable Care Act. We are no longer just talking about stripping away protections for those with preexisting conditions, as if that weren't enough. We are in even more dangerous territory than before because if our healthcare law is completely wiped out, we will see an end—an end—to the tax credits that make coverage affordable for middle-income families; we will see an end to preventive care without copays, like health screenings and contraceptives; we will see an end to the ability of young adults under the age of 26 to stay on their parents' insurance; and we will see an end to Medicaid benefits, which have helped over 200,000 Nevadans get coverage.

If this administration has its way with invalidating our healthcare law, it would spell disaster for primary care providers and the millions of Americans who rely on its protections for access to quality, affordable care.

Healthcare is one of the top issues at every kitchen table in communities like Winnemucca and Henderson and across this country. I can't even begin to count the number of Nevadans who have shared with me how they would be affected by this disastrous decision and who tell me what it means in their personal lives not to have to live in fear of being denied coverage for a preexisting condition. Over 1.2 million Nevadans live with a preexisting condition. We all know what is at stake if

these individuals are denied access to care.

There are plenty of ways we can work to improve the Affordable Care Act and lower healthcare costs, but destroying the law and leaving our loved ones at risk is simply unacceptable.

As a member of the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions here in the Senate, I am working on solutions each day to bring resources, accountability, and relief to our healthcare system, including supporting legislation to bring down our skyrocketing drug costs and programs that bolster telemedicine in our rural and underserved communities because healthcare is a personal issue that affects each and every one of us, and we all know that just one diagnosis can change your life in an instant.

The Senate today faces many challenges, none more so than the polarization and division that prevents us from coming together in pursuit of the public interest. In his farewell address, Nevada Senator Richard Bryan stated: ''If we can restore civility in our public discourse, as we debate the great issues and policy differences of our time, if we can apply the rules that govern the process by which we conduct the Senate's business fairly to all, and if we can work together for the common good, I am confident that the future of the Senate can be as bright as the past.''

So this is my pledge to all of you: I will be an independent voice for all Nevadans by agreeing where I can and fighting where I must. There is nothing more important to me than taking care of my home, our home, your families, and all of our families because home means Nevada to me.

During my first few weeks as a Senator, I joined Senator MANCHIN in helping lead the effort to defend the constitutionality of the Affordable Care Act. Our resolution will direct the Senate legal counsel to intervene in the Federal court case, where our healthcare system is under attack, to defend our current law, including protections for preexisting conditions.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUEST—S. RES. 18

Madam President, that is why, as my first action while holding the floor of the Senate, I would like to ask you this:

As in legislative session, I ask unanimous consent that the Rules Committee be discharged from further consideration of S. Res. 18 and the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration; that the resolution to 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. Is there objection?

Mr. THUNE. I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

Ms. ROSEN. This is why Nevadans sent me here—to protect their healthcare. And that is what I am going to do; that is what I will continue to do.

Thank you.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. SCOTT of Florida). The Senator from South Dakota.

MEDICARE

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, if you are in a shaky financial situation, wondering how you are going to meet your obligations, your first instinct isn't generally to wildly increase your spending, unless, of course, you are a congressional Democrat.

Our Nation's Medicare system is on shaky financial ground. Democrats' answer is to massively expand the program to the tune of trillions of dollars.

Two weeks ago, the Social Security and Medicare trustees released their annual report. According to the report, beginning in 2026, Medicare will not be able to meet its obligations. This doesn't even seem to register on Democrats' radar. They steamroll right past the program's already shaky financial status and ask the American people to believe that, somehow, massively expanding the program to include almost the entire U.S. population at a pricetag of staggering proportions will work.

It is difficult to overstate just how unrealistic Democrats' Medicare for All fantasy is. Start with the pricetag: $32 trillion over 10 years. To put that number in perspective, that is more money than the Federal Government has spent in the last 8 years combined—on everything. That $32 trillion estimate is likely too low, as it was based on an earlier version of the Medicare for All plan of the Senator from Vermont. His new plan also includes a massive new benefit—funding for long-term care, an enormously expensive part of the healthcare system.

Democrats' last attempt to have the government run a long-term care program fell apart before it was even implemented because the program was not financially viable.

Let's leave aside for a minute the tremendous cost and the tax hikes on ordinary Americans that would be required to pay for it. Let's talk about the massive difficulty of implementing such a system. The junior Senator from Vermont expects people to believe that the government can successfully transition more than 180 million people off of their private insurance and into government-run healthcare in 4 years. To put that in perspective, the Obama administration had 3½ years to implement the ObamaCare exchanges, which were intended to cover a tiny fraction of the number of people who would be covered under Medicare for All. As I am sure most Americans remember, the government couldn't put together a working website in that 3½ year time period. Yet Democrats somehow expect us to believe that they can smoothly transition 180 million Americans into government-run insurance in just 4 years.

We are also somehow supposed to believe things will be much more efficient with government running your healthcare. It is certainly true there is a lot of bureaucracy in our current healthcare system, but I am fairly sure the answer is not giving control of healthcare to the mother ship of bureaucracy—the Federal Government. Democrats also apparently expect Americans to believe that the Federal Government will be able to deliver almost unlimited healthcare for free. Unfortunately, no matter how much money the Federal Government takes in with higher taxes, there will eventually be a limit to how much it can spend on healthcare.

What happens when it can't afford to meet demand, which, by the way, tends to increase substantially when something is offered for free? I will tell you what happens: long wait times and rationing of care, which have become the hallmarks of socialized medicine in other countries.

There is no question that our healthcare system is not perfect. Republicans are currently working on legislation to address some of the healthcare challenges facing Americans, but destroying our current health system to fix the problems we have would be like razing a house to the ground to fix a leak in the bathroom sink.

There are lots of good things about our healthcare system. A lot of people in this country are happy with their healthcare. We need to preserve the good things about our system and fix what is not working and not force everyone into a fantastically expensive one-size-fits-all, government-run healthcare system that would reduce everyone's quality of care.

The Democratic chairman of the House Rules Committee, discussing a House hearing on Medicare for All, recently said: ''It's a serious proposal that deserves serious consideration on Capitol Hill.''

I would argue that it is the exact opposite. The only things that are serious about this proposal are the serious consequences it would have for the American people if it were ever implemented. It is deeply irresponsible of my Democrat colleagues to peddle this government-run nightmare as a legitimate healthcare solution. One of our former colleagues, Tom Coburn, used to say: If you think healthcare is expensive now, wait until it is free.

Let's hope Democrats decide to take a more serious approach to healthcare reform before Americans are forced to live under the ugly reality of their socialist fantasy.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mrs. HYDE-SMITH. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

HONORING ROBERT MCKEITHEN

Mrs. HYDE-SMITH. Mr. President, I respect the time-honored practice of this body which encourages new Members to listen and observe before speaking on the floor. There is value in humility—knowing when to talk and when to listen.

First, let me say it is a great privilege to represent the people of Mississippi in the United States Senate. I am working hard to support the needs of all Mississippians and to justify the confidence placed in me by the people of my great State.

Today I rise to speak on several important topics. First and foremost, I rise to honor Officer Robert McKeithen, a 24-year-decorated veteran of the Biloxi Police Department who lost his life in the line of duty this past Sunday night, May 5.

Officer McKeithen was described by his chief as ''an unbelievably fine policeman.'' He was an Air Force veteran, a husband, and a father who dedicated his life to serving the people of Biloxi, my State, and our Nation. His loss is a tragedy and a stark reminder that law enforcement officers risk their lives daily to keep us safe. Officer McKeithen's family, colleagues, and friends certainly have my deepest sympathy.

DISASTER RELIEF

Mr. President, I also rise to speak on behalf of thousands of Mississippians who have been affected by catastrophic flooding and other natural disasters this year. Their plight and the unmet commitment made to them long ago provide us an opportunity to evaluate how we as public servants meet the expectations of the people.

On February 25, 2019, the Governor of Mississippi declared a state of emergency due to strong storms, torrential rainfall, and severe flooding. Homes, property, businesses, and public infrastructure had been damaged statewide. On April 23, President Trump granted a major disaster declaration for the State of Mississippi to help communities recover from these events. I am grateful for the President's actions.

A large portion of West Central Mississippi is experiencing the worst flood records since 1973. On April 1, more than 512,000 acres were flooded. Now, a little more than a month later, more than 488,000 acres in this highly productive agricultural region are still underwater, with conditions forecasted to get worse before they improve. To put that into perspective, these floodwaters span nearly 762 square miles as we speak. This flooding is affecting homes, roads, bridges, churches, schools, and the overall health and public safety of area residents. Septic tanks are overflowing. Snakes are in houses. The bloated bodies of drowned deer, bear, hogs, and other wildlife float in stagnant water. The residents of Mississippi's Eagle Lake are basically on an island. If someone needs emergency healthcare, it is virtually impossible for an ambulance to get to them.

Further, hundreds of thousands of acres of prime agriculture and timberland will suffer significant damage or simply go unplanted this season. The economic impact on agriculture alone will be in the hundreds of millions of dollars.

I observed the magnitude of the flooding and damages firsthand in a flyover with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers a month ago. The situation on the ground is no different today. It is truly heartbreaking to see. While the full extent of damage can't be assessed until the floodwaters recede and residents can return to their homes, Mississippians, along with those in the Midwest experiencing similar challenges, need relief also.

I commend the Appropriations Committee chairman and vice chairman for their continued efforts to reach an agreement on an emergency funding measure to help individuals and communities recover from natural disasters. I am especially grateful for their willingness to consider expanding the scope of the legislation to address the 2019 natural disasters. Federal assistance alone will not solve all the problems, and a long road to recovery lies ahead. However, disaster supplemental legislation will provide a very important first step.

The outcome of the push and pull over disaster assistance highlights the need for us, as elected representatives, to consistently evaluate the Federal Government's performance on delivering promises to the American people. I cannot speak for others, but Mississippians would like to see more action and less acting from their leaders in Washington. Our Nation's environmental review and permitting process for infrastructure projects is the epitome of a flawed and broken bureaucracy in desperate need of repair.

President Trump's Executive orders to expedited environmental reviews and approvals for high-priority infrastructure projects speak to the American public's frustration toward Washington and the never-ending bureaucratic redtape carried over from the Obama administration. I am grateful this administration has taken a strong stance to bring common sense to government operations. It should not take years and numerous acts of Congress to expand and deepen ports or tackle important infrastructure projects that would generate jobs and add billions to our Nation's economy. It should not take decades and numerous acts of Congress to complete critical flood control projects that will protect the lives and property of Americans while preventing the need for multibillion-dollar disaster measures. Congress should make it abundantly clear that one Federal Agency should not be able to prevent or delay another Federal Agency from delivering critical flood protections specifically authorized by the legislative branch. There are numerous examples of this—what most Americans consider bad government—across the country. The catastrophic flooding taking place in Mississippi is a prime example of one Agency that has worked at odds with another to the detriment of the public. So many Mississippians are exasperated by the fact that they are losing their homes and way of making a living, all the while knowing it could have been prevented.

The Federal Government has yet to put in place the flood control improvement it has promised area residents since 1941. The fact is, they have made it worse. Make no mistake, today's flooding in Mississippi should not be happening. It is time for the Federal Government to step up and make good on its promises. It is time for the Federal Government to listen to the people in need of help and to help them.

Over the past seven decades, significant taxpayer dollars have been invested in the Lower Mississippi River Valley to construct a comprehensive, systematic flood control solution which today consists of levees, drainage channels, and floodgates. The last remaining feature of this 77-year effort remains unconstructed due to the excessive, overburdensome regulations and redtape. Because of this, Mississippians are once again losing their homes and businesses, roads and bridges are being destroyed, and wildlife is dying—their habitat lost to contaminated floodwaters.

I bring this to the attention of my colleagues because passage of disaster legislation is vital to my constituents and millions of people across the country. I also call attention to this situation to encourage us to strive to do a much better job in delivering for the American people. That is what our constituents expect, and that is what they deserve.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Maryland.

NATIONAL SMALL BUSINESS WEEK

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, today I rise to speak about National Small Business Week. As ranking member of the Senate Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship, I want to thank the 30 million small businesses in America for their contributions to our economy during this National Small Business Week.

I look forward to National Small Business Week every year because it is a chance for us to honor the small businesses and communities in Maryland and across the country that may not make headlines, but they steadily move our economy forward by improving industries, developing new products, and creating employment opportunities for more than 47 percent of all American workers.

One tradition of National Small Business Week is that the Small Business Administration selects a Small Business Person of the Year from each State, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands, and Guam.

This year's Maryland Small Business Person of the Year is Zhensen Huang,

the chief executive officer of Precise Software Solutions—an innovative information technology company that is based in Rockville, MD. Dr. Huang is also a professor of information systems at the University of Maryland Baltimore County, where he is training future leaders in Maryland's technology sector.

Small business owners like Dr. Huang are the cornerstone of Maryland's economy, and their deep roots in the community help to shape the culture and character of our State. I thank Dr. Huang for bringing dynamism and ingenuity to Maryland's economy, and I wish him and his colleagues continued success.

I have met with countless small business owners like Dr. Huang as I have traveled across my home State of Maryland, which we proudly call ''America in Miniature'' due to our diversity. From bustling metropolitan areas like Baltimore City and the DC suburbs to rural communities on the Eastern Shore and in Mountain Maryland, small businesses are not just where we buy products and services; they are the building blocks that make up our communities.

That is why I requested a seat on the Small Business and Entrepreneurship Committee when I began serving in the Senate in 2007. I wanted to make sure small businesses in Maryland and across the country were receiving the support they needed from Washington. Nationwide, small businesses account for 99.9 percent of all businesses, with there being a total of nearly 31 million small businesses that employ 60 million Americans.

According to the Small Business Administration Office of Advocacy, small businesses created 1.8 million net jobs in 2016, the most recent year for which data is available. Of those jobs created, more than 1.2 million were created by small businesses with fewer than 20 employees. It is clear that small businesses are the growth engine that power our economy, so it is on us in Congress to ensure that they receive the support they need to overcome the unique challenges they face.

When I meet with small businesses across Maryland, one of their top concerns is often their access to capital. Capital is the lifeblood of small businesses. So, for many small businesses, an SBA-backed loan is a lifeline that is the difference between success and failure in the early, fragile stages of a small business's life.

I see the benefits of SBA-backed loans every time I drive past Under Armour's headquarters in Baltimore. Without an SBA-backed loan, Under Armour may not have been able to grow from a small business being run out of a basement to the global brand, with thousands of employees in Baltimore, that it is today. Last year alone, SBA-backed financing helped nearly 75,000 small businesses access more than $36 billion in capital, and it supported more than 725,000 jobs.

The SBA's finance programs are models of public-private partnerships and do a lot of good in this country, but some of the programs are not adequately reaching underserved communities, especially those of minorities, women, and veterans. I do note that the SBA's Microloan Program and the 7(a) Community Advantage Pilot Program do punch above their weight in reaching underserved borrowers. We can learn from how those programs are being operated to help underserved communities in order to help modify loan programs such as the 7(a) and 504 so they may be able to reach more of the underserved communities.

The chronic shortfall of SBA loans reaching the minority communities is especially important in Maryland, which I am proud to say has the highest average number of minority-owned businesses in the country. Minority-owned firms are two to three times more likely to be denied credit, more likely to avoid applying for loans based on the belief that they will be turned down, and more likely to receive smaller loans and pay higher interest rates on the loans they do receive.

Last September, I held a field hearing in Baltimore at Morgan State University—a revered HBCU—to learn more about the struggles minority entrepreneurs face in their accessing of capital.

One of the key takeaways from the hearing was that minority small business owners need SBA to fill the gaps when private lenders often fall short. Additionally, access to capital must go hand in hand with entrepreneurial development training. The entrepreneurial development programs at the SBA provided mentorship, business advice, and training to more than 1.2 million entrepreneurs during fiscal year 2018.

These programs are invaluable. Data show that small businesses created by entrepreneurs who receive at least 3 hours of SBA counseling have higher success rates than small businesses created by entrepreneurs who have not received that amount of counseling.

Knowing that small businesses, especially minority-owned small businesses, need more support from the SBA, not less, is why I remain deeply troubled by the administration's efforts to make vital business counseling and SBA-backed loans more difficult to access.

The administration's fiscal year 2020 budget proposed more than a quarter of a billion dollars in new fees for SBA-backed loans. Simply put, this is a $255 million tax on American small business owners. Additionally, instead of investing in entrepreneurial development programs, the administration's recent budget proposed $67 million in cuts to these programs.

The administration's efforts to undermine the SBA are even more concerning considering the current lack of leadership at the Agency. Since the resignation of Administrator Linda McMahon, the President has not sent Congress a nomination for a new Administrator. I also remain concerned about the administration's failure to nominate a Deputy Administrator—a position that has been vacant for more than 12 months.

We hear from the administration that we haven't acted on their nominees. We don't have the nominees to act on. As I speak, there are thousands of small business owners from across the country who are visiting Washington, DC, in order to participate in the National Small Business Week events that have been scheduled, and many more are participating in events across the country.

Let us honor them and their contributions by giving the SBA the tools and leadership it needs to help entrepreneurs build successful small businesses. I look forward to continuing to work with Chairman MARCO RUBIO and our colleagues in the House, in a bipartisan fashion, to support American small businesses so they can continue developing innovative products and services and creating jobs.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mrs. FISCHER). The Senator from Iowa.

Mr. GRASSLEY. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order of the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection.

REMEMBERING ROBERT PEAR

Mr. GRASSLEY. Madam President, I come to the floor today to pay tribute to a revered and distinguished member of the press corps, Robert Pear, a longtime reporter for the New York Times. He spent four decades in the corridors of this U.S. Capitol.

I often say that journalists are the watchdogs of democracy, and I really believe that—policing their beats to inform the public and, more importantly, to hold wrongdoers and especially our big government accountable. That makes them very valuable to preserving our representative system of government. These journalists serve as the eyes and ears of the American people—reporting on issues that impact the daily lives and livelihoods of our neighbors. From crime to education, healthcare, and foreign policy, journalists serve as guardians of the First Amendment.

That brings me to Robert.

On Tuesday, the healthcare beat lost a legendary reporter. The death of Robert Pear will be mourned for many years to come. As the dean of the national healthcare reporters, he established a reputation for hard-nosed reporting. For decades, he carried out a noble mission to inform the public, and he did it with integrity and fairness. He leaves behind a legacy of unmatched institutional knowledge, particularly in the area of healthcare policy.

As a policymaker and history buff myself, I read as much news as I can possibly get my hands on. On weekends, I catch up on my reading when traveling to and from Iowa. For every year I have served in the U.S. Senate, Mr. Pear's byline has appeared in the New York Times. I am told that it appeared more than 6,700 times. It is a byline that I made sure not to miss.

His work put meat on the bones of public policy. Even those of us who study legislation closely could learn a lot and did learn a lot from his writings. Substantive and crisp, his exceptional reporting delivered a thorough analysis of complex issues and then without a doubt influenced the policy conversation on healthcare.

His prolific pen sharpened the minds of readers, including staff and lawmakers who wrote legislation here on Capitol Hill. It even informed lobbyists who worked to penetrate and influence the debate. His work carried weight with those who implemented healthcare policy from the executive branch, including the White House, the Department of Health and Human Services, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services, the National Institutes of Health, and the Food and Drug Administration.

Now that he has passed away, his absence on the healthcare beat here on Capitol Hill will be missed profoundly. His understanding of the mechanics of health policy were without equal. He was able to wade through the weeds of our archaic Federal spending formulas for Medicare and Medicaid and decipher their impact on the delivery of care in my rural communities but also urban America. Mr. Pear deftly communicated how proposed changes would affect patient care, from the point of service to the pharmaceutical counter and the pocketbooks of consumers. Policymakers, providers, patients, and the taxpayers have been well-served by this giant of journalism.

Unlike many of his peers, Mr. Pear shunned the spotlight by just doing the old-fashioned shoe-leather reporting. Unassuming and understated, Mr. Pear let his published work speak for itself.

I am sure you are going to hear from Ranking Member WYDEN shortly, and he knows Mr. Pear very well and would agree with some of these things I say.

Before holding a press conference to unveil a bill dealing with healthcare, any Senator, including this one, had to be sure to have all their ducks in a row. No lawmaker wanted to be a sitting duck with Robert Pear in the front row of the press gaggle.

I will miss his bylines, particularly the extent to which they helped to educate me, helped me to understand policy that other Members of Congress were promoting and maybe even learning from his criticism on some stands that I took.

Today, I extend my condolences to his family, friends, and peers. I salute his lifelong contribution through exemplary service on behalf of the American people—most importantly, policing the process of representative government and making sure that government and those of us who serve in government are accountable.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Oregon.

Mr. WYDEN. Madam President, before he leaves the floor, I just want to thank the chairman of the Finance Committee. I think the chairman said: Well, the ranking member might agree with some of my comments. I agree with every one of the chairman's comments.

I think, Madam President, how I would begin—and I think the Chairman would agree on this—we can have some pretty spirited debates about healthcare in this Chamber and in the Finance Committee, but, as the chairman indicated, there isn't an inch of difference with respect to our views on Robert Pear. We all thought he was a true professional, and he was the gold standard of journalism as it relates to healthcare.

I thought about yesterday, Chairman GRASSLEY, because we had a hearing on a topic relating to reimbursement of physicians. I think the chairman and I would be of like mind—it probably wouldn't be inherently fascinating in every coffee shop in Iowa and Oregon, but it is incredibly important, for example, for the survival of rural hospitals and so many concerns that I know the Presiding Officer of the Senate has and the distinguished chairman of the Finance Committee has. I looked over at the press table, Chairman GRASSLEY, and the seat for Robert Pear was missing.

Robert Pear—and that was what this special man was all about—never jumped to sit in front and say: Well, I am from the New York Times, so I should count more. As the chairman remembers, he always sat in the back.

I thought we missed him so much yesterday. The chairman and I had just gotten the news. What we were talking about yesterday was what Robert Pear was all about—taking a very complicated issue that probably was not inherently fascinating and putting it in very simple, understandable, thoughtful words for the American people. As the chairman correctly said, that was what everybody would wait for when there was a complicated issue. You would hear it among Republicans, the chairman's staff, and my staff. People would hear about an issue, and very often, the first thing they would say was ''Did Robert Pear write about it?''

If Robert Pear wrote about it, it was important. In fact, one of the most noteworthy aspects of the incredible outpouring of affection and admiration for Robert Pear yesterday—and the chairman and I talked about it in committee—is the New York Times had a slug called ''Pear on Health,'' and all over the country, my guess is—the Des Moines Register; the Oregonian, my paper, a big paper in Oregon—they would all wait for the Robert Pear slug because they knew that was a very important issue.

The fact that Robert Pear wasn't at the witness table yesterday after all these years broke our hearts and brought back a lot of memories. I actually was stunned over the years—and the chairman touched on it—by his encyclopedic knowledge of healthcare. He remembered the amendment to the amendment to the amendment to the amendment that somebody offered 10 or 15 years ago.

When I came to the Congress, he went and studied the history of the Gray Panthers. I was codirector of the senior citizens group. My little one still wonders if they are the Pink Panthers. Robert Pear knew everything about that.

When he was up on the Hill—and the chairman probably remembers this—he had a little notebook in which he scribbled Chairman GRASSLEY's remarks or my remarks or whoever he was talking to, but he also had bigger notebooks, and he kept an exhaustive set of files.

In a town where, particularly at important post-hearing or post-legislation events, all the reporters are shouting one above another, Robert Pear was the most soft-spoken voice in the room. In fact, I was at some events—my guess is that the chairman was as well—where it got kind of loud and frantic. They were throwing microphones and the like at you. When Robert Pear raised his hand and was called on, the room hushed. It went quiet because everybody understood that the question Robert Pear would ask was the right one.

Senator GRASSLEY and I were talking yesterday about how we particularly appreciated and felt—Republicans and Democrats—that Robert Pear was fair to all sides, and he held us all accountable. The general sense was that if you were a legislator and you were going to be interviewed by Robert Pear, you better go out and do some serious prep work because he would know the subject inside-out and in that soft-spoken way would just stay at it until he excavated the real effects. That was part of the Pear ''tell the right story in the right way'' approach to ensure that if you read a Robert Pear health story, you learned something. I think most Senators would agree that is not always the case with every single story, but that was the standard Robert Pear set.

I think what I would like to say is that there are going to be a number of Senators who over the years had a chance to work with Robert Pear. We are going to hear their own accounts of their relationships, but we are not going to hear one single Senator—not one—say that Robert Pear tried to make them look bad, took a cheap shot, or tried to say something flashy in order to get a headline. They are going to say just the opposite. They are going to say: That is what journalism is supposed to be all about.

I am a journalist's kid and very proud of it. My dad was a first-generation Jewish kid. He taught himself English and was a journalist. He always said: ''Ron, the journalist's job is to ask the tough questions—the tough questions that really matter.''

Robert Pear asked the tough questions, no doubt about that, but he always did it in a very unique way, a fair way, a thoughtful way, a way that embodied the gold standard for journalism that I have described.

So yesterday was particularly sad. We got the news in the morning. We had that healthcare hearing, which started about an hour after we got the news. The first thing I thought of as I came into the room was how hard it is going to be—and it is not going to stop hurting for a long time—to imagine that seat at the end of the press table not having the thoughtful, informed Robert Pear sitting there so he could get the facts to the American people.

So I just want to close today—we have had a number of colleagues speak already—to say, Robert, Robert Pear, you were the consummate professional. You were fair to the bone. It was an honor—an honor to get to work with you over the years in healthcare. We say goodbye to someone who was a true mensch, and this afternoon with heavy hearts, we think of Robert Pear and want the country to know what an extraordinary person he was.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. I recognize the Senator from Iowa.

Mr. GRASSLEY. Madam President, I come to speak on another matter, but I want to thank Senator WYDEN for the kind words he had to say, as well, about a very distinguished journalist.

ATTORNEY GENERAL BARR

Madam President, yesterday, the House Judiciary Committee voted to hold Attorney General Barr in contempt of Congress. Mr. Barr has been transparent. He made the Mueller report available to them—99 percent unredacted in the obstruction section of that report. Instead of reading it, the Democrats, who voted for contempt, moved like lightning straight to the charge of contempt. To me, that is not good-faith negotiation.

In a similar situation, now a few years ago, in a Democratic administration, with a Democratic Attorney General, with a House of Representatives held by Republicans, the House only held Attorney General Holder in contempt after many months of negotiation over documents that were withheld on bogus grounds; and just for connecting that to an issue, that was the Fast and Furious investigation that I was involved in as well. We had a very good case against Holder. We attempted to negotiate with Holder for a long period of time before the other body held him in contempt.

This particular issue of contempt of this Attorney General is not a good case. I would like to say, as a person who promotes congressional oversight of every Democratic and every Republican President to make sure they faithfully execute the law, that what the House Judiciary Committee did yesterday, just a few days after Mr. Barr didn't do exactly what they wanted him to do and comparing that with the negotiations we had with the executive branch of the Obama Attorney General on Fast and Furious, is going to make it very difficult in the future for Congress to conduct its constitutional role of oversight because future Presidents are going to use this as an example of a bad-faith attempt to negotiate with the executive branch of Government to get what you want. Maybe what they want isn't real information or real congressional oversight; they may be trying to make political points.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. YOUNG). Without objection, it is so ordered.

BORDER SECURITY

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, yesterday, the Judiciary Subcommittee on Border Security and Immigration that I chair held a hearing on the humanitarian and security crisis along the southern border. One of the witnesses we heard from was Border Patrol Chief Carla Provost, who leads the dedicated law enforcement officers who safeguard our Nation's borders every day. She has been with the Border Patrol for 25 years, and she has witnessed firsthand the ebb and flow of border crossings during that entire quarter century.

Chief Provost announced the most recent data that shows how dire the situation along our southern border is. She described these numbers as off the charts, which I think is a gentle way of putting it.

Before I get to the numbers, let me provide some context. In October 2018, the start of the fiscal year, Customs and Border Protection encountered nearly 61,000 migrants at the border. That is higher than any month in the previous fiscal year. At the time, we were all alarmed by the increase, but last month's numbers completely eclipsed those levels. Chief Provost announced at our hearing yesterday that in the month of April, CBP encountered more than 109,000 illegal immigrants along the southern border. From October to April, we jumped from roughly 61,000 to 109,000 per month, a 78-percent increase over just the 6-month period.

In addition to that enormous monthly total, she told us about the record-breaking daily total last week. Border Patrol apprehended 5,200 people in a single day—the highest number on record. The problem is that we can't simply send these migrants home under the current state of the law. So the more individuals we apprehend, the more detention space we need. If we don't have the detention space, these individuals would simply just be released into the American population. We will never hear from most of them again, unless they commit some other crime.

But the fact of the matter is, we are overtaxing the capabilities of the Border Patrol, of Customs and Border Protection, of the local communities, and of the nongovernmental organizations that try to assist these migrants while they are in our country and in our custody. On certain days over the last month, CBP has had more than 14,000 people in custody, far greater than the capacity they are able to hold.

People may ask: Why do we have to detain people? Why can't we just let them go and tell them to show back up for a future court date?

We know from sad experience that the majority will not return for that court date, even if they have legitimate claims for asylum. We now know that there are more than 700,000—I think approaching 800,000—backlog immigration cases waiting to be heard by an immigration judge. This, again, is overwhelming our capacity to deal with these on an individual basis.

Back to the numbers, earlier this week the Rio Grande Valley Sector announced that their stations and processing centers were holding more than 7,000 illegal immigrants, and that is just one Border Patrol sector. In a recent television interview, Acting DHS Secretary Kevin McAleenan accurately described these facilities as being similar to police stations. Suffice it to say that CBP does not have the facilities or resources to manage that many people in a police station-like environment.

If you think that sounds pretty grim, just wait because it gets worse. We aren't only overwhelmed by the number of individuals coming across the border but by the types of people who are arriving. I am talking about children and families who are mostly from Central America. We were told that, all told, Border Patrol encounters, in a given year, individuals from 140 different countries.

Since the criminal organizations that smuggle people into the United States are open for business, they are more than happy to take a Bangladeshi, a Yemeni, somebody from Iraq or from Afghanistan or, for that matter, from Iran and bring them across the border into the United States.

When our detention facilities were built, they were designed to hold single adults for a short duration, which used to account for the majority of people apprehended. That is simply not the case anymore. The human smugglers and criminal organizations that charge $5,000, $6,000, $7,000 a head to bring people into the United States have studied our laws and have learned how to exploit the loopholes and the gaps. That

is why the composition of these migrants has changed so much over the years from single adults to children and to families.

In April, 68 percent of those apprehended were either families or unaccompanied children. This has put the Border Patrol in a very awkward position. Chief Provost noticed that her agents were spending now about 40 percent of their time processing migrants and providing care and transportation. She had a picture—a chart—that she demonstrated with a Border Patrol agent nursing a baby with a bottle and another Border Patrol agent cradling an infant in his arms. In other words, instead of being on the frontlines against illegal drugs coming across our border—which contributed to the deaths of 70,000 Americans last year alone and where 90 percent of the heroin and synthetic opioids known as fentanyl come principally from Mexico—instead of fighting that scourge and stopping that poison from coming into the United States, our Border Patrol has now been diverted to being, essentially, a childcare center handing out juice boxes and diapers. They aren't processing or stopping illegal immigrants or the human traffickers.

Trying to deal with these record high numbers, we know that the numbers of people coming across are far exceeding the resources available for the Border Patrol. With so many more people to process and more manpower needed, the Border Patrol has been taken off the line, leaving areas of the border vulnerable to exploitation by human smugglers and drug cartels.

Think about it. If you are a leader of a drug cartel trying to move heroin, methamphetamine, fentanyl, or other illegal drugs into the United States, why wouldn't you try to flood the Border Patrol with children and families so they would be taken off the line and distracted to take care of these individuals, as opposed to stopping those drugs? Of course, this is part of a larger plan.

Unfortunately, the Congress is doing little, if anything, about it. I don't think it takes an expert to see that things are bad, and I hope my colleagues can recognize that we need to act before they get worse. This is a problem that the President can't solve on his own and the Border Patrol can't solve on its own. This is about the legal authorities that the U.S. Government has to deal with this chaos and this humanitarian crisis at our own border. It takes a change in laws passed by Congress. So we must act on a bipartisan and bicameral basis to respond or this is going to get worse and worse.

Yesterday Chief Provost compared the current situation to holding a bucket under a faucet. It doesn't matter how many buckets you have if you never turn the water off. Well, that is what we need to do—stop the flow of people trying to enter our country illegally.

Last week, Congressman HENRY CUELLAR—my friend, a Democrat from Laredo, TX—and I introduced a bill called the HUMANE Act, which would at least slow that faucet to a drip and provide serious relief for the personnel who serve along the border. It focuses on the problems posed by high numbers of unaccompanied children and families, whom we do not have the capacity to adequately care for. It requires the Department of Homeland Security to keep families together through court proceedings—something we all should agree to—and provides safeguards to prevent children from being placed in the custody of dangerous individuals—sex offenders, human traffickers, and the like.

It also requires the Department of Homeland Security to establish regional processing centers in high traffic areas and to improve the processing of humanitarian relief claims by requiring those to be processed at ports of entry.

Finally, it mandates the hiring of 600 new CBP personnel to alleviate the personnel strain and get more of these highly trained men and women back on the frontlines. I hope we will have the opportunity to review this legislation soon in the Judiciary Committee. Chairman GRAHAM has told me he is willing to do that, and I hope our friends in the House will take it up soon.

America would never think of sending our men and women in the military to war without providing them the training, the equipment, and the support they need in order to fight and win our Nation's wars. Yet somehow we have sent the Border Patrol into a battle that is designed for failure. They simply don't have the numbers. They don't have the resources. We don't have the facilities in order to deal with this. We can't just try to staunch the flow while it gets worse and worse and worse and worse. Instead of putting another bucket under the faucet as it runs wide open, we need to turn that faucet off, and the only way we can do that is by Congress acting. It is on us, and we must act and act soon.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Virginia.

PUBLIC SERVICE RECOGNITION WEEK

Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, I rise in celebration of Public Service Recognition Week, a time to honor public servants at all levels of government for their dedication and outstanding service to this Nation. Since 2010, I have taken to the Senate floor to honor our particularly noteworthy government employees—a tradition that was first begun by my good friend Senator Ted Kaufman.

Today and during this week, I would like to continue this tradition by highlighting the contributions of three Virginians who have worked tirelessly to improve the functioning of our government and advance America's interests at home and abroad.

TRIBUTE TO MICHAEL KOZAK

Mr. President, I would like to first recognize Ambassador Michael Kozak from Arlington. Ambassador Kozak currently serves as Senior Bureau Official at the State Department's Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights, and Labor. When I first read this, I did a double-take because Ambassador Kozak's remarkable career at State spans 47 years and nine Presidents.

Throughout his accomplished career, Ambassador Kozak has been a steadfast advocate for democracy and human rights abroad, serving at the forefront of many historical negotiations. During the seventies and eighties, he played a key role in negotiating the Panama Canal and Egypt-Israel peace treaties. In the 1990s, as chief of mission in Havana, he led the talks with senior officials from Fidel Castro's regime in Cuba before his appointment as Ambassador to Belarus.

Throughout his career, Ambassador Kozak has worked to combat anti-Semitism and promote human rights, and his work has been instrumental to promoting global peace and U.S. interests abroad.

Thank you, Ambassador Kozak.

TRIBUTE TO KARA DE CASTRO

Mr. President, next I would like to recognize Kara De Castro from Haymarket, VA. Through her work at the National Nuclear Security Administration, Ms. De Castro has led crucial programs to reduce one of our Nation's most significant national security threats—nuclear proliferation. Ms. De Castro has been instrumental in developing a ''nuclear security culture'' that is focused on the proper handling and use of nuclear materials. She is an Army veteran, and the Russian language training she received in the military has been put to good use through her work in the former Soviet Union. These efforts have led to the downgrading of 17 metric tons of highly enriched uranium, the equivalent of 446 nuclear weapons.

I thank Ms. De Castro for making the world a safer place.

TRIBUTE TO JOHN WAGNER

Finally, Mr. President, I want to recognize John Wagner from Ashburn, who serves as Deputy Executive Assistant Commissioner of the U.S. Customs and Border Protection. For those of you who might actually follow some of this and are keeping score at home, John's name might sound familiar. He has been recognized before, including by me on this floor, for strengthening the passport control process through the Global Entry Trusted Traveler Program and the Automated Passport Control Program, which are widely familiar to many international travelers. That alone would have been enough to gain recognition and be good enough for a whole career.

Since then, John has spearheaded facial recognition systems at several major U.S. airports, which offer a fast and paperless method of screening incoming and outgoing travelers. To

date, the software has identified 45 fraudulent travel documents and approximately 7,000 visa overstays.

These innovative processes conceived by Mr. Wagner have increased the efficiency, minimized costs, and allowed CBP officers to focus on keeping our country safe.

I hope my colleagues will join me in congratulating Ambassador Kozak, Ms. De Castro, and Mr. Wagner and thanking them for their great work.

FEDERAL WORKERS

In closing, Mr. President, I am going to say a few words about the way our Federal workers have been treated, unfortunately, during this administration. The truth is, the service of Federal workers like Ambassador Kozak, Ms. De Castro, and Mr. Wagner have not been honored by the President. Instead of appreciation, our Federal employees have too often faced complete disrespect in the form of pay freezes, hostile Executive orders, and of course the President's own disastrous government shutdown. During that 35-day, self-inflicted crisis, thousands of Federal workers went without pay. It is true that after we reopened they got that backpay, but during that tenure when they couldn't make their bills, oftentimes folks had to get out of daycare and couldn't get to the doctor. The stories we heard were remarkable. One survey found that more than half of all Federal workers dipped into savings to make ends meet. Those who weren't furloughed workers worked long hours in stressful and thinly staffed circumstances for weeks on end.

Candidly, I fear that the President's efforts to antagonize the Federal workforce is discouraging the best and brightest from serving in our government—at a time when nearly one-third of our Federal workers are nearing retirement age. This is wrong; it is unsustainable; and as a former CEO, these are just not good business practices, as well as the taxpayers will suffer from the consequences of this President's actions.

Our public servants are not bargaining chips. They are not faceless bureaucrats. They are our fellow Americans who dedicate their lives to serving their country, to protecting its people, and to making sure our tax dollars are properly spent.

Finally, I want to say, again, thank you to all our Federal workers. You deserve much better than what you have had the last couple of years. I will continue fighting in the Senate to protect your pay, your benefits, and your ability to continue to focus on what you signed up for—serving our country and its people.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. All postcloture time is expired.

The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the Park nomination?

Mrs. HYDE-SMITH. Mr. President, I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk called the roll.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senator is necessarily absent: the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MORAN).

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Colorado (Mr. BENNET), the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. BOOKER), the Senator from Maryland (Mr. CARDIN), the Senator from California (Ms. HARRIS), the Senator from Arizona (Ms. SINEMA), and the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. UDALL) are necessarily absent.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The result was announced—yeas 52, nays 41, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 106 Ex.]

YEAS—52

Alexander	Fischer	Portman
Barrasso	Gardner	Risch
Blackburn	Graham	Roberts
Blunt	Grassley	Romney
Boozman	Hawley	Rounds
Braun	Hoeven	Rubio
Burr	Hyde-Smith	Sasse
Capito	Inhofe	Scott (FL)
Cassidy	Isakson	Scott (SC)
Collins	Johnson	Shelby
Cornyn	Kennedy	Sullivan
Cotton	Lankford	Thune
Cramer	Lee	Tillis
Crapo	McConnell	Toomey
Cruz	McSally	Wicker
Daines	Murkowski	Young
Enzi	Paul	
Ernst	Perdue	

NAYS—41

Baldwin	Hirono	Rosen
Blumenthal	Jones	Sanders
Brown	Kaine	Schatz
Cantwell	King	Schumer
Carper	Klobuchar	Shaheen
Casey	Leahy	Smith
Coons	Manchin	Stabenow
Cortez Masto	Markey	Tester
Duckworth	Menendez	Van Hollen
Durbin	Merkley	Warner
Feinstein	Murphy	Warren
Gillibrand	Murray	Whitehouse
Hassan	Peters	Wyden
Heinrich	Reed	

NOT VOTING—7

Bennet	Harris	Udall
Booker	Moran	
Cardin	Sinema	

The nomination was confirmed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I move to proceed to legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion.

The motion was agreed to.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 25.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion.

The motion was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The bill clerk read the nomination of Michael J. Truncale, of Texas, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Texas.

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I send a cloture motion to the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

The bill clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Michael J. Truncale, of Texas, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Texas.

Mitch McConnell, Johnny Isakson, Roger F. Wicker, John Boozman, John Cornyn, Mike Crapo, Shelley Moore Capito, Pat Roberts, Roy Blunt, Deb Fischer, David Perdue, Todd Young, John Thune, Mike Rounds, Steve Daines, John Hoeven, Thom Tillis.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I move to proceed to legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion.

The motion was agreed to.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 202.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion.

The motion was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The bill clerk read the nomination of Kenneth Kiyul Lee, of California, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Ninth Circuit.

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I send a cloture motion to the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

The bill clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Kenneth Kiyul Lee, of California,

to be United States Circuit Judge for the Ninth Circuit.

Mitch McConnell, John Hoeven, Chuck Grassley, James E. Risch, Johnny Isakson, John Barrasso, Steve Daines, David Perdue, Roger F. Wicker, Jerry Moran, John Cornyn, John Thune, Richard Burr, Mike Crapo, Pat Roberts, Lindsey Graham, Shelley Moore Capito.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I move to proceed to legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion.

The motion was agreed to.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 24.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion.

The motion was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The bill clerk read the nomination of Wendy Vitter, of Louisiana, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Louisiana.

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I send a cloture motion to the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

The bill clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Wendy Vitter, of Louisiana, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Louisiana.

Mitch McConnell, James E. Risch, Roy Blunt, Mike Rounds, Thom Tillis, David Perdue, John Cornyn, Mike Crapo, John Thune, John Hoeven, Johnny Isakson, John Boozman, Roger F. Wicker, Pat Roberts, Steve Daines, John Kennedy.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I move to proceed to legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion.

The motion was agreed to.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 221.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion.

The motion was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The bill clerk read the nomination of Brian J. Bulatao, of Texas, to be an Under Secretary of State (Management).

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I send a cloture motion to the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

The bill clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Brian J. Bulatao, of Texas, to be an Under Secretary of State (Management).

Mitch McConnell, Roger F. Wicker, Steve Daines, James E. Risch, Roy Blunt, Tim Scott, Mike Rounds, David Perdue, Mike Crapo, John Thune, John Hoeven, Johnny Isakson, John Boozman, Pat Roberts, John Kennedy, Thom Tillis, John Cornyn.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the mandatory quorum calls for the cloture motions be waived.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Louisiana.

TRIBUTE TO MIKE HACKLEY AND RECOGNIZING BBQGUYS

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. President, I rise as a Member of the U.S. Senate Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship to highlight a veteran-owned Louisiana business that is a true success story. With me today is my colleague from my office, Ms. Cassie Leonard.

We all know small businesses are how many Americans live the American dream. They start small; they start with a passion; they create jobs; and then they help us compete globally in America and spark innovation. These American small business owners are often our friends. They are often our neighbors.

They succeed through the hard work of entrepreneurs like Mr. Mike Hackley of Baton Rouge. I am talking about Mike and his business BBQGuys because it is National Small Business Week and because BBQGuys was named Senate Small Business of the Week just last week.

Mike has served our country in many ways. He has served our country in the Air Force for more than 10 years. Once his military career ended, he worked in a number of different sectors. Like a lot of Louisianans, Mike loves the outdoors. In Louisiana, we will barbecue no matter how hot it gets outside.

Mike turned his passion into a profession, and he did it by starting an outdoor business called The Grill Store & More.

Early on, being the perceptive business person he is, Mike saw an opening with e-commerce, something we take for granted today. He launched a website called www.bbqguys.com, and he did this in 2001, 18 years ago, when Americans who did have the internet were on dial-up connections.

Today, 18 years later, BBQGuys is a giant in outdoor living online retailers. Mike now employs nearly 300 workers. He started with less than 10. That is the American dream. That is American success, and BBQGuys continues to evolve and to grow.

They started designing and manufacturing premium barbecue grills, with manufacturing operations here in the United States, and they are looking to export into Europe and Australia.

Mike also remains committed to a culture of teamwork at BBQGuys. Every day he makes a point of going around the office to say good morning to his employees, and I am not talking about just to the executives. It is no wonder Mike has a high employee retention rate, a reputation for outstanding customer service, and an A-plus rating from the Better Business Bureau. BBQGuys has also been named one of the 5,000 fastest growing businesses in the United States by Inc. Magazine for 11 years in a row.

I am proud to stand today before the U.S. Senate to say I am proud of Mike Hackley. I am proud of what he has built. He is realizing the American dream, and he is creating good jobs for my State.

Mike, if you are listening, thank you for making Louisiana proud.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Utah.

Mr. LEE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

150TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE GOLDEN SPIKE

Mr. LEE. Mr. President, on May 10, 1869, a golden spike was driven into the last link joining the rails of the first transcontinental railroad at Promontory Summit, UT. Made of 17-carat gold and driven into a predrilled hole in the very last ceremonial tie, it bore the inscription: ''May God continue the unity of our country as this railroad unites the two great oceans of the world.'' Indeed, it did, with the joining of the Union Pacific Railroad, stretching from the Missouri River near the Iowa-Nebraska border, and the Central Pacific Railroad, stretching from Sacramento, CA—east met west. The United States became truly united.

As the spike was struck, a telegraph was sent around the Nation, and bells rang out from coast to coast. This moment, you see, gave lots of people throughout the United States and lots of people in my State of Utah in particular access to what they needed to grow, to thrive, to prosper, to feed their families; that is, access to other people.

Throughout the history of humanity, people have needed access to other people. That is why great civilizations have sprung up along great rivers and in areas where they had access to an ocean port. It is one of the reasons why, throughout much of history, people in land-locked regions of any country, including our own, very often have a hard time making a living. The introduction of the railroad started to help to change that.

Tomorrow marks the 150th anniversary of this pivotal moment, and so it is only right that we pause for just a minute to recognize it, for this was a moment that changed the course of history in Utah and in our Nation and ultimately the entire world. With the driving of that golden spike, the arduous 6-month journey that used to be required to cross the country—costing $1,000—had become a mere 10-day trip costing only $150.

Thousands of miles of tracks were laid across the country, allowing people to migrate west and to establish new settlements far more quickly, safely, and easily. It transformed the economy across Utah and throughout the Nation. Goods became efficiently transported across much farther distances. Settlers found new markets, and buyers on the frontier and in rural areas were able to purchase items that had previously been completely unavailable to them in some cases or at least very difficult to obtain. It spurred a boon in communications, commerce, agriculture, construction, and mining. It started a significant new chapter in our relationship with Asia and the Pacific region, and it served as a model of innovation and prosperity for the rest of the world.

All of this came about, it is important to note, from the perseverance and efforts of many different people from different walks of life working together. It required a clear-eyed vision from President Lincoln and the Federal Government and a fruitful private-public partnership that allowed the engineers, railroad companies, and local communities the freedom to do their jobs and to do them well and without undo interference. It would not have been possible without the work of the Chinese, Irish, Mormons, Civil War veterans, Native Americans, and countless other laborers who toiled so long and so hard with such a clear devotion to build these railroads.

Most of this is, of course, in the history books, as well it ought to be. Most of us have a sense of the enormous achievement this moment represented some 150 years ago tomorrow, of the great impact it had on our Nation and the legacy it has left behind for us and for our posterity. But what we often do not know are some of the stories of the ordinary men and women behind these achievements and the ones who have worked so hard to preserve this great legacy. There are, in fact, hidden heroes who make history and unseen efforts of people who worked so hard to keep that history alive. The doors of history sometimes turn on small and often unseen hinges, and so I would like to take a moment to honor a few of those people today who helped move history forward.

Some of us might know the name of Theodore Judah—a railroad and civil engineer who was key to the original idea and design of connecting these railroads and who advocated for the so-called Central Route for the first transcontinental railroad, the Central Route marked in red in this picture. But less familiar is the name of Theodore's wife, Anna Judah.

While many routes were surveyed as possible paths for the railroad, Theodore Judah had an often-scoffed-at dream of laying rails through the mountains of the Sierra Nevada, from California going eastward. Anna Judah shared Theodore's dream of connecting the first transcontinental railroad. When Theodore hiked and surveyed the Sierra Nevadas, Anna hiked and worked right alongside of him. She sketched and did water colors and even oil paintings of the terrain, plants, and the foliage. She gathered and labeled the various fossils and minerals. She took copious notes all the while, taking into account different things she and her husband observed as they were traveling.

After their time in the Sierra Nevadas, Theodore and Anna, like Brigham Young, knew: This is the place. Together they fell in love with the idea of the railroad taking the Central Route across the Sierra Nevadas, believing that it would provide the perfect path for what they wanted to accomplish. So they began traveling back and forth from California, dedicating their efforts to lobbying for their dream in Washington.

Anna was sharp, charming, tenacious, and undoubtedly she was Theodore's biggest booster. She had the idea to display an exhibit right here in the Capitol showcasing her notes and her clippings from their travels in the area, her drawings and her paintings, samples of mineral and ore she had collected, and charts and graphs that she was able to present in a way that made them understandable to laymen, that helped other people understand why this area was so important and the significant role it could play in our Nation's development.

Literally hundreds of Senators, Congressmen, lobbyists, and government clerks visited her display, which helped convince the eastern legislators of the beauty of the western mountains—which many of them had never seen or at least not experienced anything like the way she had—and turned their hearts to the possibility of building a railroad over them and through them to unite a country.

Ultimately, Congress was persuaded—to everyone's benefit—to choose Judah's proposal for the Central Route and did so in large part because of Anna Judah's efforts.

Tragically, Anna's husband Theodore contracted yellow fever. As a result, he died before seeing the railroad completed and, in fact, even before the project was started in earnest. But Anna lived to see their dream to fruition. In fact, the driving of the last spike took place on what would have been the couple's 22nd wedding anniversary. On the date of the ceremony, Anna visited her husband's grave, and she wrote that there her husband's spirit—so long dedicated to the railroad—felt somehow near to her once again.

Years later, another young woman fell in love with the history of the Golden Spike and the beginning of the first transcontinental railroad. Bernice Gibbs Anderson, known to some as the Mother of the Golden Spike, was born in Colorado in 1900 and lived the majority of her life in Corinne, UT.

As a little girl, Bernice helped trail cattle near Promontory Summit and grew up hearing cowboy stories around the campfire, including stories about the Golden Spike, and, as her granddaughter put it, ''She just plain fell in love with it.'' From the time she was 19 up until the moment of her death, she tirelessly dedicated her life to recognizing and preserving the history surrounding Golden Spike.

Bernice conceived the idea that the area around Promontory Summit ought to be set aside to commemorate the completion of the transcontinental railroad. For years, she campaigned to make Promontory Summit a national historic monument.

She visited countless legislators, Governors, commissioners, and railroad officers to raise support and raise funds for a monument at Promontory Summit.

A mother of six children, she also worked as a correspondent and as a staff writer for the Salt Lake Tribune, where she wrote historic articles and poetry about the Golden Spike. She sent letters and invitations to Members of Congress, U.S. Presidents, and Park Service officials—all in hopes that they might come to recognize the importance of the site.

As President of the Golden Spike Association, she coordinated reenactment ceremonies and anniversary programs, encouraging local communities to participate in those celebrations every year. While some viewed her mission as somewhat unimportant—or, at least, less important than other things—and, therefore, dismissed her efforts, she never gave up.

Thankfully, Bernice lived to see the fruits of her labors. After years of devoting her life to this case, Promontory Summit was declared a national historic site on July 30, 1965. Just this past March, it was redesignated as a national historic park—the first in Utah—allowing even more of the railroad and the surrounding area to be preserved for history going forward.

Fast forward to 2019. We now reached the 150th anniversary of the Golden

Spike. Today, another dedicated woman has been behind its sesquicentennial celebration, Spike 150. Aimee McConkie, carrying the banner previously carried by Anna Judah and Bernice Gibbs Anderson, has been a driving force in our State and in her community. A BYU graduate, a wife, and mother of four daughters, Aimee has worked for 15 years in professional association management.

In 2005 she founded Utah Venture Outdoors, a summer festival series in Millcreek, UT. For 14 years, she volunteered her time and her resources to this event, seeking to bring the community together through recreational opportunities.

In 2017 she also launched LABELED, a 4-day film festival that seeks to break the stigma around mental health issues. Now she has once again brought her community together for an important cause—this time, to celebrate and commemorate the 150th anniversary of the Golden Spike.

Under her leadership as director of Spike 150, there are events taking place not only around Promontory Summit but also around the entire State of Utah—events to highlight the history and legacy of the Golden Spike, events for children and families, and events for music, art, and train enthusiasts.

It has taken tremendous amounts of organization, coordination, and perseverance, and it would no doubt make Bernice Gibbs Anderson proud. At the 1957 celebration of the Golden Spike, she said:

> This is sacred soil, dedicated to the sacrifices of the thousands who labored in the great race to build the first transcontinental railway in the shortest possible time. . . . The destiny of this nation rode triumphant upon the rails that met at Promontory Station! The future of this site depends on you, my friends. Will it take its rightful place in the heritage and traditions of America . . . or will it remain desolate and forgotten to sink into oblivion[?]

Thanks to the work of people like Aimee McConkie, we know that the Golden Spike will not sink into oblivion but will indeed take its rightful place in history.

Anna Judah, Bernice Gibbs Anderson, and Aimee McConkie might have lived at different times, but there is a common thread that runs throughout their stories: the triumph of ordinary people, of the hidden heroes behind so many of our great achievements in history.

Without the work of these ordinary Americans and Utahns, we never could have achieved one of the most transformative events in our Nation thus far: the driving of the Golden Spike and the completion of the first transcontinental railroad. And without the work of these hidden heroes, we could never reasonably hope and expect to be able to keep this legacy alive.

It is our task now to take up the banner that these women have carried—the banner of innovation, perseverance, and unity—and to ensure that our remarkable heritage lives on. If we do, there is no telling what Utah and our great Nation can achieve together.

Thank you, Mr. President.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. BRAUN). The Senator from Tennessee.

BORDER SECURITY

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. President, I wanted to spend just a few minutes today speaking with my colleagues and also with Tennesseans about an issue that we hear so very much about every single day. The issue continues to persist. It is our border, and we all know—and, indeed, you read in news count after news count—that yes, indeed, there is a crisis at our border.

Just a few months ago, we had some of our friends who are in the other Chamber who kept saying: Oh, this is manufactured; oh, there is nothing to it.

But as we hear from law enforcement professionals, as we hear from ICE, from DHS, and from the Border Patrol, we have a crisis. Our border is strained to the breaking point.

The real humanitarian crisis at the border is escalating. There are people who are being brought in through Central America, through Mexico, and they are stranded in the desert without food and without water. During the summer, sometimes you have temperatures above 100 degrees.

Our border is at a breaking point, and it is, indeed, time for this body to do something about it and to support these Agencies that are on the frontline dealing with this crisis every single day.

What we know from our hearing that we held yesterday at the Senate Judiciary Committee is that ICE is facing mounting challenges when it comes to expediting the deportations that need to take place. Abuse and exploitation of the asylum process overburdens our court system as illegal immigrants flood our borders claiming persecution.

Our country historically welcomes people who are fleeing political persecution, but there have to be tighter rules on these asylum seekers. The percentage of those who have valid asylum claims is actually relatively low compared to the number who are applying for these protections. I will tell you that I welcome President Trump's moves to raise the standards.

Last week, the President directed the Department of Homeland Security to enact several new asylum changes. As part of these new policies, the President imposed a new deadline for the immigration courts to meet. He directed that cases in immigration courts be settled within 180 days of those being filed.

Tennesseans want to see government accountability. They want to see it across every Agency. Certainly, when it comes to immigration policy, they want this accountability. They know that with a 6-month deadline, it is exactly the kind of accountability that is needed.

Here is the problem that ICE is facing when it comes to meeting that 180-day standard. Right now, as of yesterday at our hearing, they had more than 800,000 cases that were pending. Think about that. Your court system has 800,000 cases that are pending. There are exactly 400 immigration judges that are there to hear these 800,000 cases. Do the math on that. Think about how many cases that would be.

It is a 2-year wait at this point to get the case heard. So ICE needs additional judges. That means they need additional officers, and that means they need additional funding in order to meet the load.

I asked Director Asher how long it would take them to ramp up in order to be able to hear these 800,000 cases. She said: months, maybe a year, maybe a little bit longer. It depends on when they get the authorization to expand the court system. It depends on when they get the funding for it.

All of this time, what continues to happen? Cases continue to be piled onto that backlog. If we took action today, and if we approved their ability to expand their capacity to have more judges, to have more agents, to have more officers, and to have more resources, it would be a year by the time we worked through this process. It might be as many as 1.5 million cases that they are working on.

This is one of the reasons that it is imperative that we close some of the loopholes that are being used in the asylum process and work through closing these loopholes to help secure this border. It is something that would be of assistance to those who are trying to meet the need that is there from people crushing our border, putting that foot on American soil, and claiming asylum and persecution.

Another thing we talked about in yesterday's hearing is trafficking. We all know that cartels are big business. Cartels deal in trafficking drugs. They deal in trafficking human beings, which is disgusting, and they look at human beings to move them for labor trafficking, for sex trafficking, and for gangs. They look at that as part of their business.

I know Senator CRUZ talked about his EL CHAPO Act, which would allow those seized assets from these drug lords to be used to help pay to secure that border, because stopping this trafficking is something that is an imperative. It really is true that until we secure this southern border every town is, in essence, a border town and every State is a border State because illegal immigration no longer is a problem that is confined to those States that are on the border. We see this all across our country, and it is heartbreaking—you talk about the trafficking of human beings, the sex trafficking, and the effect that has on girls, when you talk about the drug trafficking and the heartbreaking effects that has on families in every single one of our communities. Opioids, fentanyl, heroin—we all see it.

God bless our local law enforcement. Next week we are going to honor our

law enforcement, but God bless them for the work they do in our communities. Here is a good example. Just this past January, our Customs and Border Patrol seized the largest amount of fentanyl in the agency's history ever—largest amount. They seized nearly 254 pounds of fentanyl from a Mexican national trying to enter the United States. It was enough to kill more than 115 million people. That is the volume that 1 person was bringing over—enough fentanyl to kill 115 million people. This is why we have to make certain we secure that border.

As I mentioned, the trafficking of human beings is taking place. Another of the problems is that many adult sponsors who are seeking custody of children are here illegally themselves. The traffickers have adults grab a child; they are coming to the border. The child is then transferred to someone else in the country, and that individual is here illegally. It is difficult to find out how that child is connected to the adult they are taken to. Sometimes it could be a labor gang. Sometimes it could be a prostitution ring. We don't know. I commend the Departments of Homeland Security and Health and Human Services, which are taking steps to close a big loophole here. Last April, the two agencies entered into an agreement to ensure that relatives of these children are not above the law. Under the agreement, DHS and HHS promised to share information about these adult sponsors so that ICE can run criminal and immigration background checks on them. This agreement is a powerful tool in the fight to stop trafficking of migrant children. So long as law enforcement can keep running these criminal background checks on these sponsors, we can hold more adults accountable and keep these children safe.

Finally, I want to touch on the wall because Border Patrol Chief Provost told me during the hearing yesterday that the wall was working. The San Diego sector has 14 miles of the new double fencing that has been approved by Congress. It is the first of the sections of the new wall. Previously, some of the old walls were 6 feet high, and they were made out of landing mats, and they were not successful in deterring illegal entry. The new walls are 30 feet high, and they stand on steel bollards. The barrier is making it tougher for illegal immigrants to sneak across, and it is helping our agents. Our agents have told us repeatedly—not for the last few months or the last couple of years but, get this, for 20 years—for 20 years, they have said we need three things: We need a barrier; we need better technology; and we need more agents and officers on the ground.

These men and women deserve our best efforts, and we should be giving them what they need. Our immigration system is full of legal loopholes and physical vulnerabilities. I applaud the President's new asylum changes, and I urge each of my colleagues to support law enforcement's needs. They are consistent in asking for these three things—barriers, technology, and agents. This is what they need in order to help keep our Nation safe.

So as we consider how much we value our safe communities, how much we want our communities to be safe and happy and prosperous, I encourage each of us to think about these agents who are working to protect that southern border, to deal with human trafficking, to deal with sex trafficking, and to keep illegal drugs off our streets.

Thank you.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. 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.

(At the request of Mr. SCHUMER, the following statement was ordered to be printed in the RECORD.)

VOTE EXPLANATION

● Ms. HARRIS. Mr. President, I was necessarily absent but, had I been present, would have voted no on roll-call vote No. 117, the confirmation of Michael H. Park, of New York, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Second Circuit.●

NOMINATIONS

Ms. KLOBUCHAR. Mr. President, today I wish to express my opposition to recent nominees who have come before the Senate.

First, I would like to express my opposition to the nomination of Janet Dhillon, who was confirmed to serve as Chair of the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, EEOC, by a party line vote yesterday. The EEOC has a critical mission to enforce the Federal laws that make it illegal to discriminate against workers on the basis of their race, religion, national origin, or disability, and it was the first Federal agency to take the position that title VII of the Civil Rights Act protects employees from workplace discrimination based on their sexual orientation. Like many of my colleagues, I am concerned that Ms. Dhillon has refused to commit to uphold the EEOC's current interpretation of title VII as covering LGBTQ workers. I am also concerned by arguments that were made in legal briefs by the Retail Litigation Center under Ms. Dhillon's leadership, including arguments in support of policies to make it more difficult for employers to be held liable for harassment. It is for these reasons that I would not have voted in support of Ms. Dhillon' s nomination.

I also want to comment on my opposition to Cheryl Stanton's nomination to serve as Administrator of the Wage and Hour Division at the Department of Labor. Before Ms. Stanton's nomination, she served as executive director of the South Carolina Department of Employment and Workforce, in which capacity she garnished wages to collect unemployment insurance overpayments and had a public dispute with a staff member who refused to institute a personnel action after raising ethical objections. I voted against invoking cloture on Ms. Stanton's nomination and would have voted against her confirmation.

Finally, I want to address the nomination of Joseph Bianco for the United States Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit, which I opposed in the Judiciary Committee due to concerns regarding his record on such critical issues as privacy and civil liberties. I am also concerned that the Senate advanced Judge Bianco's nomination even though neither home State Senator returned a positive blue slip.

Thank you.

CONFIRMATION OF JANET DHILLON

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. President, I opposed the confirmation of Janet Dhillon to Chair the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission. The EEOC is an independent Federal agency with an absolutely vital mission: enforcing Federal laws against employment discrimination. But Ms. Dhillon has spent her career protecting corporations that are accused of discrimination by their workers.

As a leader of the Retail Litigation Center, she advocated legal positions designed to undermine workplace protections, especially low-income women and women of color.

The Retail Litigation Center helped defend Walmart against wage discrimination claims filed by 1.6 million women who worked at Walmart. In doing so, they managed to convince the Supreme Court to raise the legal barriers for all workers to bring discrimination claims.

In a different case, this one involving racial harassment against an African-American woman, the Retail Litigation Center convinced the Supreme Court to narrow the legal definition of a supervisor. This means that workers are now less able to hold their employers accountable for workplace harassment.

Both of these were 5–4 decisions that were supported by only the Republican Justices on the Supreme Court.

All workers need an EEOC that is looking out for them, but Ms. Dhillon's nomination to Chair the EEOC is yet another way that the Trump administration keeps rigging the system for

their corporate allies and stacking the deck against working people.

HONORING OUR ARMED FORCES

STAFF SERGEANT TRAVIS W. ATKINS

Mr. DAINES. Mr. President, in honor of National Military Appreciation Month, I want to recognize a Montana hero, Medal of Honor Recipient SSG Travis W. Atkins of Bozeman. Montana and the Nation are eternally grateful for the sacrifice he made to protect his fellow soldiers and his country. His memory will live on in the hearts of all Montanans for years to come.

I ask unanimous consent that a poem penned in his honor by Albert Carey Caswell be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

THE GREATER GOOD

The Greater Good . . .
In all you could . . .
Oh what would?
What would you do?
In honor should . . .
All in that moment of truth . . .
As there lies the truth . . .
So lies the proof . . .
In life and death . . .
When courage crest's . . .
To give all that you have left . . .
All in your most heroic quests . . .
As so surely lies our very best . . .
Our world shall bless . . .
Goodness . . . Evil . . . Darkness . . . Light . . .
Those Brave Hearts who evil must fight . . .
Who bring the light . . .
But, for the greater good . . .
To fight the darkness as Travis you so would . . .
And what child may be born . . .
From a future love you saved which may live on . . .
Who might save the world or touch hearts oh so warm . . .
For only the future tells . . .
For only our Lord knows so well . . .
As you Travis showed us all how future Angels are born . . .
All in honor's code . . .
As you so bore the load . . .
With all your splendid splendor so . . .
As we now so weep . . .
As your family and your Brothers In Arms will always keep . . .
Your most gallant memory in their hearts so deep . . .
My son, your battle is over now . . .
But, your new one is about. . .
Is about to begin my friend . . .
As an Angel in The Army of Our Lord, time and again . . .
As you will watch over us my friend . . .
And in Montana when there comes a gentle . . .
Our Lord's tears shall wash down upon your loved ones to ease their pain . . .
Until, one fine day once again . . .
Up in heaven you'll meet then . . .
And you won't have to cry no more . . .
At Ease . . .
As a new Angel rises up to heaven to bless . . .
As now we lay your fine body down to rest. . .
Who but For The Greater Good all of us so blessed . . .
Amen . . .

HONORING OUR ARMED FORCES

STAFF SERGEANT CHRISTOPHER SLUTMAN

Mr. CARPER. Mr. President, today I wish to pay tribute to an American hero and patriot who was taken from us far too soon. Earlier this month, I was standing in the flight line at the Dover Air Force Base alongside Congresswoman LISA BLUNT ROCHESTER and Senator CHRIS COONS. We were there to receive the remains of three marines killed in action on April 8, 2019, when a roadside bomb went off in Afghanistan. Two of the servicemembers killed were Active Duty: Cpl Robert A. Hendriks, of Long Island, NY, and SSgt Benjamin S. Hines of York County, PA.

There was a third: SSgt Christopher Slutman, a Reservist, a 15-year member of the New York City Fire Department, and a Delawarean. The 43-year-old U.S. Marine was also a loving husband to his wife Shannon and father to three daughters: McKenna, Kenley, and Weslynn. In life and in death, Staff Sergeant Slutman epitomized the best of America. He selflessly put his life on the line to protect and serve his country and his community.

It was Winston Churchill who once said, ''The reservist is twice the citizen.'' By that measure, Christopher Slutman was three times the citizen. He wore two uniforms in service to our Nation. He was staff sergeant in the U.S. Marines, serving in the 25th Marine Regiment, Fourth Marine Division in the Marine Forces Reserve, based in Harrisburg, PA. He was also a decorated 15-year veteran of the New York City Fire Department.

Friends say that Christopher always dreamed of being a firefighter. He grew up in Maryland and graduated from Frederick Douglass High School, where he played football, baseball, and wrestled and achieved Eagle Scout status. Eventually, he volunteered with fire departments in Maryland and Washington, DC. Most recently, he split his time between the Bronx and Wilmington, DE. Most days, I ride down to Washington, DC, from my home in Wilmington to do my job. Staff Sergeant Slutman took the train the opposite direction to do his job. He so wanted to serve that he would travel from his home in Delaware to Ladder Company 27 in New York City. In fact, he was on military leave from Ladder Company 27 and nearing the end of his most recent deployment with the Marine Reserves in Afghanistan when he and two comrades lost their lives.

It was Slutman's work in the Bronx where, in 2014, he won the Fire Chiefs Association Memorial Medal for rescuing an unconscious woman from the seventh floor of a high-rise apartment building.

Scripture tells us in John 15:13, ''Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends.'' Staff Sergeant Slutman lived that kind of profound love: dedicating his life to serving others, even at his own peril, and it seems that this kind of selflessness and devotion to service was a hallmark of the Slutman household. Staff Sergeant Slutman is survived by three brothers. One of his brothers is in the Marines, another in the Army. The third is a firefighter in Washington, DC. Their father is an Army veteran and was a volunteer firefighter, as was Slutman's mother. Here is a family who has, and continues to, truly give of themselves in service of others.

Last Friday, I was honored to have been able to join Staff Sergeant Slutman's family, friends, and fellow servicemembers in New York City to pay our respects to a man who gave his life for this country. The first speaker at his funeral was Marine SgtMaj Christopher Armstrong, who served alongside his friend Chris for 8 years. Armstrong remembered his friend with these words. He said, ''Upon joining the unit, I began observing the Marines; who they watched, how they looked at their leaders, and what they said. There were a small number of men that when they spoke, silence fell; when they issued an order, the response was immediate; and when they were looked upon, it was with reverence. Christopher Slutman immediately stood out as a leader who was respected and admired. He didn't pound his chest, he didn't try to impress or go on about what he was going to do. He just did it.''

Armstrong continued. ''He placed his Marines' welfare before his own, always. Chris never sought credit, but he always gave it.''

FDNY Commissioner Dan Nigro also spoke. He described Slutman as ''the type of American we can all be proud of.'' And he added, ''Chris was a protector of those in danger, a defender to those who needed him, a rescuer to those who needed saving, and a leader who demonstrated his valor on every tour of duty both here and abroad.''

It was a poet named Edgar Guest, who spent his life in Detroit, MI, and was often referred to as the People's Poet, who once said, ''I'd rather see a sermon than hear one any day.'' Christopher Slutman's life was a better lesson than any sermon. He demonstrated the absolute best of this country every day with his heroism and service to others. The way he lived his life and gave his life is a language that is clear to one and all.

It is with a heavy heart that I, along with the entire First State and the country, offer our sincerest condolences to his wife Shannon and his three girls. Their dad is an American hero. I, along with our Governor, John Carney, and Delaware's congressional delegation, promise you that he won't soon be forgotten, and I know that his legacy lives on in you.

150TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE GOLDEN SPIKE

Mr. ROMNEY. Mr. President, the Transcontinental Railroad is a testament to the enduring American spirit of industry and national unity.

On the precipice of the American Civil War, Utah's delegate to the U.S. House of Representatives, William Henry Hooper, recognized that ''A great band of Union throughout the family of man is a common interest.'' Hooper petitioned Congress in his belief that ''a Central Road would unite that interest as with a chain of iron, and would effectually hold together our Federal union with an imperishable identity of mutual interest.''

William Henry Hooper's letter to Congress would take several months to reach Washington, DC, as any westward travel beyond the Mississippi River required wagon, stagecoach, or horseback.

The U.S. Congress would, however, approve such an undertaking, and soon, a National Central Railroad began to manifest from the worn hands of laborers to execute a vision of national unity, a feat that would propel American power and change the course of our history.

These hands belonged to men of differing national origins and creeds, who labored together under one banner, often fleeing significant hardship in pursuit of economic opportunity in the American West. Roughly 15,000 Chinese immigrants, 10,000 Irish immigrants, and 4,000 Latter-day Saints joined the national effort to complete the most remarkable and ambitious engineering project of the 19th century.

On May 10, 1869, the Union Pacific and Central Pacific railroads formally met at Promontory Summit, UT, and the 17.6-carat golden spike officially linked the East and West Coasts, marking a watershed moment for American trade, commerce, and population.

A 6-month journey across the continent was reduced to 1 week. Within a decade of the railroad's completion, Salt Lake City's population more than doubled, further boosting Utah's significance in the national economy.

Brigham Young recognized the enormous opportunities that global trade would bring to Utah and the country and the abundant and yet untapped resources of iron, coal, stone, and timber.

In pursuit of a national railroad project, Brigham Young recognized that ''mineral resources of California, and these mountains, will never be fully developed to the benefit of the people of the United States, without the construction of such a road, and upon its completion, the entire trade of China and the East Indies will pass through the heart of the Union; thereby giving our Citizens the almost entire controls of the Asiatic and Pacific trade.''

Indeed, the Transcontinental Railroad would transform the American economy in profound ways. This achievement revolutionized communications, global trade routes, and allowed for the movement of people across the country at an unprecedented scale.

On the sesquicentennial of the completion of the Transcontinental Railroad at Promontory Summit, let us remember the sacrifice of those laborers who would not live to see to its conclusion, but whose contributions helped transform the Nation and the world.

The 150th anniversary of the Golden Spike is also a celebration of the limitless American imagination, spirit of ingenuity, and industry that made this incredible project a success.

Let us not forget the example these pioneers set for us as we go forward in a new era of challenges and opportunities.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

50TH ANNIVERSARY OF ZZ TOP

• Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, today I recognize and congratulate the Texas blues rock band ZZ Top on their 50th anniversary. It is only fitting that this group kicks off their anniversary tour in their home State of Texas.

With plenty of gas in the tank, Dusty, Billy, Frank, and the rest of their crew will be traveling to more than 60 cities across 14 countries in their commemorative tour. An appropriate reminder of ZZ Top's history, this tour clearly shows they have been able to reach millions of fans across the globe for decades.

In 1969, two rival blues rock bands in Houston, TX—Billy's Moving Sidewalks and Frank and Dusty's American Blues—coalesced into one band, ZZ Top. Two years later, they dropped their first album, aptly titled, ''ZZ Top's First Album.''

Bandmates Billy Gibbons, Frank Beard, and Dusty Hill have been writing songs and creating a musical fusion between blues and southern rock since their formation and have never looked back. Though they draw inspiration from music greats like Jimi Hendrix, BB King, Cream, George Jones, and Texas blues guitarist Freddie King, all of their influences transform into one singularly unique sound.

In 1973, the band released its third album ''Tres Hombres,'' which catapulted them to the national spotlight with the hit song ''La Grange,'' still one of ZZ Top's signature songs.

ZZ Top's momentum and success built during its first decade culminated in the legendary 1976 tour entitled the World Wide Texas Tour, a production that included a longhorn, a buffalo, buzzards, rattlesnakes, and a Texas-shaped stage. If their tour wasn't proof enough that things are bigger in Texas, then maybe their record sales will convince you otherwise.

The band has sold over 50 million records worldwide, and their 1983 album ''Eliminator,'' sold more than 10 million copies and included rock hit ''Sharp Dressed Man.''

''The Little Ol' Band From Texas'' has played for millions of fans across the globe, Sweden to Australia, Japan to Germany. The band is among a select few to say they have toured the globe for half a century.

ZZ Top also lays undisputed claim to being the longest running major rock band with the original members intact. Their iconic beards, powerful rock anthems, dedication to music, and impressive artistic talent has sustained them as a perennial rock power, whose music will stand the test of time.

Over five decades of creating music, ZZ Top earned eight Top 40 hits on the Billboard Hot 100; six No. 1 mainstream rock hits; and ranked 44th on VH1's 2000 ''100 Greatest Hard Rock Artists.''

ZZ Top's accomplishments throughout the years culminated in their induction into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame in 2004, where they are recognized as some of the greatest rock artists in the world.

I congratulate Billy, Frank, and Dusty on their 50th anniversary and wish them luck as they embark on their year of touring around the world.•

RECOGNIZING BRUNOW CONTRACTING, LLC

• Ms. ERNST. Mr. President, as a member of the Senate Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship, it is my privilege to recognize a woman-owned small business that is dedicated to its customers, employees, and community. In honor of the U.S. Small Business Administration's National Small Business Week, it is my pleasure to name Brunow Contracting of Council Bluffs, IA, the Senate Small Business of the Day.

Brunow Contracting represents the story of a construction company with an unlikely founder. Tamara Brunow was a pre-law student at the College of Saint Mary who found herself working in construction. She began her career with an internship at the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Omaha District, in military contracting. It was in this role that she saw a future in construction and government contracts.

After her time at the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, she proceeded to work for two other construction organizations, Oakview Construction and Lueder Construction. During her tenure with these firms, she realized that while she loved her jobs, she knew she wanted to be her own boss. This prompted her to launch Brunow Contracting in 2008. Shortly after her launch, Brunow Contracting acquired its first contract of $1.3 million dollars to build a Presbyterian church.

Brunow Contracting specializes in government contracting and is certified by the Small Business Administration as an 8(a) and HUBZone business. Brunow Contracting has completed numerous contracts, ranging in value from $800 to nearly $5 million, and a client list which includes the City of Omaha, the U.S. Forest Service, the Department of Veterans Affairs, Southwest Iowa Planning Council, and the U.S. Coast Guard. These projects have included everything from churches, to water treatment plants, to data facilities for Facebook.

With dedication and determination, Ms. Brunow, successfully started a construction company as a single mother of three children in the middle of a recession. Now, she is the owner of one of the only woman-owned construction businesses in America, a recipient of the Midland Business Journal's 40 under 40, and a leader within her community. Today, Ms. Brunow has expanded her business reach to include serving as the head of H2W Apparel, a women's active wear company. Additionally, Ms. Brunow remains an active mentor for women entrepreneurs and advocate for female entrepreneurship.

Ms. Brunow embodies what it means to be an entrepreneur and small business owner. Despite those telling her that it is not the right industry or not the right time, Brunow Contracting quickly became a multimillion-dollar business with an A+ rating from the Better Business Bureau. Ms. Brunow showed that, while it certainly is not easy, it is possible to simultaneously build a business, be a great mother, volunteer as a mentor, and remain committed to your community. It is my distinct pleasure to honor Ms. Brunow and the entire team at Brunow Contracting as the Senate Small Business of the Day. You make Iowa proud, and I look forward to watching your continued growth and success.●

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

At 10:33 a.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Cole, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bills, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 1328. An act to establish the Office of Internet Connectivity and Growth, and for other purposes.

H.R. 1503. An act to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act regarding the list under section 505(j)(7) of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act, and for other purposes.

H.R. 1520. An act to amend the Public Health Service Act to provide for the publication of a list of licensed biological products, and for other purposes.

The message further announced that pursuant to 22 U.S.C. 6913, and the order of the House of January 3, 2019, the Speaker appoints the following Members on the part of the House of Representatives to the Congressional-Executive Commission on the People's Republic of China: Ms. KAPTUR of Ohio, Mr. SUOZZI of New York, Mr. MALINOWSKI of New Jersey, Mr. MCADAMS of Utah, Mr. SMITH of New Jersey, and Mr. MAST of Florida.

MEASURES REFERRED

The following bills were read the first and the second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

H.R. 1328. An act to establish the Office of Internet Connectivity and Growth, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

H.R. 1503. An act to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act regarding the list under section 505(j)(7) of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

H.R. 1520. An act to amend the Public Health Service Act to provide for the publication of a list of licensed biological products, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

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–1254. A communication from the Assistant Secretary of Defense (Legislative Affairs), transmitting legislative proposals relative to the ''National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2020''; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC–1255. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Office of Electricity, Department of Energy, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled ''Review of Recent Cost-Benefit Studies Related to Net Metering and Distributed Solar''; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC–1256. A communication from the Solicitor, National Labor Relations Board, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to a vacancy for the position of General Counsel, National Labor Relations Board, received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 8, 2019; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC–1257. A communication from the Director, Office of Civil Rights, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Agency's fiscal year 2018 annual report relative to the Notification and Federal Employee Antidiscrimination and Retaliation Act of 2002 (No FEAR Act); to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC–1258. A communication from the Executive Director, Interstate Commission on the Potomac River Basin, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Commission's Seventy-Eighth Financial Statement for the period of October 1, 2017 through September 30, 2018; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC–1259. A communication from the Acting Deputy Solicitor, National Labor Relations Board, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to a vacancy for the position of General Counsel, National Labor Relations Board, received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 8, 2019; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC–1260. A communication from the Secretary of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled ''Annual Report on Disability-Related Air Travel Complaints Received During Calendar Year 2017''; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Mr. GRAHAM, from the Committee on the Judiciary, with amendments:

S. 820. A bill to strengthen programs authorized under the Debbie Smith Act of 2004.

By Mr. GRAHAM, from the Committee on the Judiciary, with an amendment:

S. 998. A bill to amend the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 to expand support for police officer family services, stress reduction, and suicide prevention, and for other purposes.

By Mr. GRAHAM, from the Committee on the Judiciary, with amendments:

S. 1231. A bill to reauthorize the Bulletproof Vest Partnership Grant Program.

EXECUTIVE REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following executive reports of nominations were submitted:

By Mr. GRAHAM for the Committee on the Judiciary.

Jeffrey A. Rosen, of Virginia, to be Deputy Attorney General.

Jeffrey Vincent Brown, of Texas, to be United States District Judge for the Southern District of Texas.

Brantley Starr, of Texas, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of Texas.

Stephanie L. Haines, of Pennsylvania, to be United States District Judge for the Western District of Pennsylvania.

Robert J. Colville, of Pennsylvania, to be United States District Judge for the Western District of Pennsylvania.

Timothy J. Downing, of Oklahoma, to be United States Attorney for the Western District of Oklahoma for the term of four years.

William Travis Brown, Jr., of Louisiana, to be United States Marshal for the Middle District of Louisiana for the term of four years.

Michael Blaine East, of North Carolina, to be United States Marshal for the Eastern District of North Carolina for the term of four years.

By Mr. BURR for the Select Committee on Intelligence.

Christopher Scolese, of New York, to be Director of the National Reconnaissance Office.

(Nominations without an asterisk were reported with the recommendation that they be confirmed.)

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

The following bills and joint resolutions were introduced, read the first and second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

By Mr. BOOZMAN (for himself and Mr. TESTER):

S. 1381. A bill to modify the presumption of service connection for veterans who were exposed to herbicide agents while serving in the Armed Forces in Thailand during the Vietnam era, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mrs. MURRAY:

S. 1382. A bill to designate and expand wilderness areas in Olympic National Forest in the State of Washington, and to designate certain rivers in Olympic National Forest and Olympic National Park as wild and scenic rivers, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. COTTON (for himself, Mrs. SHAHEEN, and Ms. MCSALLY):

S. 1383. A bill to amend the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act to provide a guarantee of residency for registration of businesses of spouses of members of the uniformed services, to improve occupational license portability for military spouses through interstate compacts, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. ROMNEY (for himself and Mr. BRAUN):

S. 1384. A bill to reform prescription drug pricing and reduce out-of-pocket costs by ensuring consumers benefit from negotiated rebates; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. KENNEDY:

S. 1385. A bill to prohibit the awarding of a contract or grant in excess of the simplified acquisition threshold unless the prospective contractor or grantee certifies in writing to the agency awarding the contract or grant that the contractor or grantee has no seriously delinquent tax debts, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. SCHUMER (for Mr. UDALL (for himself, Mr. BENNET, Mr. HEINRICH, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. BOOKER, Ms. HARRIS, and Mrs. FEINSTEIN)):

S. 1386. A bill to modify the requirements applicable to locatable minerals on public domain land, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. BRAUN (for himself and Ms. SINEMA):

S. 1387. A bill to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 in order to improve the service obligation verification process for TEACH Grant recipients, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. PETERS (for himself and Mr. JOHNSON):

S. 1388. A bill to manage supply chain risk through counterintelligence training, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. SANDERS (for himself and Mr. WHITEHOUSE):

S. 1389. A bill to protect consumers from usury; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. SULLIVAN (for himself, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Ms. DUCKWORTH, and Ms. MURKOWSKI):

S. 1390. A bill to require plans for military installations for full military funeral honors for veterans at such installations; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Ms. BALDWIN (for herself, Mr. BRAUN, Ms. MURKOWSKI, and Ms. SMITH):

S. 1391. A bill to require reporting regarding certain drug price increases, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. SULLIVAN (for himself and Mr. TESTER):

S. 1392. A bill to direct the Comptroller General of the United States to conduct an assessment of the responsibilities, workload, and vacancy rates of suicide prevention coordinators of the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. MERKLEY (for himself and Mr. BROWN):

S. 1393. A bill to prohibit Members of Congress from purchasing or selling certain investments, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Ms. BALDWIN (for herself, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mrs. MURRAY, Ms. STABENOW, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. WYDEN, and Mr. MURPHY):

S. 1394. A bill to provide collective bargaining rights for public safety officers employed by States or their political subdivisions; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mrs. FEINSTEIN (for herself, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, and Mr. CASEY):

S. 1395. A bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to prohibit the purchase of certain firearms by individuals under 21 years of age, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Ms. STABENOW (for herself, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mr. CARPER, Mr. ISAKSON, Ms. BALDWIN, and Mr. CASSIDY):

S. 1396. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to modify the definition of municipal solid waste; to the Committee on Finance.

By Ms. KLOBUCHAR (for herself, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. KING, Mr. BROWN, Mr. UDALL, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. WYDEN, and Mr. BENNET):

S. 1397. A bill to amend the Help America Vote Act of 2002 to provide for a national Federal write-in absentee ballot for domestic use; to the Committee on Rules and Administration.

By Ms. CANTWELL:

S. 1398. A bill to promote the use of smart technologies and systems in communities, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. MERKLEY (for himself and Mr. BURR):

S. 1399. A bill to amend title VIII of the Public Health Services Act to revise and extend nursing workforce development programs; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. MENENDEZ (for himself, Mr. CASEY, and Mr. BOOKER):

S. 1400. A bill to amend the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act to preserve the option of States to implement health care marketplaces, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Ms. DUCKWORTH:

S. 1401. A bill to establish eligibility requirements for education support professionals under the Family and Medical Leave Act of 1993, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Ms. DUCKWORTH (for herself and Mrs. GILLIBRAND):

S. 1402. A bill to direct the Secretary of Labor to recognize employers with a commitment to helping employees balance workplace responsibilities and family obligations; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Ms. DUCKWORTH (for herself, Mr. CASEY, Mr. DURBIN, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, and Mr. VAN HOLLEN):

S. 1403. A bill to amend the Child Care Access Means Parents in School Program under the Higher Education Act of 1965; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Ms. DUCKWORTH (for herself and Mr. CASEY):

S. 1404. A bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to address the increased burden that maintaining the health and hygiene of infants and toddlers places on families in need, the resultant adverse health effects on children and families, and the limited child care options available for infants and toddlers who lack sufficient diapers, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. DAINES (for himself, Mr. CRAMER, Mrs. CAPITO, and Mr. GARDNER):

S. 1405. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend the credit for production of refined coal; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. TILLIS (for himself and Mr. BURR):

S. 1406. A bill to revise the boundaries of a unit of the John H. Chafee Coastal Barrier Resources System in Topsail, North Carolina, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mr. LEE:

S. 1407. A bill to amend title 49, United States Code, to add definitions for the terms ''common carrier'' and ''personal operator'', and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. BURR (for himself and Mr. VAN HOLLEN):

S. 1408. A bill to amend the Child Care and Development Block Grant Act of 1990 to improve child care protections provided through interstate background checks; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mrs. SHAHEEN:

S. 1409. A bill to enhance the ability of the Office of the National Ombudsman to assist small businesses in meeting regulatory requirements and develop outreach initiatives to promote awareness of the services the Office of the National Ombudsman provides, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship.

By Mr. MARKEY (for himself, Mr. SULLIVAN, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. KING, Ms. COLLINS, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Ms. WARREN, Ms. HASSAN, and Mr. REED):

S. 1410. A bill to amend the Federal share of the fishing safety standards grants; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. WHITEHOUSE (for himself, Ms. HIRONO, and Mr. BLUMENTHAL):

S. 1411. A bill to amend title 28, United States Code, to require certain disclosures related to amicus activities; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. SCHUMER:

S. 1412. A bill to authorize veterans service organizations to solicit donations at post offices before and after Federal holidays; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. SCHATZ (for himself and Ms. MURKOWSKI):

S. 1413. A bill to require the Secretary of Defense to establish an initiative on improving the capacity of military criminal investigative organizations to prevent child sexual exploitation, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. DURBIN (for himself, Ms. WARREN, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. BROWN, Ms. HARRIS, Ms. HIRONO, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. REED, Mr. SANDERS, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, and Ms. HASSAN):

S. 1414. A bill to provide bankruptcy relief for student borrowers; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. MANCHIN (for himself, Mr. CORNYN, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. CRUZ, Mr. TILLIS, and Ms. HARRIS):

S. 1415. A bill to require the Director of the Office of Management and Budget to immediately release certain grant funds awarded for mitigation activities under the Community Development Block Grant program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. CORNYN (for himself and Mr. BLUMENTHAL):

S. 1416. A bill to amend the Federal Trade Commission Act to prohibit anticompetitive behaviors by drug product manufacturers, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. WICKER:

S. 1417. A bill to reauthorize activities of the Maritime Administration, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. MURPHY (for himself, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, and Mr. SANDERS):

S. 1418. A bill to establish the Strength in Diversity Program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

The following concurrent resolutions and Senate resolutions were read, and referred (or acted upon), as indicated:

By Mr. DURBIN (for himself, Mr. YOUNG, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. RUBIO, and Mr. VAN HOLLEN):

S. Res. 198. A resolution condemning Brunei's dramatic human rights backsliding; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. PETERS (for himself and Ms. STABENOW):

S. Res. 199. A resolution honoring the life and legacy of Judge Damon Jerome Keith; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. BLUNT (for himself and Ms. KLOBUCHAR):

S. Res. 200. A resolution authorizing the taking of a photograph in the Senate Chamber; considered and agreed to.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 63

At the request of Mr. WHITEHOUSE, the name of the Senator from Indiana (Mr. BRAUN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 63, a bill to implement the recommendations of the Joint Select Committee on Budget and Appropriations Process Reform.

S. 151

At the request of Mr. THUNE, the names of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. BOOKER) and the Senator from Idaho (Mr. RISCH) were added as cosponsors of S. 151, a bill to deter criminal robocall violations and improve enforcement of section 227(b) of the Communications Act of 1934, and for other purposes.

S. 191

At the request of Ms. KLOBUCHAR, the name of the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. WHITEHOUSE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 191, a bill to direct the Secretary of Defense to include in periodic health assessments, separation history and physical examinations, and other assessments an evaluation of whether a member of the Armed Forces has been exposed to open burn pits or toxic airborne chemicals, and for other purposes.

S. 203

At the request of Mr. CRAPO, the names of the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. MARKEY), the Senator from Maine (Ms. COLLINS), the Senator from Washington (Mrs. MURRAY) and the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. MANCHIN) were added as cosponsors of S. 203, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to permanently extend the railroad track maintenance credit, and for other purposes.

S. 257

At the request of Mr. TESTER, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. SMITH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 257, a bill to provide for rental assistance for homeless or at-risk Indian veterans, and for other purposes.

S. 277

At the request of Ms. HIRONO, the name of the Senator from Illinois (Ms. DUCKWORTH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 277, a bill to posthumously award a Congressional Gold Medal to Fred Korematsu, in recognition of his dedication to justice and equality.

S. 286

At the request of Mr. BARRASSO, the name of the Senator from Wisconsin (Ms. BALDWIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 286, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for the coverage of marriage and family therapist services and mental health counselor services under part B of the Medicare program, and for other purposes.

S. 289

At the request of Mr. GARDNER, the name of the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. TILLIS) was withdrawn as a cosponsor of S. 289, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to support rural residency training funding that is equitable for all States, and for other purposes.

At the request of Mr. GARDNER, the name of the Senator from Wyoming (Mr. BARRASSO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 289, supra.

S. 383

At the request of Mr. BARRASSO, the name of the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. HOEVEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 383, a bill to support carbon dioxide utilization and direct air capture research, to facilitate the permitting and development of carbon capture, utilization, and sequestration projects and carbon dioxide pipelines, and for other purposes.

S. 386

At the request of Mr. LEE, the name of the Senator from Utah (Mr. ROMNEY) 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. 434

At the request of Mr. BRAUN, the name of the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. HOEVEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 434, a bill to provide for a report on the maintenance of Federal land holdings under the jurisdiction of the Secretary of the Interior.

S. 510

At the request of Mr. MARKEY, the name of the Senator from Hawaii (Ms. HIRONO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 510, a bill to amend the Communications Act of 1934 to provide for certain requirements relating to charges for internet, television, and voice services, and for other purposes.

S. 518

At the request of Ms. CANTWELL, the name of the Senator from Wisconsin (Mr. JOHNSON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 518, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for Medicare coverage of certain lymphedema compression treatment items as items of durable medical equipment.

S. 546

At the request of Mr. GARDNER, the name of the Senator from Arizona (Ms. MCSALLY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 546, a bill to extend authorization for the September 11th Victim Compensation Fund of 2001 through fiscal year 2090, and for other purposes.

S. 560

At the request of Ms. BALDWIN, the names of the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. WHITEHOUSE) and the Senator from Indiana (Mr. BRAUN) were added as cosponsors of S. 560, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act, the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974, and the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to require that group and individual health insurance coverage and group health plans provide coverage for treatment of a congenital anomaly or birth defect.

S. 569

At the request of Mr. YOUNG, the names of the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. BOOZMAN) and the Senator from Georgia (Mr. PERDUE) were added as cosponsors of S. 569, a bill to direct the Secretary of Transportation to issue regulations relating to commercial motor vehicle drivers under the age of 21, and for other purposes.

S. 670

At the request of Mr. RUBIO, the name of the Senator from Washington (Mrs. MURRAY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 670, a bill to make daylight savings time permanent, and for other purposes.

S. 743

At the request of Mr. ISAKSON, the name of the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. SCHATZ) was added as a cosponsor of S. 743, a bill to award a Congressional Gold Medal to the soldiers of the 5307th Composite Unit (Provisional), commonly known as ''Merrill's Marauders'', in recognition of their bravery and outstanding service in the jungles of Burma during World War II.

S. 867

At the request of Ms. HASSAN, the name of the Senator from Illinois (Ms. DUCKWORTH) 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. 880

At the request of Ms. STABENOW, the names of the Senator from Nevada (Ms. ROSEN) and the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. SCOTT) were added as cosponsors of S. 880, a bill to provide outreach and reporting on comprehensive Alzheimer's disease care planning services furnished under the Medicare program.

S. 916

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the names of the Senator from Massachusetts (Ms. WARREN) and the Senator from New Hampshire (Mrs. SHAHEEN) were added as cosponsors of S. 916, a bill to improve Federal efforts with respect to the prevention of maternal mortality, and for other purposes.

S. 966

At the request of Mr. PORTMAN, the name of the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. CASSIDY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 966, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to modernize the physician self-referral prohibitions to promote care coordination in the merit-based incentive payment system and to facilitate physician practice participation in alternative payment models under the Medicare program, and for other purposes.

S. 1004

At the request of Mr. PETERS, the name of the Senator from Delaware (Mr. CARPER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1004, a bill to increase the number of U.S. Customs and Border Protection Office of Field Operations officers and support staff and to require reports that identify staffing, infrastructure, and equipment needed to enhance security at ports of entry.

S. 1044

At the request of Mr. SCHUMER, the names of the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. MARKEY) and the Senator from Texas (Mr. CORNYN) were added as cosponsors of S. 1044, a bill to impose sanctions with respect to foreign traffickers of illicit opioids, and for other purposes.

S. 1081

At the request of Mr. MANCHIN, the names of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. BOOKER) and the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. BLUMENTHAL) 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. 1126

At the request of Mrs. CAPITO, the names of the Senator from Mississippi (Mrs. HYDE-SMITH) and the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. BLUMENTHAL) were added as cosponsors of S. 1126, a bill to provide better care for Americans living with Alzheimer's disease and related dementias and their caregivers, while accelerating progress toward prevention strategies, disease modifying treatments, and, ultimately, a cure.

S. 1163

At the request of Mr. CRAPO, the name of the Senator from New Hampshire (Ms. HASSAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1163, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide for an exclusion for assistance provided to participants in certain veterinary student loan repayment or forgiveness programs.

S. 1223

At the request of Mr. PORTMAN, the name of the Senator from Mississippi (Mrs. HYDE-SMITH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1223, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for the non-application of Medicare competitive acquisition rates to complex rehabilitative wheelchairs and accessories.

S. 1231

At the request of Mr. LEAHY, the name of the Senator from California (Ms. HARRIS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1231, a bill to reauthorize the Bulletproof Vest Partnership Grant Program.

S. 1317

At the request of Ms. MURKOWSKI, the name of the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. CRAMER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1317, a bill to facilitate the availability, development, and environmentally responsible production of domestic resources to meet national material or critical mineral needs, and for other purposes.

S. 1326

At the request of Mr. HOEVEN, the name of the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. CRAMER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1326, a bill to amend the Animal Health Protection Act to establish a grant program for research on chronic wasting disease, and for other purposes.

S. 1354

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the name of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. BROWN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1354, a bill to require certain protections for student loan borrowers, and for other purposes.

S. 1370

At the request of Mr. CASSIDY, the names of the Senator from New Hampshire (Mrs. SHAHEEN) and the Senator from Delaware (Mr. CARPER) were added as cosponsors of S. 1370, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to treat certain military survivor benefits as earned income for purposes of the kiddie tax.

S. RES. 120

At the request of Mr. CARDIN, the name of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. ISAKSON) was added as a cosponsor 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. 176

At the request of Mr. HAWLEY, the name of the Senator from Texas (Mr. CRUZ) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 176, a resolution condemning the terrorist attacks on Christian worshipers in Sri Lanka on Easter Sunday, April 21, 2019, and standing with the Government of Sri Lanka to encourage the protection and preservation of religious liberties.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. SCHUMER:

S. 1412. A bill to authorize veterans service organizations to solicit donations at post offices before and after Federal holidays; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

Mr. SCHUMER. 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. 1412

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 ''Restoring Access, Improving Service to Enable Veterans Engaging To Fundraise Act of 2019'' or the ''RAISE VET FUND Act''.

SEC. 2. SOLICITATION BY VETERANS SERVICE ORGANIZATIONS AT POST OFFICES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 404 of title 39, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(f) SOLICITATION BY VETERANS SERVICE ORGANIZATIONS AT POST OFFICES.—

''(1) DEFINITIONS.—In this subsection—

''(A) the term 'business day' means a day on which a post office is open;

''(B) the term 'Federal holiday' means—

''(i) a legal public holiday under section 6103(a) of title 5; and

''(ii) Flag Day, as designated under section 110 of title 36;

''(C) the term 'holiday period' means the period beginning 2 business days before, and ending 2 business days after, a Federal holiday; and

''(D) the term 'veterans service organization' means an organization recognized by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs for the representation of veterans under section 5902 of title 38.

''(2) AUTHORIZATION.—The Postal Service shall permit a veterans service organization to solicit donations by distributing items that are symbols for veterans at a post office on any business day during a holiday period.''.

(b) REGULATIONS.—Not later than 90 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the United States Postal Service shall promulgate regulations governing the use of post offices by veterans service organizations, including with respect to scheduling, under subsection (f) of section 404 of title 39, United States Code, as added by subsection (a).

(c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—Subsection (f) of section 404 of title 39, United States Code, as added by subsection (a), shall take effect on the date that is 120 days after the date of enactment of this Act.

By Mr. DURBIN (for himself, Ms. WARREN, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. BROWN, Ms. HARRIS, Ms. HIRONO, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. REED, Mr. SANDERS, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, and Ms. HASSAN):

S. 1414. A bill to provide bankruptcy relief for student borrowers; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

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. 1414

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 Borrower Bankruptcy Relief Act of 2019''.

SEC. 2. AMENDMENTS.

(a) EXCEPTION TO DISCHARGE.—Section 523 of title 11, United States Code, is amended in subsection (a), by striking paragraph (8).

(b) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section 1328(a)(2) of title 11, United States Code, is amended by striking ''(8),''.

SEC. 3. EFFECTIVE DATE; APPLICATION OF AMENDMENTS.

(a) EFFECTIVE DATE.—Except as provided in subsection (b), this Act and the amendments made by this Act shall take effect on the date of enactment of this Act.

(b) APPLICATION OF AMENDMENTS.—The amendments made by this Act shall apply only with respect to cases commenced under title 11, United States Code, on or after the date of enactment of this Act.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 198—CONDEMNING BRUNEI'S DRAMATIC HUMAN RIGHTS BACKSLIDING

Mr. DURBIN (for himself, Mr. YOUNG, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. RUBIO, and Mr. VAN HOLLEN) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. RES. 198

Whereas Brunei has been led since 1967 by one of the world's longest-reigning absolute monarchs, Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah;

Whereas Brunei gained independence in 1984;

Whereas emergency powers in place in Brunei since 1962 allow the sultan to govern with few limitations to his authority;

Whereas, according to the United States Department of State Brunei 2018 Human Rights Report, human rights issues included censorship, interferences with the rights of peaceful assembly and freedom of association, crimes involving violence or threats targeting homosexuality, and exploitation of foreign workers, including through forced labor;

Whereas Brunei's media are neither free nor diverse, with broadcasting dominated by the state and private media owned or controlled by the royal family;

Whereas homosexuality has been illegal in Brunei, carrying a punishment of up to ten years in prison;

Whereas in 2013, the Government of Brunei announced it was imposing new laws that included harsher punishments of death by stoning for adultery and homosexual relations;

Whereas international condemnation resulted in a delay in carrying out the provisions;

Whereas, in March 2019, the Government of Brunei announced it was going forward with the penal code to take effect April 3, 2019;

Whereas the law includes, among other things, death by stoning for male same-sex relations, adultery, and blasphemy, amputation of limbs for theft, caning for female same-sex relations, and criminalization of exposure of children to the beliefs and practices of differing religions;

Whereas, on April 2, 2019, the Department of State said Brunei's new laws and associated penalties run ''counter to its international human rights obligations including with respect to torture or other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment'';

Whereas, on April 18, 2019, the European Parliament adopted a resolution strongly condemning Brunei for introducing ''retrograde'' laws, calling for their immediate repeal, urging that Brunei uphold its international obligations under ''international human rights instruments, including with regard to sexual minorities, religious minorities and non-believers,'' and suggesting visa bans and asset freezes should the laws not be repealed;

Whereas the United Nations and international human rights organizations have denounced the laws, arguing they amount to torture and a violation of human rights;

Whereas United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights Michelle Bachelet urged Brunei to repeal the laws, which include punishments she called ''cruel, inhuman, and degrading'' and a ''serious setback for human rights protections.'';

Whereas Human Rights Watch stated, ''Brunei's new penal code is barbaric to the core, imposing archaic punishments for acts that shouldn't even be crimes. . .Sultan Hassanal should immediately suspend amputations, stoning, and all other rights-abusing provisions and punishments.'';

Whereas Amnesty International stated, ''Brunei's Penal Code is a deeply flawed piece of legislation containing a range of provisions that violate human rights. . .As well as imposing cruel, inhuman and degrading punishments, it blatantly restricts the rights to freedom of expression, religion and belief, and codifies discrimination against women and girls.''; and

Whereas the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights has also noted that the implementation of these discriminatory laws will drive people underground and out of reach of life-saving HIV treatment and prevention services, increases stigma, and gives license to discrimination, violence, and harassment: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) condemns the Government of Brunei's further criminalization and barbaric punishments regarding sexual orientation, adultery, and relations between persons of the same sex;

(2) calls on the Government of Brunei to expeditiously repeal such measures; and

(3) supports the withdrawal and denial of United States visas for any Brunei official responsible for passage or implementation of such laws until they are repealed.

SENATE RESOLUTION 199—HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF JUDGE DAMON JEROME KEITH

Mr. PETERS (for himself and Ms. STABENOW) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 199

Whereas Judge Damon Keith was born on July 4, 1922, in Detroit, Michigan, and died at his home in Detroit, Michigan, surrounded by family and loved ones, on April 28, 2019;

Whereas Judge Damon Keith received a bachelor of arts from West Virginia State University, a juris doctor from Howard University School of Law, and a master of laws from Wayne State University Law School;

Whereas Judge Damon Keith served in the United States Army from 1943 to 1946, when he was discharged as a sergeant;

Whereas Judge Damon Keith devoted his life to public service and served more than 50 years on the Federal bench, where he was a champion for civil rights and individual liberties for all;

Whereas Judge Damon Keith served as one of the first cochairmen of the Michigan Civil Rights Commission at its inception in 1964, where he worked to oppose discrimination and enforce equal protection under the law;

Whereas Judge Damon Keith was first nominated to the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Michigan in 1967 by President Lyndon Johnson and served as the District Court's first African American chief judge from 1975 to 1977;

Whereas Judge Damon Keith became the sixth African American to serve on the United States Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit when he was nominated by President Jimmy Carter in 1977, and he served as senior judge on the court from May 1, 1995, until his passing;

Whereas, in a 1970 decision, Judge Damon Keith upheld the civil rights of students in Pontiac, Michigan, when he ordered a bus policy and new boundaries for schools in Pontiac, Michigan, in order to end racial segregation;

Whereas Judge Damon Keith defended the protections guaranteed under the Fourth Amendment to the Constitution of the United States when he held in United States v. Sinclair, 321 F. Supp. 1074 (E.D. Mich. 1971) that the United States Government must obtain a warrant before beginning domestic electronic surveillance, and that landmark decision was unanimously upheld by the Supreme Court of the United States;

Whereas, in Garrett v. City of Hamtramck, 394 F. Supp. 1151 (E.D. Mich. 1975), Judge Damon Keith ruled against housing discrimination and ordered the city of Hamtramck, Michigan, to relocate approximately 500 African Americans who had been displaced by federally supported urban renewal projects;

Whereas Judge Damon Keith worked throughout his career to safeguard the civil liberties, civil rights, and voting rights of all people of the United States while opposing housing, employment, and racial discrimination;

Whereas Judge Damon Keith has received more than 40 honorary degrees as well as the Spingarn Medal from the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, the highest honor awarded by the organization for distinguished achievement, and the Edward J. Devitt Distinguished Service to Justice Award, the highest award that can be bestowed on a member of the Federal judiciary;

Whereas Judge Damon Keith inspired generations of lawyers that served under him as clerks and influenced the State of Michigan for decades; and

Whereas Judge Damon Keith, who coined the phrase ''democracies die behind closed doors'', will be remembered for his dedication to upholding the Constitution of the United States and his commitment to justice: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate honors the life and legacy of Judge Damon Jerome Keith and his dedication to upholding civil rights.

SENATE RESOLUTION 200—AUTHORIZING THE TAKING OF A PHOTOGRAPH IN THE SENATE CHAMBER

Mr. BLUNT (for himself and Ms. KLOBUCHAR) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 200

Resolved, That paragraph 1 of rule IV of the Rules for the Regulation of the Senate Wing of the United States Capitol and Senate Office Buildings (prohibiting the taking of pictures in the Senate Chamber) be temporarily suspended for the sole and specific purpose of permitting the Senate Photographic Studio to photograph the Senate in actual session

on Tuesday, May 14, 2019, at the hour of 2:15 p.m.

SEC. 2. The Sergeant at Arms of the Senate is authorized and directed to make the necessary arrangements therefore, which arrangements shall provide for a minimum of disruption to Senate proceedings.

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

Mr. ROBERTS. Mr. President, I have 3 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 FINANCE

The Committee on Finance is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, May 9, 2019, at 9:30 a.m., to conduct a hearing on the following nominations: David Fabian Black, of North Dakota, to be Deputy Commissioner of Social Security, and Emin Toro, of Virginia, to be a Judge of the United States Tax Court.

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

The Committee on the Judiciary is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, May 9, 2019, at 10 a.m., to conduct a business meeting on pending legislation and the hearing on the following nominations: Jeffrey Vincent Brown, to be United States District Judge for the Southern District of Texas, Robert J. Colville, and Stephanie L. Haines, both to be a United States District Judge for the Western District of Pennsylvania, Brantley Starr, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of Texas, and Jeffrey A. Rosen, of Virginia, to be Deputy Attorney General, Timothy J. Downing, to be United States Attorney for the Western District of Oklahoma, William Travis Brown, Jr., to be United States Marshal for the Middle District of Louisiana, and Michael Blaine East, to be United States Marshal for the Eastern District of North Carolina, all of the Department of Justice.

SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE

The Select Committee on Intelligence is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, May 9, 2019, at 2 p.m., to conduct a closed briefing.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF JUDGE DAMON JEROME KEITH

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of S. Res. 199, submitted earlier today.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 199) honoring the life and legacy of Judge Damon Jerome Keith.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. MCCONNELL. I further 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. 199) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

(The resolution, with its preamble, is printed in today's RECORD under ''Submitted Resolutions.'')

AUTHORIZING THE TAKING OF A PHOTOGRAPH IN THE SENATE CHAMBER

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 200, submitted earlier today.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 200) authorizing the taking of a photograph in the Senate Chamber.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. MCCONNELL. I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to and that the motion 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. 200) was agreed to.

(The resolution is printed in today's RECORD under ''Submitted Resolutions.'')

ORDERS FOR MONDAY, MAY 13, 2019

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it adjourn until 3 p.m., Monday, May 13; 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 Truncale nomination; finally, notwithstanding the provisions of rule XXII, the cloture motions filed during today's session of the Senate ripen at 5:30 p.m., Monday, May 13.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL MONDAY, MAY 13, 2019, AT 3 P.M.

Mr. MCCONNELL. 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.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 3:45 p.m., adjourned until Monday, May 13, 2019, at 3 p.m.

CONFIRMATION

Executive nomination confirmed by the Senate May 9, 2019:

THE JUDICIARY

MICHAEL H. PARK, OF NEW YORK, TO BE UNITED STATES CIRCUIT JUDGE FOR THE SECOND CIRCUIT.

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

RECOGNIZING BETTY COOPER OF BROWNING

HON. GREG GIANFORTE

OF MONTANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 9, 2019

Mr. GIANFORTE. Madam Speaker, with Mother's Day around the corner, I rise today to honor Betty Cooper of Browning for her advocacy for families and mental health services as well as for being named Montana's 2019 Mother of the Year by American Mothers.

Betty Cooper is the mother of five, a grandmother, and an enrolled member of the Blackfeet Tribe. She was born and raised in Browning. In 1963, Betty moved to the San Francisco Bay area with her husband and children. There, she became involved in substance abuse prevention and treatment in the Indian community. She helped establish the American Indian Family Healing Center in Oakland, CA, and served as director for a decade.

Returning home to Montana, she helped establish the Pikuni Family Healing Center in Starr School.

Betty was among over two dozen prominent Native American advocates featured in Surviving in Two Worlds: Contemporary Native American Voices, a book by Lois Crozier-Hogle and Darryl Babe Wilson.

Betty has served on the Blackfeet Tribal Business Council and has been an advocate for individuals with mental illness.

American Mothers, a non-profit organization founded in 1935, named Betty Montana's Mother of the Year for 2019. In her recent address at the group's annual meeting, Betty said, "Love our children; look them in the eye; hug them close and tell them you love them. When a child knows they are loved, everything else falls in place. Each of our children is a gift to us from the Creator."

Madam Speaker, truer words were never spoken.

Madam Speaker, for her dedication to family, advocacy for mental health services, and leadership in the Indian community, I recognize Betty Cooper for her spirit of Montana.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF JUDGE DAMON J. KEITH

HON. BRENDA L. LAWRENCE

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 9, 2019

Mrs. LAWRENCE. Madam Speaker, on behalf of myself and Representative JOHN LEWIS, along with my colleagues, Representatives KAREN BASS, ALMA ADAMS, COLIN ALLRED, G.K. BUTTERFIELD, ANDRÉ CARSON, YVETTE D. CLARKE, WM. LACY CLAY, EMANUEL CLEAVER, MARCIA L. FUDGE, ALCEE L. HASTINGS, HAKEEM JEFFRIES, EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON, ROBIN KELLY, GWEN MOORE, ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON, DONALD M. PAYNE, JR., AYANNA PRESSLEY, CEDRIC RICHMOND, LISA BLUNT ROCHESTER, BOBBY L. RUSH, BENNIE G. THOMPSON, MARC VEASEY, and Senators CORY BOOKER and KAMALA D. HARRIS, to honor the life of a great public servant, Judge Damon J. Keith. For over half a century, Judge Keith fought for justice, transparency, and civil liberties, setting an example for generations to come.

Judge Keith was born on July 4, 1922—a fitting date for someone who so staunchly believed in American Democracy. The grandson of slaves, Judge Keith was a champion for racial equality. As he grew up in Detroit, he noticed that there were no African Americans in positions of power. He served in a segregated unit in World War II. Judge Keith always understood his importance in creating a more just nation.

Damon attended Howard University, where he was mentored by future Supreme Court Justice Thurgood Marshall. In 1967, he was nominated to a seat on the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Michigan by President Johnson. This nomination came at the suggestion of Michigan Senator Philip Hart, the namesake of the Hart Senate Office Building. As a federal judge, Damon worked to end segregation in Michigan. He ordered for the bussing of ten thousand African American students in Pontiac to achieve racial integration. He also ordered the city of Hamtramck to relocate 500 African Americans who were displaced during a federally supported urban renewal project.

These decisions were not popular at the time, and often resulted in Judge Keith receiving death threats. He never backed down, however, saying: "I don't scare easily." In 1977, he was nominated by President Carter to a seat on the United States Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit, a position he held until his passing on April 28, 2019.

Judge Keith was a champion for government transparency. In his most famous case, he ruled that the Nixon Administration had acted unlawfully when issuing domestic wiretaps, a decision which was unanimously by the Supreme Court. In 2002, he issued an opinion on the secret deportation hearings for alleged terrorists following the September 11th attacks. In another unanimous decision, he wrote: "Democracies die behind closed doors." These wise words remind us that the United States is a government of the people, by the people, and for the people.

At the age of 94, Judge Keith was a firm supporter of voting rights, dissenting against voting restrictions in Ohio. He cited the sacrifices made by generations of civil rights leaders and refused to let voters be silenced after decades of struggle and perseverance. Judge Keith spent every single day committed to helping our country respect the dignity, worth, and equality of every human being—whether it was their right to vote, education, housing, employment, or privacy.

Judge Keith will be sorely missed, but his years of tireless service as a champion for civil rights will never be forgotten.

OUR COMMUNITY SALUTES HONOREES

HON. LEE M. ZELDIN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 9, 2019

Mr. ZELDIN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay special tribute to forty-three exemplary young men and women from the First Congressional District of New York who have chosen to serve their country in the various branches of the Armed Forces of the United States. These courageous individuals will put their lives on hold to ensure the security and welfare of their fellow Americans. Their unwavering patriotism, dedication to our nation's values and sacrifice in defense of our great nation is inspiring. Each of the following students has my deepest appreciation for their service to our country, and I ask my colleagues to join me in personally recognizing:

Army, Gabriel Bernal, Bellport; Army, Ayden De Grijze, Bellport; Army, Trinity Gilkey, William Floyd; Army, Justin Guimarra, Longwood; Army, Brian Kavanaugh, Bellport; Army, Evan Marchese, William Floyd; Army, Ryan Murphy, Patchogue-Medford; Army, Johnathan Patterson, Bellport; Army, Jose Rincon, Longwood; Army, Sean Rodriguez, Bellport; Army, Maria Sanabria, Sayville; Army, Derek Smith, William Floyd; Army, Devin Stinsman, William Floyd; Army, Jahdeba Williams, William Floyd;

Marines, Danyel Anderson, William Floyd; Marines, Amy Barbecho, William Floyd; Marines, Evan Berkemeyer, William Floyd; Marines, Brandon Bratchie, William Floyd; Marines, Anthony Cespedes, Patchogue-Medford; Marines, Matthew Dugan, Patchogue-Medford; Marines, Jefferson Guerra, William Floyd; Marines, Christopher Hlavaty, Sayville; Marines, Dylan Lauer, Patchogue-Medford; Marines, Maximus Maizus, Sayville; Marines, Patrick Malone, Patchogue-Medford; Marines, Salaahaddeen Poulos, William Floyd; Marines, Tristan Soto, William Floyd; Marines, Aaron Speeding, Longwood; Marines, Serina Wong, Longwood;

Navy, Anthony DeCarlo, Patchogue-Medford; Navy, Ryan Havel, Patchogue-Medford; Navy, Pedro Hernandez, William Floyd; Navy, Deyby Lituma Pucha, William Floyd; Navy, Ivan Lopez, Bellport; Navy, Jeffrey McFarland, Longwood; Navy, Anthony Musorofiti, Sayville; Navy, Dominic O'Brien, Bayport Blue Point; Navy, Wayne Snyder, Longwood;

Air Force, Lynda Carman, Longwood; Air Force, Joseph Cortes, William Floyd; Air Force, Richard Downes, Longwood; Eastport South Manor; Air National Guard, Carson Nagle, Bellport; Air National Guard, Ashley Raino, Longwood.

These enlistees will be recognized on May 15, 2019, at the 5th Annual "Our Community Salutes Brookhaven Town Enlistee Ceremony" at Sunset Harbor in Patchogue, N.Y.

Madam Speaker, we, as a nation, are extraordinarily grateful to each and every one of these forty-three individuals for answering the

call of duty. Each of these young Americans has our eternal gratitude and we will never be able to adequately repay them for their service to our nation. It is my distinct honor and privilege to represent them and their families in the First Congressional District of New York. I wish them the best of luck in their respective branches and in all of their future endeavors.

INTRODUCTION OF THE FEDERAL REIMBURSEMENT BILL

HON. ED CASE

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 9, 2019

Mr. CASE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce my bill, which would ensure all federal employees are treated fairly and are reimbursed in a timely manner for travel expenses during a shutdown.

Good government includes ensuring that during shutdowns, essential services are still performed. Thus, during the last government shutdown, federal employees, including TSA personnel in Hawai'i, continued to make official trips in support of their important security-related duties.

Unfortunately, these employees did not receive formal guidance on how or if they would be reimbursed for the official travel expenses they paid for using their own credit cards. This could have resulted in late payments and penalties, impacted their credit scores, and increased interest rates for both their personal and government cards.

No government employee should be held liable for the government's expenses during the shutdown. They should not have to pay for government travel on their personal travel cards without knowing when, or if, they will be reimbursed. My legislation would improve government functions by ensuring federal employees do not have to personally take on these liabilities.

RECOGNIZING ANN O'HANLON'S SERVICE TO THE PEOPLE OF VIRGINIA'S EIGHTH DISTRICT

HON. DONALD S. BEYER, JR.

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 9, 2019

Mr. BEYER. Madam Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to my longtime friend and Chief of Staff, Ann O'Hanlon. Ann has served by my side as chief of staff and campaign manager over the past five years and has been the backbone of our Congressional office. She oversaw our team with outstanding leadership, and motivated and inspired them to go above and beyond every day.

Ann's distinguished career began in the Peace Corps, followed by years as a journalist for the Washington Post. She eventually made her way to the political side, serving as the Executive Director for NARAL Pro-Choice Virginia from 2003 to 2007 and then as Director of Communications for the U.S. Office of Special Counsel from 2011 until 2014. I was lucky to have Ann come on board when I first ran for Congress and she has since been indispensable to me in running a busy office that serves the citizens of Northern Virginia.

As Chief of Staff, Ann led both our D.C. and District Offices, where she fostered work environments built upon trust and respect. Under her leadership, we have some of the most active and successful communications and legislative shops on the Hill. In the District, we've created and built invaluable relationships and resolved hundreds of constituent cases.

Ann has been such a trustworthy and steady right hand to me. I cannot imagine the past five years without her superb guidance, unmatched political savvy, and unyielding support.

I have been fortunate to be warmly connected to Ann's husband, John, and her three children, Liza, Griffin, and Nikki. I am grateful to them for their patience and support. On behalf of the American people, the people of Virginia's Eighth District, and on behalf of the team that Ann has remarkably led over the past five years, I am truly grateful for her service. While I am saddened to see her leave, I have no doubt she will continue to inspire and lead wherever she goes.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues in the House of Representatives to join me in recognizing the dedicated service of my chief of staff, Ann O'Hanlon.

CONGRATULATING OKLAHOMA STUDENTS ON ADVANCING TO THE NATIONAL SCIENCE BOWL FINALS

HON. KENDRA S. HORN

OF OKLAHOMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 9, 2019

Ms. KENDRA S. HORN of Oklahoma. Madam Speaker, maintaining America's global leadership means that we must equip our youth with the skills to meet the science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) needs of the future. Two teams from Oklahoma schools, Sequoyah Middle School and the Oklahoma School of Science and Mathematics high school students, showcased their STEM skills at the National Science Bowl finals and I want to recognize them for this achievement.

Sequoyah Middle School was represented by Alex Kelley, Jack MaGill, Shirsha Mukherjee, and Billy Sweiger and led by Coaches Beth Bryan and Shaun Sweiger.

The Oklahoma School of Science and Math was represented by Peter Ha, Brad Luo, William Wang, Howard Zhong and led by their coach Dr. Fazlur Rahman.

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) National Science Bowl® is a nationwide academic competition that tests students' knowledge in all areas of science and mathematics. Middle and high school student teams from diverse backgrounds are comprised of four students, one alternate, and a teacher who serves as an advisor and coach. These teams face-off in a fast-paced question-and-answer format, being tested on a range of science disciplines including biology, chemistry, Earth science, physics, energy, and math.

This year, 111 teams competed for a national title by demonstrating their knowledge in all areas of science and mathematics. Oklahoma was represented by the Sequoyah Middle School team in the middle school division and the Oklahoma School of Science and Mathematics in the high school division. These teams worked tirelessly throughout the year and competed at the local and regional level to get to Washington, D.C. So we congratulate their efforts and celebrate their achievement, dedication, and hard work.

HAPPY RETIREMENT TO DR. FRANK AYERS

HON. PAUL A. GOSAR

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 9, 2019

Mr. GOSAR. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Dr. Frank Ayers for his remarkable career in education and his dedicated service to the Prescott, Arizona community. Dr. Ayers is the 7th Chancellor of Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University's Prescott, Arizona Campus. He is a preeminent example of an educator who enriched and inspired his students every step of way. His tenure at Embry-Riddle has shaped the careers of the next generation of aviators, national security experts, and aerospace engineers.

In his 10 years as Chancellor, Dr. Ayers has dedicated his efforts to better the Embry-Riddle community by promoting the creation of new degree programs, establishing seven new athletic programs and creating a family atmosphere at the Prescott Campus. In addition, he was instrumental in working with the Prescott and Prescott Valley City Councils so that Embry-Riddle could help serve the greater Yavapai County region in the best ways possible.

This semester was Dr. Ayers last as Chancellor at Embry-Riddle. He leaves a remarkable legacy and Embry-Riddle, along with the greater Prescott community, will miss his outstanding leadership. I wish him a long and happy retirement surrounded by his family and friends, and thank him for all he has done for our community.

IN HONOR OF OFFICER JORDAN HARRIS SHELDON

HON. TED BUDD

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 9, 2019

Mr. BUDD. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Officer Jordan Harris Sheldon, who was killed in the line of duty during a routine traffic stop. Mr. Sheldon honorably served the Mooresville Police Department for six years as a K–9 officer.

I know that the Mooresville Police Department and the community are heartbroken by this news, as am I. Our men and women in blue put on the uniform every day not knowing what their fate could be, yet they continue to serve their communities without question.

Madam Speaker, I consider myself extremely fortunate to be able to represent a place like Mooresville in the United States Congress. I know I speak for the good folks in Mooresville when I say that Officer Sheldon won't be forgotten.

I'd ask you to join me in praying for Officer Sheldon, his family, the Mooresville Police Department, and the community during this difficult time.

COMMENDING STUDENTS AT MURRAY MIDDLE SCHOOL FOR WORKING TO ADDRESS WATER QUALITY ISSUES

HON. BRIAN J. MAST

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 9, 2019

Mr. MAST. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize a great program that is promoting civic engagement in Florida and across the country. The YMCA's Junior Youth In Government Program is a model legislative forum where students learn to write bills, as well as develop critical debate and leadership skills. In Martin County, the Junior Youth In Government Program started at Murray Middle School, and now all middle schools in Martin County have successful programs.

I want to especially recognize four students who dedicated their time in this program to addressing the water quality issues plaguing our community. Emma Mauri, Jasper Millette, KJ Thompson and Donovan Soars all recognized the pressing issues caused by polluted water and harmful algal blooms.

These students researched the issues thoroughly, proposed policy changes and successfully got their bills passed. They exemplify the kinds of future leaders we need in our government because they understand that protecting our environment is also essential to defending human health and strengthening our economy.

Madam Speaker, I want to congratulate Emma, Jasper, KJ and Donovan on their success, and I also hope these programs will continue to expand to give even more students the opportunity to learn more about how citizens can participate in our government.

RECOGNIZING THE 44TH CAPITAL PRIDE CELEBRATION

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 9, 2019

Ms. NORTON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to ask the House of Representatives to join me in recognizing the 44th Capital Pride Celebration, which will take place on the 50th anniversary of the Stonewall Riots. From May 31 to June 9, 2019, the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Questioning and others (LGBTQ+) communities and their allies in the National Capital Region will "shhhOUT, Past, Present & Proud."

On Father's Day of June 15, 1975, Deacon MacCubbin, owner of the Lambda Rising Bookstore in Dupont Circle began Gay Pride Day as a block party on 20th Street, between R and S Streets NW. Pride Day outgrew the curbs and sidewalks of 20th Street and moved to Francis Junior High School in 1980. The next year, a Pride Parade from Meridian Hill Park to Dupont Circle joined the renamed Gay and Lesbian Pride Day.

Over the years, the Pride festival has changed both in location and participation. In 1995, Pride Day moved to Freedom Plaza and on Sunday, June 8, 1997, a retitled Capitol Pride Festival opened on Pennsylvania Avenue. In 1991, D.C. Black Pride joined the Pride Celebration followed by Youth Pride in 1997. As momentum grew, D.C. Leather Pride began in 2006, while Transgender and Latinx Pride began in 2007. This year, Asian and Pacific Islanders (API) inaugurate API Pride, and seniors over 60 years of age observe Silver Pride.

Each June, Capital Pride recognizes individuals and organizations that have advanced causes important to the LGBTQ+ community in the National Capital Region. The Paving The Way Award acknowledges an individual or organization that has provided exemplary contributions, support or advocacy that impacts the larger LGBTQ+ community. The Alliance proudly awards the 2019 Paving The Way Award to The Washington Blade, America's LGBTQA Newspaper of Record.

The 2019 Hero Award recipients are Kimberley Bush, Director of Arts and Cultural Programs at the DC Center for the LGBT Community; Rea Carey, Executive Director of the National LGBTQ Task Force; Martin Espinoza, co-founder and President of Stonewall Sports; Ben de Guzman, Acting Director of the D.C. Mayor's Office on Asian and Pacific Islander Affairs; Amanda J. Hackett, Esq., an attorney in private practice who specializes in immigration matters for LGBTQ+ communities; and Tony "And I Thank You" Nelson, one of D.C.'s leading and most respected emcees and comedians.

Capital Pride gives the Engendered Spirit Award to outstanding advocates, activists and supporters of the transgender community. This year's recipients are: Xemiyulu Mariibusan Tapepechul, a Nawat Trans Femme from Kuskatan (El Salvador) and Larry Villegas-Perez, a Native American-Hispanic born in Venezuela. Donald Burch, III and Alan Thompson receive the Bill Miles Awards for Outstanding Volunteer Service. The Larry Stansbury Award for Exemplary Contributions to Pride goes to Team DC, the association of LGBTQ+ sports clubs in the DMV region. Capital Pride also awarded the National Center for Transgender Equality the Breaking Barriers: Community Impact Award.

I have marched in the Pride Parade since my election to Congress. I look forward to marching this year. I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the 44th Capital Pride Celebration.

COMMEMORATING THE 54TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE HEAD START PROGRAM

HON. GWEN MOORE

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 9, 2019

Ms. MOORE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 54th anniversary of the successful national Head Start program, which empowers children to succeed across the country.

Head Start is a critical program that is based on the simple premise that every child, regardless of their socioeconomic status, should be able to succeed in life. Head Start offers education, health and nutrition services to economically disadvantaged children, as well as parenting and employment supports to their parents.

Head Start is a wise and cost-effective investment in families and communities. For every dollar invested in Head Start by the federal government, the country realizes almost nine dollars in benefits through increased earning and reduced reliance on social programs.

In my state of Wisconsin, Head Start provides parent education, preventative health care, and home visits to nearly 17,000 Wisconsin children and families at over 280 locations statewide. In addition, just last year, Head Start provided crisis assistance to over 3,700 families in Wisconsin in the form of emergency food, clothing or shelter.

Yet, the need is much greater. In 2017, of the nearly 42,000 children in Wisconsin ages of three and five in poverty, only 31 percent had access to Head Start. Of the 50,985 children under the three in poverty, only 6 percent had access to Early Head Start. This is troubling when we know the difference that this program can make. Earlier this year, I again joined colleagues in asking the House Appropriations Committee to boost funding for Head Start.

So I commend those who have helped make this program such a vital part of communities in the past 50 plus years, the dedicated teachers, parents, and others who invest so much in our children. Madam Speaker, I commend Head Start for the difference it is making for children and families in Wisconsin and throughout the nation and urge this Congress to improve and strengthen it for another 50 wonderful years.

HONORING DR. BEVERLY WARREN

HON. TIM RYAN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 9, 2019

Mr. RYAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Dr. Beverly Warren, who has announced her retirement as Kent State University's 12th president.

Beverly Warren, Ph.D., Ed.D., began her tenure at Kent State on July 1, 2014. As the university's chief executive officer, President Warren oversaw one of the nation's largest university systems. Under her leadership, the university embarked upon a systemwide, inclusive process to consider a bold and distinctive future for Kent State University. The six-year plan, A Strategic Roadmap to a Distinctive Kent State, is the result of this effort. With Students First named Priority One, the plan identified strategies that distinguished Kent State as an exemplar among the nation's best public research universities, with a distinctive blend of teaching, research and creative excellence.

Under Dr. Warren's leadership, the university enrolled its most academically advanced freshman class ever and has achieved record enrollment in its Honor's College program.

With a background in physical education, President Warren also has led the charge to turn Kent State into one of the healthiest campuses in the nation. She launched a series of wellness initiatives, including prohibiting smoking and tobacco use on campus as of July 2017.

Dr. Warren also leveraged her leadership throughout the Northeast Ohio community. She has served as a member of the Board of Trustees for The Cleveland Orchestra and served on the boards of directors for Team

NEO, Greater Akron Chamber of Commerce, Northeast Ohio Council on Higher Education (NOCHE) and Northeastern Educational Television of Ohio Inc. (NETO).

President Warren distinguished herself as a warm and friendly face amongst the students and staff of Kent State. Whether she's championing academics in the board room or cheering on the Golden Flashes on the field, her energy, presence, and compassion can be felt campus-wide.

I was proud to work with Dr. Warren to help secure funding to advance research efforts at Kent State. With Dr. Warren's leadership, the research being done at Kent State will go a long way to help solve real-world issues.

I thank President Warren for her service to the students and community and wish her the best of luck in her retirement.

IN RECOGNITION OF IMAM OMAR SULEIMAN

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 9, 2019

Ms. JOHNSON of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and thank Imam Omar Suleiman for offering the opening prayer before the House of Representatives this afternoon.

Imam Suleiman is a world renowned scholar and theologically driven activist for human rights. He is the Founder and President of the Yaqeen Institute for Islamic Research and a professor of Islamic Studies at Southern Methodist University. He's also the resident scholar of the Valley Ranch Islamic Center and Co-Chair Emeritus of Faith Forward Dallas at Thanks-Giving Square, a multi-faith coalition of clergy for peace and justice. He frequently writes for CNN, USA Today, The Guardian, HuffPo, and The Dallas Morning News.

His career started in his hometown of New Orleans where he served as the Imam of the Jefferson Muslim Association in New Orleans for 6 years and directed the "Muslims for Humanity" Hurricane Katrina Relief effort. It was during this time that he was recognized on a national level as being a strong advocate of community service, interfaith dialogue, and social justice. He co-founded the East Jefferson Interfaith Clergy Association and was awarded for his outstanding civic achievement by the Mayor and City Council of New Orleans in 2010. He's also the founder of MUHSEN, a non-profit umbrella organization serving the community to establish a more inclusive "Special Friendly" environment for our brothers & sisters of all disabilities.

In July 2016, he marched with demonstrators in Dallas against the killings of Alton Sterling and Philando Castile. In the wake of the tragic shooting of officers after that protest, he was chosen to lead the invocation at the Presidential memorial alongside former Presidents Barack Obama and George W. Bush. The D-Magazine published a feature on him titled "The Religious Leader Dallas Needs." His work in bringing people together was the subject of a BBC documentary in 2016, and work with refugees in Syria featured in PBS in January 2017, and in 2016, he was a recipient of the United Nations Global Goals Award with Faith Forward Dallas. He led the airport protests in Dallas against President Trump's Muslim ban in 2017; led a group of clergy to the Mexico border that intercepted a bus of children taken from their parents under the family separation policy; and has worked closely with the families of the victims of police brutality to amplify their cause. Most recently, he was recognized by CNN as one ofthe 25 most influential Muslims in America and included amongst the Frederick Douglass 200 most influential Americans whose modern day work embodies the legacy of the great abolitionist.

COMMEMORATING THE FIFTIETH ANNIVERSARY OF THE SOUTHERN TIER CENTRAL REGIONAL PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT BOARD

HON. TOM REED

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 9, 2019

Mr. REED. Madam Speaker, today I rise to commemorate the fiftieth anniversary of the Southern Tier Central Regional Planning and Development Board.

Southern Tier Central has been serving the communities of Chemung, Schuyler, and Steuben Counties since 1969. As a regional council, Southern Tier Central promotes coordination between the neighboring counties to provide a regional approach to improving the economy, the environment, and the quality of life for citizens of the Southern Tier. Their work to provide planning for economic development, transportation, human services, and flood assistance helps the communities of the Southern Tier grow and thrive.

The Southern Tier Central Regional Planning and Development Board provides a variety of services to the region. As the designated Local Development District of the Appalachian Regional Commission and an Economic Development District of the Economic Development Administration, Southern Tier Central is able to qualify for special grant funding and project assistance to promote important local economic and community development projects. Over the last half century, Southern Tier Central has helped to provide more than eighty-seven million dollars in grant funding and technical assistance to the region.

Fifty years of serving the community is certainly a cause for celebration. I congratulate the Southern Tier Central Regional Planning and Development Board on this impressive milestone and look forward to their continued success in the years to come.

Given the above, I ask that this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations and join me to commemorate the fiftieth anniversary of the Southern Tier Central Regional Planning and Development Board.

MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS MONTH

SPEECH OF

HON. JOHN KATKO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 8, 2019

Mr. KATKO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Mental Health Awareness Month. Throughout May, my colleagues and I will bring attention to the impact of mental illnesses on American society, as well as Congress's role in addressing mental healthcare issues facing the country. It is an honor to collaborate with my colleagues in the Congressional Mental Health Caucus to raise awareness for mental illnesses, reduce the stigma surrounding mental illness, and create legislation that improves mental health outcomes for Americans.

Mental illnesses have a devastating effect on those struggling to live with them. This includes changes in mood, social interactions, sleep patterns, and eating habits. Sadly, the most extreme consequences of mental illness are when an individual inflicts self-injury or takes their life. Suicide is the 10th leading cause of death in the United States and the second leading cause of death among Americans age 24 and younger. Approximately 1.4 million Americans attempt suicide each year and over 47,000 Americans lose their lives to suicide. The United States has 3,700 suicide attempts daily and 129 suicide deaths per day. This equates to one suicide every 12 minutes.

Not only does suicide have severe emotional costs on families and communities, but also on our economy. It is estimated suicide and self-injury reduce the economic output of the United States by $69 billion per year.

The suicide epidemic is responsible for nearly the same amount of deaths in the United States as another prevalent health crisis: the opioid epidemic. It is estimated opioids were the cause for 47,600 deaths in America, only a few hundred more than suicide. While solving the opioid crisis has received ample funding and attention, and rightfully so, reducing suicide and improving mental health treatment deserves the same recognition. Congress has a responsibility to assist individuals experiencing mental health challenges through effective legislation and research subsidies.

Congress should advance policies that increase Americans' access to mental healthcare treatment as a mechanism for preventing self-harm incidents and suicide attempts. Just one third of Americans with mental illness receive treatment. Our country is in desperate need of additional trained therapists, psychologists, and counselors. This lack of access can be partly attributed to a shortage of mental healthcare professionals in certain communities. In order to establish a more reliable supply of mental healthcare professionals, Congresswoman GRACE NAPOLITANO and I recently introduced the Mental Health Professionals Workforce Shortage Loan Repayment Act of 2019. Our bill delivers professionals to areas that require mental healthcare experts the most by forgiving their secondary education student loans. It invests in bolstering our mental health workforce, while expanding treatment for Americans with mental illness.

Americans across the country, regardless of age, social status, or background, are affected by mental illnesses. Mental Health Awareness Month serves as an opportunity for any of my Congressional colleagues, Republican or Democrat, to join the conversation. Together, we can improve mental health outcomes for Americans across the country by engaging in thoughtful discussion and crafting efficient policies.

Finally, it is an honor to once again co-chair the Congressional Mental Health Caucus with

Congresswoman NAPOLITANO. I am grateful for her continued leadership and commitment on this issue and I look forward to further collaborating with her.

HONORING NEW ROCHELLE YMCA 120TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 9, 2019

Mr. ENGEL. Madam Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I recognize an institution that has helped children and families in my district for an astonishing 120 years, the New Rochelle YMCA.

On January 15, 1899 a group of New Rochelleans gathered at 56 Woodland Ave. in New Rochelle to discuss the possibility of creating a YMCA. On February 3, 1899 the New Rochelle YMCA received its article of incorporation.

The original home of the Y was located at 480–482 Main Street where a building committee was established to create a permanent home. Twenty-six years later the YMCA purchased the Hendricks property at the comer of Division St. and Burling Lane (now Memorial Highway) and began raising money to build a new site. Fallowing the economic uncertainty of the stock market crash, the new building was completed in 1931.

A true charitable organization, the Y was involved with the soldiers at Fort Slocum during both world wars, providing them with room and board while on leave from their base, as well as providing room for the American Red Cross. Several local community organizations used the Y facility as meeting halls for their respective groups. Over the years the Y provided many programs for the New Rochelle community, with the pool being the most popular feature and by 1939 had a membership of over 2,200 people. Over the years, the Y developed a rich history in diversity.

In the 1980's they moved into its current home on 50 Weyman Avenue, a space it shared with the Boys and Girls Club.

The YMCA's presence in the community has continued to increase over the last ten years, as the focus of the Y shifted from a ''swim and gym club'' to a community based charitable organization, which offers affordable programs, in addition to providing financial aid for children and families in need. Currently the YMCA serves close to 5,000 members, with a great majority of seniors and children. The YMCA has developed a Universal Pre-K program in partnership with the New Rochelle school district.

The New Rochelle YMCA has served the community for 120 years. On the occasion of their anniversary, I'd like to congratulate and thank their entire team for all they have done.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ILHAN OMAR

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 9, 2019

Ms. OMAR. Madam Speaker, had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 185; YEA Roll Call No. 186; YEA Roll Call No. 187; and YEA Roll Call No. 188.

CONGRATULATIONS TO TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY-SAN ANTONIO

HON. WILL HURD

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 9, 2019

Mr. HURD of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the 10th Anniversary of Texas A&M University-San Antonio. Since its establishment in 2009, A&M-San Antonio has transformed into a bustling, centralized University that has awarded over 8,000 degrees on the Southside of San Antonio, so students are prepared to take on the challenges of the 21st Century.

Additionally, the University is reflective of the rich heritage of the community it serves, with a student body that's 60-percent female, 72-percent Hispanic and 77-percent first-generation college students. I am proud to represent a University that is playing a hands-on role in moving our country forward, and I know this is only the beginning.

On behalf of the Twenty-third Congressional District of Texas, congratulations to Texas A&M University-San Antonio on this achievement and go jaguars.

HONORING THE ROANOKE TRIBUNE

HON. BEN CLINE

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 9, 2019

Mr. CLINE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to mark the 80th anniversary of the Roanoke Tribune newspaper in Roanoke, Virginia.

Founded by Reverend F.E. Alexander in 1939, the Roanoke Tribune has played an important role in the community of Roanoke, representing the African-American community as it fought racial discrimination in the Roanoke Valley in the 20th Century.

Their tradition of strong, independent journalism which holds leaders and the powerful accountable continues today under the leadership of Reverend Alexander's daughter, Claudia A. Whitworth, and his grandson, Stanley A. Hale.

Congratulations to the Roanoke Tribune on its 80 years, and here is wishing them many more.

SUPPORT OF THE LAWYERS DEFENDING DEMOCRACY ''OPEN LETTER TO THE PRESIDENT AND CONGRESS''

HON. JAMIE RASKIN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 9, 2019

Mr. RASKIN. Madam Speaker, while the nation has been focused on Russian interference with the 2016 presidential election and questions of presidential obstruction of justice, President Donald Trump's violation of fundamental principles and norms of American democracy have been far more comprehensive. In the last three months, more than 400 attorneys—including former federal and state judges, United States Attorneys, managing partners of large law firms, law deans and other distinguished lawyers from around the country—have stepped forward in a broad and unprecedented effort to defend American democracy and the rule of law against official lawlessness.

The lawyers have signed and published an ''Open Letter to The President and Congress'' identifying five fundamental norms and principles of our democracy which they believe the President has violated. These violations involve the President's unjustified attacks on the mainstream media, courts, law enforcement and intelligence agencies, his repeated lying to the public, and failure to respect civil discourse and peoples from all backgrounds. The Letter's Appendix cites examples of violations of each principle.

The Letter emphasizes that it is ''NOT about disagreements over Republican or Democratic policies, liberal or conservative ideology, or political party advantage. The values and principles threatened here are much deeper, and are much more important, than politics, policy differences and any politician's self-interest. They're the bedrock of our American, constitutional, democratic form of government for all times.''

The Letter notes that: ''[u]nless challenged and checked, the pattern of disregard weakens the norms that underpin American self-government and invites unfettered Executive power—transforming the United States from a democracy to an autocracy. As members of the legal profession, pledged to support the rule of law and the constitutional separation of powers, we must not allow this to happen.'' I am pleased to endorse this Letter and Appendix by Lawyers Defending American Democracy, www.lawyersdefendingdemocracy.org, and include them in the RECORD.

We are fortunate that, at a time of rising authoritarianism around the world, lawyers in the United States are standing strong for the rule of law and the Constitution.

OPEN LETTER OF LAWYERS DEFENDING AMERICAN DEMOCRACY

We live at a time when America's fundamental values are under attack. As American lawyers, we're deeply concerned about protecting the democratic institutions and principles that have enabled America to be the world's preeminent beacon of freedom and opportunity.

As lawyers, we have the responsibility to defend the underlying constitutional values and norms of political behavior on which our democracy depends. These core values and principles include: the rule of law; institutional checks and balances; separation of powers; press freedom; truthfulness to the public; and the integrity of our system of justice.

Accordingly, we, as lawyers, cannot ignore or remain silent about President Donald Trump's disregard of these core values and principles. We must speak out.

Yet, we recognize that elections have consequences. This effort to energize and mobilize our legal profession is emphatically NOT about disagreements over Republican or Democratic policies, liberal or conservative ideology, or political party advantage. The values and principles threatened here go much deeper, and are much more important than politics, policy differences and any politician's self-interest. They're the bedrock of

our American, constitutional, democratic form of government.

Specifically, we call on the President to respect and honor the following fundamental principles and norms of American democracy:

Independence, integrity and the critical role of mainstream media: An independent and watchful mainstream media is, and always has been, an essential component of American democracy.

Independence, integrity, competence and nonpartisanship of the judiciary: The independence, integrity, competence and nonpartisanship of our judiciary is, and from the founding of our Nation has been, a central pillar of our democratic system.

Truthfulness of public officials: Our democracy is built on trust and telling the people the truth about public matters; the maintenance of that trust and Americans' ability to make informed and rational public decisions require our leaders to provide honest, factual information to us all.

Independence, integrity, competence and nonpartisanship of federal criminal justice and intelligence agencies, including Department of Justice (DOJ) and FBI: Nonpartisan independence, integrity and competence are critical to the fairness of our federal criminal justice system and intelligence agencies.

Civil discourse and fair treatment, including the respect for rights and the dignity of all individuals, regardless of race, ethnicity, national origin, religion, gender, disability or sexual orientation: Civil discourse and fair treatment, including respect for the rights and dignity of all individuals, is an essential ingredient of American democracy.

The President's attacks on these core American democratic principles undermine the foundations of our Constitution and threaten the rule of law. Unless challenged and checked, this pattern of disregard weakens the norms that underpin American self-government and invites unfettered Executive power—transforming the United States from a democracy to an autocracy. As members of the legal profession, pledged to support the rule of law and the constitutional separation of powers, we must not allow this to happen.

Fortunately, a group of prominent conservative lawyers has recently spoken out on many of these same issues through a new organization, ''Checks and Balances.'' Now, other members of the bar must no longer remain silent.

We call on the leaders of America's bar associations, law schools, law firms and fellow lawyers nationwide to speak out, on a nonpartisan basis, against these attacks on the core of our democratic constitutional form of government. As lawyers, we have a responsibility to uphold ''the rule of law'' and prevent ''the law of rulers.'' Wherever you live and work—in cities, towns, rural areas, suburbs—American democracy needs to hear your voice.

APPENDIX

We list below the five fundamental principles and values of American democracy highlighted in our Open Letter to the President. Under each principle, we describe patterns or examples of behavior by the President that we believe constitute serious violations of these principles. The examples are not intended to be comprehensive and may be added to in the future.

Principle: Independence, integrity and the critical role of mainstream media.

Pattern of Violations: Nevertheless, the President has labeled the mainstream news media that have earned our trust through decades of relentless, factual reporting as the ''enemy of the American people!'' and has repeatedly criticized reporting he dislikes as ''Fake News.''

Principle: Independence, integrity, competence and nonpartisanship of judiciary.

Pattern of Violations: Nevertheless, the President has criticized ''our Court System'' as ''broken and unfair'' and has pilloried the judges and decisions of an entire Federal Circuit as ''[a] terrible, costly and dangerous disgrace.'' He has publicly labeled a federal judge with whose decision he disagreed a ''so-called judge''. And he sought to undermine the public's confidence in the integrity of another federal judge—who had ruled that the President's immigration policy violated express statutory language—by calling him ''an Obama judge.''

Principle: Civil discourse and fair treatment, including respect for rights and dignity of all individuals, regardless of race, ethnicity, national origin, religion, gender, disability or sexual orientation.

Examples of Violations: Nevertheless, the President has said that there were ''some very fine people on both sides'' of the murderous Charlottesville white nationalists' demonstrations. He's approved the removal of thousands of children from their immigrant parents, for extended time periods, and has publicly insulted several respected African-American female journalists.

Principle: Independence, integrity, competence and nonpartisanship of federal criminal justice and intelligence agencies, including Department of Justice (DOJ) and FBI.

Examples of Violations: Nevertheless, the President has attacked the DOJ for indicting Republican Congressmen for serious financial crimes because the indictments would harm the chances for reelecting Republicans. He has attacked and removed former Attorney General Jeff Sessions for lack of personal loyalty, after having previously complained that: ''I don't have an Attorney General.''

He has accused the special counsel's deliberate, professional, lawful investigation of Russian interference with the 2016 election as the ''rigged Mueller Witch Hunt!'' And, he has rejected the U.S. intelligence community's consensus finding of Russian interference in that election, because Vladimir Putin, the autocratic Russian President, told the President that there was no interference.

Principle: Truthfulness of public officials.

Examples of Violations: [. . .] The Washington Post has documented more than 7,500 ''false or misleading claims'' by the President.

COMMENDING THE JUNIOR YOUTH IN GOVERNMENT PROGRAM AT MURRAY MIDDLE SCHOOL

HON. BRIAN J. MAST

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 9, 2019

Mr. MAST. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize a great program that is promoting civic engagement in Florida and across the country. The YMCA's Junior Youth In Government Program is a model legislative forum where students learn to write bills, as well as develop critical debate and leadership skills. In Florida, these bills amend existing laws or create new legislation to better serve Floridians.

In Martin County, the Junior Youth In Government Program started at Murray Middle School, and now all middle schools in Martin County have successful programs. I want to especially recognize David Yankwitt. In addition to teaching American History and Civics at Murray Middle School, he works as the coordinator for the Junior Youth In Government Program for Martin County. His work is inspiring a new generation of leaders to engage with our state in a civic-minded way.

I also want to recognize the 15 students who participated in this program at Murray Middle School and the 35 students who participated county-wide. As students continue in Junior Youth In Government, they can then move into Senior Youth In Government. South Fork, Martin County and Jensen Beach High Schools all have great student-led programs that could result in students receiving college credit and scholarships.

Madam Speaker, I hope these programs will continue to expand and give even more students the opportunity to learn more about how citizens can participate in our government.

CONGRATULATING JIM GRIFFIN ON HIS SUCCESS AS CHAIRMAN OF THE HEB ISD EDUCATION FOUNDATION'S BOARD OF DIRECTORS

HON. KENNY MARCHANT

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 9, 2019

Mr. MARCHANT. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate City of Bedford Mayor Jim Griffin on his success as Chairman of the Hurst-Euless-Bedford Independent School District Education Foundation's Board of Directors.

Through the guidance of its board of directors, the Hurst-Euless-Bedford Independent School District (HEB ISD) Education Foundation raises and awards private funds and community resources in support of the HEB ISD's commitment to serving its students and to educational excellence. Since its establishment in 1995, the Foundation has raised and awarded over $855,000 in the form of grants to educators and programs within the HEB ISD.

In 2016, Jim Griffin assumed the role of Chairman of the Board of Directors, leading the foundation into a new period of success and prosperity. Acting on his passions for education and service to his community, Mayor Griffin has worked rigorously and spent countless hours on school campuses, building essential relationships with educators throughout the area. Furthermore, his efforts to secure critical funding have enabled the Foundation to effectively meet the needs of a growing student population.

Mayor Griffin's tremendous impact is apparent in the extensive and continuous outreach that he conducts on behalf of the Foundation. Throughout his time as Chairman, he has maintained the highest level of corporate and community support for the Superintendent's annual Circle of Giving Campaign. He has also expanded the Campus Liaison Program to include multiple visits to all HEB ISD campuses each year. Additionally, Mayor Griffin's work to rebrand the HEB ISD staff campaign ''ARE YOU IN? Inspire, Innovate, Invest'', has resulted in over 100 percent growth of both donors and donations in 2018–2019. With over 770 staff donors and $36,000 raised this past year, every dollar from this campaign is given directly to classrooms and campuses

through the Empowered to Excel grant program.

Under Mayor Jim Griffin's stewardship, the Hurst-Euless-Bedford Independent School District Education Foundation has reached new heights, and will continue to help the schools and children throughout their communities for years to come. Madam Speaker, on behalf of the 24th Congressional District of Texas, I ask all my distinguished colleagues to join me in congratulating Mayor Jim Griffin on his success as Chairman of the HEB ISD Education Foundation.

18TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT ART COMPETITION

HON. MICHAEL F. DOYLE

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 9, 2019

Mr. MICHAEL F. DOYLE of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the artistic ability of a young student from my Congressional District, Caden Ferita from Westinghouse Arts Academy.

Caden is the winner of the 2019 18th Congressional District of Pennsylvania's High School Art Competition, ''An Artistic Discovery.'' Caden's artwork, an oil painting entitled ''René,'' was selected from a number of outstanding entries in this year's competition. In fact, 28 works from 10 different schools in Pennsylvania's 18th Congressional District were submitted to our panel of respected local artists. It's a real tribute to Ms. Ferita's skill and vision that her work was chosen as the winner of this year's competition.

Ms. Ferita's artwork will represent the 18th Congressional District of Pennsylvania in the national exhibit of high school students' artwork that will be displayed in the United States Capitol over the coming year. I encourage my colleagues as well as any visitor to Capitol Hill to view Ms. Ferita's artwork, along with the winning entries from the high school art contests held in other Congressional Districts, which will be on display in the Capitol tunnel. It is amazing to walk through this corridor and see the interpretation of life through the eyes of these young artists from all across our country.

Lillianne Taylor from Pittsburgh CAPA was awarded second place for her multi-media composition ''Gabby.'' Caleb McCoy from Woodland Hills High School received third place for his untitled drawing with marker and pen. Nicholas Altland from Upper St. Clair High School was awarded fourth place for his photograph entitled ''Over the Mon,'' and Hayley Shevitz from Pittsburgh CAPA was awarded fifth place for her charcoal drawing ''Mystery-Pop.''

Honorable Mention Awards were presented to works by Mackenzie Freed-DePastino from East Allegheny High School, Taya Tassone from East Allegheny High School, Kyrie Allshouse from Pittsburgh CAPA, Francesca Lojacono from Pittsburgh CAPA, and Ashleigh Smith from South Allegheny High School.

I would like to recognize all of the participants in this year's 18th Congressional District High School Art Competition: Brian Genovesi, Khin Lwin, Anthony Provident, Bethany Rechtorik, Bridget Stehle, and Jenna Velgich from Baldwin High School; Ariana Guerra from Bethel Park High School; Amelia Bademosi from Cornerstone Christian Preparatory Academy; Makenzie Freed-DePastino, Madisyn Montgomery, Marissa Riggs, Mandy Ruffing, and Taya Tassone from East Allegheny High School; Sarah Artuhevich from Penn Hills High School; Kyrie Allshouse, Elais Freeman, Francesca Lojacono, Hayley Shevitz, and Lillianne Taylor from Pittsburgh CAPA; Kaelin Rebholz and Ashleigh Smith from South Allegheny High School; Nicholas Altland and Tori Keller from Upper St. Clair. Caden Ferita, Angelina Kukic, and Pheobe Richardson, from Westinghouse Arts Academy; and Caleb McCoy from Woodland Hills High School.

I would like to thank these impressive young artists for allowing us to share and celebrate their talent, imagination, and creativity. The efforts these talented students have put into expressing themselves in a powerful and positive manner are deeply inspiring. I hope that all of them will continue to utilize their artistic talents, and I wish them all great success in their future endeavors.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE KANSAS CITY NATIONAL SECURITY CAMPUS

HON. EMANUEL CLEAVER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 9, 2019

Mr. CLEAVER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the seventieth anniversary of the Kansas City National Security Campus (KCNSC), managed by Honeywell FM&T. Since their founding in 1949, KCNSC and Honeywell established a strong presence within our community, fulfilling a national security need while engaging our local workforce. Today, their campus has expanded exponentially to provide quality jobs for over 4,500 members of the Fifth Congressional District.

The Kansas City National Security Campus was created under the direction of then U.S. Senator Harry S. Truman to establish a centralized national defense operation that would be strategically located in the heart of the country—Kansas City. Seven years later, President Truman was pleased to see his vision come true when Kansas City's Bendix Corporation signed the contract to operate the local division of the Atomic Energy Commission. Growing steadily, Bendix expanded to employ 8,301 employees in the Kansas City community by 1963. Bendix became known for providing quality employment options for men and women of diverse backgrounds. As a new resident of Kansas City in 1968, I was actually employed at Bendix myself, so I am especially appreciative to this company for giving me my first opportunity in the city that I have called home for the past fifty years.

Throughout their seventy years in service, KCNSC has consistently paved the way in providing innovative solutions to some of our most pressing challenges. State of the art facilities like the Electrical Products Manufacturing Building and the Flexible Manufacturing System exhibited the foremost technological advances available at the time.

Beginning in 2013, the National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA) and Honeywell FM&T contract embarked on one of their largest and most prestigious expansions yet—the relocation of the KCNSC campus. Since this expansion, the collaboration has remained steadfast as an integral pillar in the community. These $9 billion facilities have enabled the already thriving KCNSC to expand exponentially, providing secure and highly sought-after jobs to a plethora of Kansas Citians. Since the opening dedication of the new facilities on Botts Road in August 2014, hundreds of employees have been added to the KCNSC family, encouraging economic growth and investment in our city. KCNSC has grown their total staff from 2,500 employees in 2015 to 4,500 employees employed there today. As a testament to KCNSC's continued efficiency, throughout the entire relocation process, the highest standards of both safety and performance were maintained, giving this branch of Honeywell and NNSA national recognition and approval. Their work during the transition was described as ''better than flawless'' by Plant President Chris Gentile.

Going forward, the KCNSC facility maintains the same standard of excellence and dedication to safety and sustainability as they did in 1949 while providing high quality jobs and employee satisfaction. It brings me great personal pride to have this institution located within our Fifth Congressional District of Missouri.

Madam Speaker, please join me with Missouri's Fifth Congressional District in honoring the Kansas City National Security Campus, managed by Honeywell FM&T, for their remarkable achievements in our community and their contributions to the security, safety, and longevity of our nation during the past seventy years.

HONORING NATIONAL ARAB AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH

HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 9, 2019

Mr. ENGEL. Madam Speaker, I want to take a moment to recognize April as National Arab American Heritage Month, a time to honor all of the incredible achievements the Arab American community has made here in America.

For over a century, Arab Americans have been making valuable contributions to virtually every aspect of American society: in medicine, law, business, education, technology, government, military service, and culture. Since migrating to America, men and women of Arab descent have shared their rich culture and traditions with neighbors and friends, while also setting fine examples of model citizens and public servants. They brought with them their resilient family values, strong work ethic, dedication to education, and diversity in faith and creed that have added strength to our great democracy. Arab Americans have also enriched our society by sharing in the entrepreneurial American spirit that makes our nation free and prosperous.

Unfortunately, the history of Arab Americans in the U.S. has been marred by misconceptions, bigotry, and anti-Arab hate speech and violence. As such, Arab American concerns, such as civil rights violations, harmful stereotyping, and bullying must be combatted through education, awareness, and, if necessary our criminal justice system. We must all join together to see a peaceful and diverse

society, where every individual is treated equally and feels safe.

Madam Speaker, the substantial contributions and rich cultural heritage of Arab Americans have helped us build a better, stronger nation for everyone. As someone who represents a significant Arab American population in my district, I am honored to help celebrate and recognize National Arab American Heritage Month here in Congress.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF WILLIAM NATHAN SALIN

HON. SUSAN W. BROOKS

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 9, 2019

Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of former Indiana Secretary of State, William Nathan Salin who passed away on May 4th. Bill was born in Anderson, Indiana and was a dedicated public servant and lifelong Hoosier who established a community bank creating hundreds of jobs in northern and central Indiana. In addition, Bill worked tirelessly to improve the lives of Indiana students with scholarships he provided to help fund their college education.

Bill's commitment to his community and state was well known. He was the two-time recipient of Indiana's highest honor, receiving the Sagamore of the Wabash award from both Governor Dr. Otis R. Bowen and Governor Edgar D. Whitcomb. Typically, the Sagamore of the Wabash honor is given for wisdom, public commitment, and a concern for the well-being of others.

After graduation from Indiana School of Business in 1954, Bill went on to join the U.S. Army, and the following year married Jane Robertson on June 4, 1955. Bill then earned a law degree from Indiana University, and he and Jane moved to Kendallville, Indiana where he began his professional career as an attorney with the law firm Findlay & Findlay. Later, Bill continued his active community involvement serving as Kendallville City Attorney.

In 1962, Bill and Jane moved to Fort Wayne, Indiana where Bill once again was an active community leader managing Indiana Bank's trust department. In 1968, Bill was elected as Secretary of State serving along with Governor Edgar D. Whitcomb. After completing his service as Secretary of State, Bill returned with his family to Fort Wayne.

In Fort Wayne, Bill continued to practice law at the firm of Kennerk, Dumas, Burke, Backs & Salin. Bill was a member of the Indianapolis, Indiana, and American Bar Associations; Indiana and American Bankers Associations; American Business Club; Economic Club of Indianapolis; Indiana University Varsity Club and of the Well House Society; The Columbia Club; The Indiana Society of Chicago; and The Forum Club of Southwest Florida.

In 1983, Bill founded and was Chairman of Salin Bank & Trust Company, a family owned community bank serving Columbus, Delphi, Edinburgh, Fishers, Flora, Fort Wayne, Galveston, Gas City, Kokomo, Lafayette, Logansport, Marion, West Lafayette, and Indianapolis. Bill and the entire Salin family took great pride in serving Hoosiers and their banking needs. It was during his tenure at the bank that Bill and his wife Jane established the Salin Family Foundation in order to provide annual scholarships to students to fund their education at colleges and universities in Indiana. In 2018, Salin Bank merged with Michigan City-based Horizon Bank and today Horizon Bank provides community banking services in both Indiana and Michigan.

In addition to Salin Bank & Trust and Salin Bancshares, Inc., Bill served on the boards of several banks and bank holding companies. Bill also served on a number of community and education boards including serving as a Trustee of Hanover College, Hanover, Indiana; a Trustee of the Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary at Northwestern University; a member of the Board of the Indiana Historical Society; and the Indianapolis Symphony Orchestra.

Bill was an active in the United Methodist Church for many years. Together, he and Jane established an endowed scholarship for ministers' children attending Anderson University in Indiana's Fifth Congressional District. In 1997, Bill and Jane served as co-chairs for the capital campaign which raised funds to build the sanctuary at St. Luke's United Methodist Church in Indianapolis.

Bill was a devoted husband, father, and grandfather. One of Bill's favorite places was with his family at Lake Wawasee where he spent 55 years enjoying the outdoors and beautiful lake with Jane and their children and eight grandchildren. The entire family enjoyed many summer days sailing and water skiing at the lake. Bill also enjoyed winter out west, and spent many special days snow skiing with his grandchildren in Beaver Creek, Colorado.

Bill was a leader in Indiana who cared deeply for all the communities both large and small served by Salin Bank. He will be missed by many. I want to extend my most heartfelt condolences to his family in their time of mourning. Bill is survived by his wife of 63 years, Margaret Jane (Robertson); his children Bill II (Peggy), and their children Bill III (Julie), Sophie and Sam; daughter Sherri (Curt) Fritsch and their children Bob and Will; and daughter Susie (Garth) McClain, and their children Charlie, John and Margaret.

HONORING THE LIFE OF JACQUIE KAUFFMAN GRIBENS

HON. JARED HUFFMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 9, 2019

Mr. HUFFMAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today in memory of Jacquie Kauffman Gribens, who passed away on May 6, 2019, after a lifetime of public service to her community.

Born in 1966 in Mexico City, Jacquie moved to Massachusetts when she was 14, where she later graduated from the University of Massachusetts at Amherst. She then earned her law degree from Suffolk Law School in Boston. After meeting her ''bashert'' Bruce during law school, they spent the next few years travelling around the country. In 2006, the family moved to the Bay Area, where she spent much of her time volunteering for the local public schools and Congregation Rodef Shalom.

Jacquie's life was spent delivering on her strong desire for public service, in particular for the most vulnerable in her community. Most recently, she did this through her work with Lifehouse; a non-profit that works to improve the quality of life for people with developmental disabilities. Starting as a volunteer at Lifehouse, Jacquie stepped up to serve on the board of directors in 2014 , and then became Board Chair in 2018. She also spent time volunteering for the Marin County Board of Education, where she supervised a grant program to help first-generation students attend four-year colleges.

Jacquie is survived by her husband, Bruce, their three children, Josh, Nick, and Allie, as well as her mother Wanda, sister Michelle and brother-in-law Bruce, and many other family and friends across the world. While she will be greatly missed, Jacquie's legacy will live on through the indelible positive impact she had on our community and beyond. Madam Speaker, please join me in offering our sincere condolences to Jacquie Gribens' family and many friends and in appreciating her many good deeds.

RECOGNIZING EVAN MARKS AS THE CONSTITUENT OF THE MONTH

HON. MIKE LEVIN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 9, 2019

Mr. LEVIN of California. Madam Speaker, it is my honor to recognize yet another exemplary citizen, Evan Marks, as my Constituent of the Month for May. Each month, it's my pleasure to recognize residents of the 49th District who have gone above and beyond to make our community stronger, and Evan has done just that as the Founder and Executive Director of The Ecology Center in San Juan Capistrano.

At The Ecology Center, Evan and his team turned a vacant lot into an educational space, featuring a vibrant farm, kitchen, and artisan goods store where they teach community members about the importance of sustainable living practices. With roughly 70,000 visitors per year, The Ecology Center is a critical resource for our community that shows people how to save water, grow healthy food, and produce goods with a minimal impact on our environment.

Evan's work is imperative as we confront the dangerous impact that climate change is having on our planet. Just this week, the United Nations released a landmark report that found the health of the planet's ecosystems deteriorating rapidly, with over one million species of plants and animals on the path toward extinction due to human actions. However, the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) Chair, Sir Robert Watson, highlighted that ''it is not too late to make a difference, but only if we start now at every level from local to global.'' That is exactly what Evan and The Ecology Center inspire us to do, to take action at the local level that will help protect our planet for future generations.

I am proud to represent a community that recognizes the impact we have on our environment and knows we are all responsible for combatting climate change. Evan and all of the dedicated staff at The Ecology Center have led by example and made an extraordinarily positive impact on the region. I am

honored to recognize him as my Constituent of the Month for May.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JASON CROW

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 9, 2019

Mr. CROW. Madam Speaker, on May 8, 2019, I was unable to be present to cast my vote on the Orange Book Transparency Act (H.R. 1503) and the Purple Book Transparency Act (H.R. 1520). Had I been present for roll calls No. 187 and 188, I would have voted AYE on both.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE WEEHAWKEN VOLUNTEER FIRST AID SQUAD

HON. ALBIO SIRES

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 9, 2019

Mr. SIRES. Madam Speaker, it is my honor to recognize the essential role the Weehawken Volunteer First Aid Squad plays in ensuring the safety and wellbeing of our communities as they celebrate the 50th anniversary of their founding. Started in May 1969, the Weehawken Volunteer First Aid Squad currently has thirty active members and provides free life-saving emergency medical services to Weehawken and the surrounding communities in my district.

The Weehawken Volunteer First Aid Squad is Hudson County's longest serving volunteer EMS organization and has responded to emergencies of community and national attention, including the World Trade Center Attacks, the landing of Flight 1549 on the Hudson River, and Hurricane Sandy. Furthermore, the Weehawken Volunteer First Aid Squad continues to give back to the communities it serves through regular CPR and First Aid training to residents.

I am grateful to the men and women of the Weehawken Volunteer First Aid Squad who volunteer their time and skills in dedication to the safety of the 8th District and commend them on this momentous occasion.

RECOGNIZING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF ROBERT PEAR

HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 9, 2019

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to express my appreciation for the outstanding journalistic career of Robert Pear and to join so many who share a deep sadness over his untimely loss.

Those of us who had the chance to pitch a story to Robert or faced the challenge of responding to his questions knew he was deeply knowledgeable about health care. For 40 years, he reported on every major health care story and raised many issues that became major stories based on his reporting. He knew the laws that were in place, studied the policies being proposed to change those laws, and combed proposed legislation to get the details right. I knew that I had to know my stuff when Robert Pear called, because he would ask smart questions that demanded serious and thoughtful answers.

What always impressed me about Robert was his interest in looking at how the Congressional debate would affect real people. Health care wasn't just an inside-the-Beltway political conflict in Robert's reporting, it was a debate that had real-life consequences for everyone in every part of our nation. He would read the footnotes of GAO reports but would be even more interested in talking with my constituents about how high cost-sharing or lifetime limits affected their family budgets. He was masterful in being able to translate arcane policy into understandable language—informing both policymakers and the public. We all paid attention to a Robert Pear article.

Robert was a great reporter and he was a great and kind person. Robert always made you feel that he respected your views and was grateful for the time you gave him. He was interested in all perspectives and viewpoints. He would regularly check in with my long time Chief of Staff and health policy expert, Cathy Hurwit. He always said thank you—and you know he meant it. He would often send follow-up emails to share something that he thought might be of interest. He was the nation's preeminent health care reporter, but he was never a self-promoter. His goal was always to get the story and to get it right.

We have lost an important and astute chronicler of health care. After four decades of relying on his reporting, it is hard to imagine that we will never again read another Robert Pear article in The New York Times. My deep condolences go to his brother Douglas, his friends, and all those who got to know Robert Pear the reporter and the person.

CONGRATULATING WENDY BARON ON HER RETIREMENT

HON. MICHAEL K. SIMPSON

OF IDAHO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 9, 2019

Mr. SIMPSON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize a true public servant on her retirement. Wendy Baron retires today from the Idaho National Laboratory as the Emergency Communications Department manager.

Her remarkable journey at the lab started in the early 1980's. She first held a summer job at Argonne National Laboratory-West while she was in college and then returned after earning a degree in communications at Idaho State University in the public affairs office.

She left to work in private consulting in the 90's but found her way back to the lab in 2000. During this time, she also began volunteering with the Chubbuck Fire Department. I am not sure if it was that first EMT call to the Chubbuck Flying J where she delivered a baby in the front seat of a minivan, but it was in this job that Wendy discovered a passion for firefighting and emergency response. So Wendy turned her volunteer passion into her career.

In 2005 at 41 years old, Wendy became a member of the Idaho National Laboratory Fire Department. She trained hard to pass the physical test, including dragging a toboggan loaded with rock salt around her neighborhood at 4 a.m. Wendy immediately became active in union activities and leadership at the INLFD and just two years later, she helped lead the effort to reorganize the 75-member department into the International Association of Firefighters and served as the new local's president. That same year, Wendy was named the 2007 INL Firefighter of the year and was elected to serve on the executive board of the Professional Fire Fighters of Idaho (PFFI). She was then named PFFI Fire Fighter of the Year in 2009.

In 2013, Wendy was promoted to assistant fire chief for planning and logistics. Today, there are seven women in the INLFD, one of them a battalion chief. Fire Chief Eric Gosswiller credits Wendy for laying the groundwork for them.

Wendy is quick to credit those around her for her success. But even despite her humility, it is clear that Wendy is extraordinarily talented, hardworking, and dedicated. These qualities have resulted in the great respect and affection that her colleagues share for her.

I know Wendy looks forward to spending more time with her family in retirement, especially her husband Victor. She will also enjoy more sailing, backpacking, scuba and participating in competitive swimming and running events.

On behalf of a grateful community, I congratulate Wendy Baron on an incredibly successful and admirable career, and I wish you all the best in your well-deserved retirement.

HONORING ETHEL MAE McCULLUM 100TH BIRTHDAY

HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 9, 2019

Mr. ENGEL. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor of a remarkable milestone reached by a wonderful constituent in my district. On May 8, 2019 we will celebrate the 100th birthday of Ms. Ethel Mae McCullum. It is my distinct honor to help celebrate the occasion.

Ethel was born in Dunn, North Carolina to her parents Slona Streeter and Grant Bullard Streeter. She had two siblings, John Streeter and Beulah Lee. For 23 years, Ethel worked for the State of New York, and for 33 years she has been a resident of Tilden Towers II in the Bronx.

Ethel was always very involved with Tilden Towers II, working diligently with the Board for decades. But she was also involved in a host of other organizations. She is a lifetime member of the local chapter of the National Council of Negro Women (NCNW), participating in many of the group's fundraisers, annual luncheons, and other events. She is also a longtime member of Abyssinian Baptist Church—over 80 years to be precise—and her first ever Pastor was Rev. Adam Clayton Powell III.

Ethel's stories about growing up in rural North Carolina have always been a hit with the seniors living in the community. Her personality is, and always has been, loving and caring to all she encounters, and it shows.

Many people refer to Ethel as "everyone's Nana." And while she is beloved by all, she is

in actuality the matriarch of an astounding 5 generations. Ethel loves her family deeply, and always made sure to send every one of her grandchildren and great grandchildren cards on their birthdays.

Madam Speaker, it's hard to put into words what Ethel Mae McCullum has meant to our community. Everyone knows what a warm and caring individual she is, and everyone knows just how many lives she has touched. 100 years is a remarkable milestone, and Ethel is an equally remarkable person. On this very special occasion, I want to congratulate Ethel and personally send her my warmest wishes.

TRIBUTE TO MS. EARNESTINE RASBERRY

HON. DANNY K. DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 9, 2019

Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize and honor the life of Ms. Earnestine Rasberry who was affectionately known by her family, friends and loved-ones as "Mommy". Ms. Rasberry was born on December 15, 1940 in Edwards, Mississippi, to the late Genella Jones and Floyd Hopkins, Sr. She accepted Christ at an early age while living in Mississippi and later moved to Chicago while a teenager. In April of 1965 she and Mr. Moses Rasberry were united in holy matrimony. Earnestine enrolled in Malcom X College and earned and Associates of Science Degree in Nursing and began her nursing a career at Cook County Hospital where she worked for many years and then retired from Hartgrove Hospital in 2005. Her nursing career spanned for fifty years. Fifty years of looking after and caring for others. In addition to nursing, Earnestine had strong interests in traveling and cooking. A few of her favorite destinations included Alaska, Antarctica and China. The highlight of one of her many excursions was meeting Grammy Award winning Gerald Levert. Earnestine knew her way around the kitchen and hosted many holiday meals for family and friends. Cooking was one of her ways she expressed her love. Earnestine was the matriarch of her family and was instrumental. All of you should be comforted by these words. And I say "let not your heart be troubled, you who believe in God, also believe in Earnestine. Her father's house has many rooms; if it was not so, would I not have told you so. She is gone to prepare a place for you, and where she is, you will be there also. And if she goes and prepares a place for you, she will come back and take you to be with her and you will be where she is. You know the way to the place where she is going." You can go where she is.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 9, 2019

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Madam Speaker, on Tuesday, May 7, 2019, I was unavoidably detained in my congressional district by inclement weather and was not present for Roll Call Votes 185 and 186. Had I been present, I would have voted as follows:

1. On Roll Call 185, I would have voted "aye." (On Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass H. Res. 273, Reaffirming the United States commitment to Taiwan and to the implementation of the Taiwan Relations Act)

2. On Roll Call 186, I would have voted "aye." (On Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass H.R. 1704, Championing American Business Through Diplomacy Act of 2019)

Daily Digest

Senate

Chamber Action

Routine Proceedings, pages S2751–S2774

Measures Introduced: Thirty-eight bills and three resolutions were introduced, as follows: S. 1381–1418, and S. Res. 198–200. **Pages S2769–71**

Measures Reported:

S. 820, to strengthen programs authorized under the Debbie Smith Act of 2004, with amendments.

S. 998, to amend the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 to expand support for police officer family services, stress reduction, and suicide prevention, with an amendment.

S. 1231, to reauthorize the Bulletproof Vest Partnership Grant Program, with amendments.

Page S2769

Measures Passed:

Honoring the life and legacy of Judge Damon Jerome Keith: Senate agreed to S. Res. 199, honoring the life and legacy of Judge Damon Jerome Keith. **Page S2774**

Authorizing Senate Chamber photograph: Senate agreed to S. Res. 200, authorizing the taking of a photograph in the Senate Chamber. **Page S2774**

Truncale Nomination—Cloture: Senate began consideration of the nomination of Michael J. Truncale, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Texas. **Page S2762**

A motion was entered to close further debate on the nomination, and, in accordance with the provisions of Rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, and pursuant to the unanimous-consent agreement of Thursday, May 9, 2019, a vote on cloture will occur at 5:30 p.m., on Monday, May 13, 2019. **Page S2762**

Prior to the consideration of this nomination, Senate took the following action:

Senate agreed to the motion to proceed to Legislative Session. **Page S2762**

Senate agreed to the motion to proceed to Executive Session to consider the nomination. **Page S2762**

A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing that at approximately 3 p.m., on Monday, May 13, 2019, Senate resume consideration of the nomination; and that notwithstanding the provisions of Rule XXII, the cloture motions filed during the session of Thursday, May 9, 2019, ripen at 5:30 p.m., on Monday, May 13, 2019. **Page S2774**

Lee Nomination—Cloture: Senate began consideration of the nomination of Kenneth Kiyul Lee, of California, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Ninth Circuit. **Pages S2762–63**

A motion was entered to close further debate on the nomination, and, in accordance with the provisions of Rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, a vote on cloture will occur upon disposition of the nomination of Michael J. Truncale, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Texas. **Pages S2762–63**

Prior to the consideration of this nomination, Senate took the following action:

Senate agreed to the motion to proceed to Legislative Session. **Page S2762**

Senate agreed to the motion to proceed to Executive Session to consider the nomination. **Page S2762**

Vitter Nomination—Cloture: Senate began consideration of the nomination of the nomination of Wendy Vitter, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Louisiana. **Page S2763**

A motion was entered to close further debate on the nomination, and, in accordance with the provisions of Rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, a vote on cloture will occur upon disposition of the nomination of Kenneth Kiyul Lee, of California, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Ninth Circuit. **Page S2763**

Prior to the consideration of this nomination, Senate took the following action:

Senate agreed to the motion to proceed to Legislative Session. **Page S2763**

Senate agreed to the motion to proceed to Executive Session to consider the nomination. **Page S2763**

Bulatao Nomination—Cloture: Senate began consideration of the nomination of the nomination of Brian J. Bulatao, of Texas, to be an Under Secretary of State (Management). **Page S2763**

A motion was entered to close further debate on the nomination, and, in accordance with the provisions of Rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the

Senate, a vote on cloture will occur upon disposition of the nomination of Wendy Vitter, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Louisiana. **Page S2763**

Prior to the consideration of this nomination, Senate took the following action:

Senate agreed to the motion to proceed to Legislative Session. **Page S2763**

Senate agreed to the motion to proceed to Executive Session to consider the nomination. **Page S2763**

Nomination Confirmed: Senate confirmed the following nomination:

By 52 yeas to 41 nays (Vote No. Ex. 106), Michael H. Park, of New York, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Second Circuit.

Pages S2752–62, S2774

Messages from the House: **Page S2769**

Measures Referred: **Page S2769**

Executive Communications: **Page S2769**

Executive Reports of Committees: **Page S2769**

Additional Cosponsors: **Pages S2771–72**

Statements on Introduced Bills/Resolutions: **Pages S2772–73**

Additional Statements: **Pages S2768–69**

Authorities for Committees to Meet: **Page S2774**

Record Votes: One record vote was taken today. (Total—106) **Page S2762**

Adjournment: Senate convened at 9:30 a.m. and adjourned at 3:45 p.m., until 3 p.m. on Monday, May 13, 2019. (For Senate's program, see the remarks of the Majority Leader in today's Record on page S2774.)

Committee Meetings

(Committees not listed did not meet)

NOMINATIONS

Committee on Finance: Committee concluded a hearing to examine the nominations of David Fabian Black, of North Dakota, to be Deputy Commissioner of Social Security, who was introduced by Senators Hoeven and Cramer, and Emin Toro, of Virginia, to be a Judge of the United States Tax Court, after the nominees testified and answered questions in their own behalf.

BUSINESS MEETING

Committee on the Judiciary: Committee ordered favorably reported the following business items:

S. 998, to amend the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 to expand support for police officer family services, stress reduction, and suicide prevention, with an amendment;

S. 1231, to reauthorize the Bulletproof Vest Partnership Grant Program, with amendments;

S. 1208, 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, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute; and

The nominations of Jeffrey Vincent Brown, to be United States District Judge for the Southern District of Texas, Robert J. Colville, and Stephanie L. Haines, both to be a United States District Judge for the Western District of Pennsylvania, Brantley Starr, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of Texas, and Jeffrey A. Rosen, of Virginia, to be Deputy Attorney General, Timothy J. Downing, to be United States Attorney for the Western District of Oklahoma, William Travis Brown, Jr., to be United States Marshal for the Middle District of Louisiana, and Michael Blaine East, to be United States Marshal for the Eastern District of North Carolina, all of the Department of Justice.

BUSINESS MEETING

Select Committee on Intelligence: Committee ordered favorably reported the nomination of Christopher Scolese, of New York, to be Director of the National Reconnaissance Office, Department of Defense.

INTELLIGENCE

Select Committee on Intelligence: Committee met in closed session to receive a briefing on certain intelligence matters from officials of the intelligence community.

House of Representatives

Chamber Action

Public Bills and Resolutions Introduced: 51 public bills, H.R. 2608–2658 and 9 resolutions, H. Res. 363–371 were introduced. **Pages H3678–80**

Additional Cosponsors: **Pages H3681–83**

Reports Filed: There were no reports filed today.

Speaker: Read a letter from the Speaker wherein she appointed Representative Johnson (GA) to act as Speaker pro tempore for today. **Page H3505**

Recess: The House recessed at 10:19 a.m. and reconvened at 12 noon. **Page H3507**

Guest Chaplain: The prayer was offered by the Guest Chaplain, Imam Omar Suleiman, Yaqeen Institute for Islamic Research, Irving, Texas. **Page H3507**

Protecting Americans with Preexisting Conditions Act of 2019: The House passed 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, by a recorded vote of 230 ayes to 183 noes with one answering ''present'', Roll No. 196. **Pages H3510–19, H3519–50**

Rejected the Walden motion to recommit the bill to the Committee on Energy and Commerce with instructions to report the same back to the House forthwith with amendments, by a recorded vote of 182 ayes to 231 noes, Roll No. 195. **Pages H3547–49**

Agreed to:

Langevin amendment (No. 1 printed in part A of H. Rept. 116–51) that includes findings that the new guidance entitled ''State Relief and Empowerment Waivers'' weakens protections for the millions of Americans living with a preexisting health condition, including the one in four Americans living with a disability; **Pages H3531–32**

Pressley amendment (No. 3 printed in part A of H. Rept. 116–51) that specifies that this restriction includes such actions that result in fewer people with coverage of Essential Health Benefits (as defined in Section 1302 of the Affordable Care Act), including maternity and newborn care; **Pages H3533–34**

Harder amendment (No. 4 printed in part A of H. Rept. 116–51) that requests a GAO report on the impacts to mental health care and treatment, and how many individuals would lose care, if the waivers for State innovation are awarded; **Pages H3534–35**

Porter amendment (No. 8 printed in part A of H. Rept. 116–51) that prohibits the Secretaries from taking any such action that would reduce the number of individuals enrolled in coverage that is at least as comprehensive as the coverage defined in section 1302 of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act; **Pages H3538–39**

Pappas amendment (No. 9 printed in part A of H. Rept. 116–51) that prohibits the Secretary of Health and Human Services and the Secretary of the Treasury from taking any action to implement similar guidance or rule that would reduce the availability or affordability of coverage for substance use disorders, including opioid use disorders; **Pages H3539–41**

Rouda amendment (No. 10 printed in part A of H. Rept. 116–51) that prohibits future administrative actions that would result in a reduction in the availability, affordability, and comprehensiveness of health insurance coverage for vulnerable populations; **Pages H3541–42**

Brown (MD) amendment (No. 2 printed in part A of H. Rept. 116–51) that ensures that nothing in the bill will be construed to affect the approval of waivers under section 1332 of the ACA that establish reinsurance programs that lower health insurance premiums, and protect health insurance coverage for people with preexisting conditions (by a recorded vote of 351 ayes to 70 noes, Roll No. 191); **Pages H3532–33, H3545**

Malinowski amendment (No. 11 printed in part A of H. Rept. 116–51) that prohibits the Secretaries from taking any action that would reduce the affordability of comprehensive coverage for individuals with pre-existing conditions (by a recorded vote of 302 ayes to 117 noes, Roll No. 193); and **Pages H3542–43, H3546–47**

Wild amendment (No. 12 printed in part A of H. Rept. 116–51) that prohibits any action that would raise health insurance premiums (by a recorded vote of 308 ayes to 112 noes, Roll No. 194). **Pages H3543–45, H3547**

Rejected:

Holding amendment (No. 7 printed in part A of H. Rept. 116–51) that sought to change the title of H.R. 986 (by a recorded vote of 184 ayes to 237 noes, Roll No. 192). **Pages H3537–58, H3545–46**

Withdrawn:

Walden amendment (No. 5 printed in part A of H. Rept. 116–51) that was offered and subsequently withdrawn that would have renamed the bill. **Pages H3535–37**

H. Res. 357, the rule providing for consideration of the bills (H.R. 986) and (H.R. 2157) was agreed to by a yea-and-nay vote of 227 yeas to 191 nays,

Roll No. 190, after the previous question was ordered by a yea-and-nay vote of 227 yeas to 190 nays with one answering ''present'', Roll No. 189.

Pages H3518–19

Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure—Communication: Read a letter from Chairman DeFazio wherein he transmitted copies of twenty resolutions included in the General Services Administration's Capital Investment and Leasing Programs. The resolutions were adopted by the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure on May 8, 2019. **Pages H3552–H3658**

Quorum Calls—Votes: Two yea-and-nay votes and six recorded votes developed during the proceedings of today and appear on pages H3518–19, H3519, H3545, H3545–46, H3546–47, H3547, H3549, and H3550. There were no quorum calls.

Adjournment: The House met at 10 a.m. and adjourned at 9:11 p.m.

Committee Meetings

REVIEWING THE STATE OF THE FARM ECONOMY

Committee on Agriculture: Subcommittee on General Farm Commodities and Risk Management held a hearing entitled ''Reviewing the State of the Farm Economy''. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

MISCELLANEOUS MEASURES

Committee on Appropriations: Full Committee held a markup on the Legislative Branch Appropriation Bill, FY 2020; and the Military Construction, Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill, FY 2020. The Legislative Branch Appropriation Bill, FY 2020, and the Military Construction, Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill, FY 2020 were ordered reported, as amended.

FISCAL YEAR 2020 BUDGET REQUEST FOR MILITARY READINESS

Committee on Armed Services: Subcommittee on Readiness held a hearing entitled ''Fiscal Year 2020 Budget Request for Military Readiness''. Testimony was heard from Admiral Bill Moran, Vice Chief of Naval Operations, U.S. Navy; General Stephen W. Wilson, Vice Chief of Staff of the Air Force, U.S. Air Force; General James C. McConville, Vice Chief of Staff of the Army, U.S. Army; and General Gary L. Thomas, Assistant Commandant of the Marine Corps, U.S. Marine Corps.

THE COST OF NON-COMPLETION: IMPROVING STUDENT OUTCOMES IN HIGHER EDUCATION

Committee on Education and Labor: Subcommittee on Higher Education and Workforce Investment held a hearing entitled ''The Cost of Non-Completion: Improving Student Outcomes in Higher Education''. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

LOWERING PRESCRIPTION DRUG PRICES: DECONSTRUCTING THE DRUG SUPPLY CHAIN

Committee on Energy and Commerce: Subcommittee on Health held a hearing entitled ''Lowering Prescription Drug Prices: Deconstructing the Drug Supply Chain''. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

THE FISCAL YEAR 2020 DOE BUDGET

Committee on Energy and Commerce: Subcommittee on Energy held a hearing entitled ''The Fiscal Year 2020 DOE Budget''. Testimony was heard from Rick Perry, Secretary, Department of Energy.

MISCELLANEOUS MEASURES

Committee on Financial Services: Full Committee concluded 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. 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; H.R. 2534, the ''Insider Trading Prohibition Act of 2019''; legislation on the Task Force on Financial Technology Resolution of 2019; and legislation on the Task Force on Artificial Intelligence Resolution of 2019. H.R. 2409, legislation on the Task Force on Financial Technology Resolution of 2019, and legislation on the Task Force on Artificial Intelligence Resolution of 2019 were ordered reported, without amendment. H.R. 1988, H.R. 2534, H.R. 2515, and H.R. 2514 were ordered reported, as amended.

DOLLAR DIPLOMACY OR DEBT TRAP? EXAMINING CHINA'S ROLE IN THE WESTERN HEMISPHERE

Committee on Foreign Affairs: Subcommittee on the Western Hemisphere, Civilian Security, and Trade held a hearing entitled ''Dollar Diplomacy or Debt Trap? Examining China's Role in the Western Hemisphere''. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

CHINA'S EXPANDING INFLUENCE IN EUROPE AND EURASIA

Committee on Foreign Affairs: Subcommittee on Europe, Eurasia, Energy, and the Environment held a hearing entitled ''China's Expanding Influence in Europe and Eurasia''. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

CHINESE AND RUSSIAN INFLUENCE IN THE MIDDLE EAST

Committee on Foreign Affairs: Subcommittee on the Middle East, North Africa, and International Terrorism held a hearing entitled ''Chinese and Russian Influence in the Middle East''. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

FEMA CONTRACTING: REVIEWING LESSONS LEARNED FROM PAST DISASTERS TO IMPROVE PREPAREDNESS

Committee on Homeland Security: Subcommittee on Emergency Preparedness, Response, and Recovery; and Subcommittee on Oversight, Management, and Accountability held a joint hearing entitled ''FEMA Contracting: Reviewing Lessons Learned from Past Disasters to Improve Preparedness''. Testimony was heard from Brian Kamoie, Associate Administrator for Mission Support, Federal Emergency Management Agency; Marie Mak, Director, Contracting and National Security Acquisitions, Government Accountability Office; and Katherine Trimble, Deputy Assistant Inspector General for Audits, Office of Inspector General, Department of Homeland Security.

A REVIEW OF THE FY 2020 BUDGET REQUEST FOR U.S. CUSTOMS AND BORDER PROTECTION, U.S. IMMIGRATION AND CUSTOMS ENFORCEMENT, AND U.S. CITIZENSHIP AND IMMIGRATION SERVICES

Committee on Homeland Security: Subcommittee on Border Security, Facilitation, and Operations held a hearing entitled ''A Review of the FY 2020 Budget Request for U.S. Customs and Border Protection, U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, and U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services''. Testimony was heard from Robert E. Perez, Deputy Commissioner, U.S. Customs and Border Protection; Matthew T. Albence, Acting Director, U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement; and Tracy Renaud, Acting Deputy Director, U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services.

OVERSIGHT OF THE U.S. PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Committee on the Judiciary: Subcommittee on Courts, Intellectual Property, and the Internet held a hearing entitled ''Oversight of the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office''. Testimony was heard from Andrei Ianci, Under Secretary of Commerce for Intellectual Property, and Director, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office.

THE LONG OVERDUE NEED TO REFORM THE MINING LAW OF 1872

Committee on Natural Resources: Subcommittee on Energy and Mineral Resources held a hearing entitled ''The Long Overdue Need to Reform the Mining Law of 1872''. Testimony was heard from Gwen Lachelt, County Commissioner, La Plata County, Colorado; and public witnesses.

WILDFIRE RESILIENT COMMUNITIES

Committee on Natural Resources: Subcommittee on National Parks, Forests, and Public Lands held a hearing entitled ''Wildfire Resilient Communities''. Testimony was heard from Patti Hirami, Acting Deputy Chief for State and Private Forestry, U.S. Forest Service, Department of Agriculture; Brian Veerkamp, District 3 Supervisor, El Dorado County, California; and public witnesses.

THE TRUMP ADMINISTRATION'S RESPONSE TO THE DRUG CRISIS, PART II

Committee on Oversight and Reform: Full Committee held a hearing entitled ''The Trump Administration's Response to the Drug Crisis, Part II''. Testimony was heard from James W. Carroll, Jr., Director, Office of National Drug Control Policy; Triana McNeil, Acting Director, Homeland Security and Justice, Government Accountability Office; Karyl Thomas Rattay, M.D., Director and State Health Official, Delaware Division of Public Health; and Wayne Ivey, Sheriff, Brevard County, Florida.

ACHIEVING THE PROMISE OF A DIVERSE STEM WORKFORCE

Committee on Science, Space, and Technology: Full Committee held a hearing entitled ''Achieving the Promise of a Diverse STEM Workforce''. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

THE DIGITAL ECOSYSTEM: NEW PATHS TO ENTREPRENEURSHIP

Committee on Small Business: Subcommittee on Innovation and Workforce Development held a hearing entitled ''The Digital Ecosystem: New Paths to Entrepreneurship''. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

EXAMINING ONGOING FOREVER GI BILL IMPLEMENTATION EFFORTS

Committee on Veterans' Affairs: Subcommittee on Economic Opportunity; and Subcommittee on Technology and Modernization held a joint hearing entitled ''Examining Ongoing Forever GI Bill Implementation Efforts''. Testimony was heard from Paul R. Lawrence, Under Secretary for Benefits, Department of Veterans Affairs; Michael J. Missal, Inspector General, Department of Veterans Affairs; and a public witness.

UNDERSTANDING THE TAX GAP AND TAXPAYER NONCOMPLIANCE

Committee on Ways and Means: Full Committee held a hearing entitled ''Understanding the Tax Gap and Taxpayer Noncompliance''. Testimony was heard from J. Russell George, Treasury Inspector General for Tax Administration, Department of the Treasury; James R. McTigue, Director, Tax Issues, Strategic Issues, Government Accountability Office; Benjamin Herndon, Chief Research and Analytics Officer, Internal Revenue Service; and a public witness.

FISCAL YEAR 2020 DEFENSE INTELLIGENCE AGENCY AND MILITARY SERVICES BUDGET REQUEST HEARING

Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence: Subcommittee on Defense Intelligence and Warfighter Support held a hearing entitled ''Fiscal Year 2020 Defense Intelligence Agency and Military Services Budget Request Hearing''. Testimony was heard from Joseph Kernan, Undersecretary of Defense (Intelligence), Department of Defense; Lieutenant General Robert Ashley, Director, Defense Intelligence Agency; Lieutenant General Scott Berrier, Deputy Chief of Staff for Intelligence, U.S. Army; Lieutenant General Lori Reynolds, Deputy Commandant for Information, U.S. Marine Corps; Vice Admiral Matthew Kohler, Deputy Chief of Naval Operations for Information Warfare, U.S. Navy; Brigadier General Michelle Schmidt, Director of Intelligence, U.S. Special Operations Command; and Mr. Kenneth Bray, Assistant Deputy Chief of Staff for Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance Effects Operations, U.S. Air Force. This hearing was closed.

Joint Meetings

HUNGARY AND RUSSIA

Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe: Commission received a closed briefing on issues related to Hungary and Russia from Christopher Robinson, and Matthew G. Boyse, both a Deputy Assistant Secretary of State, Bureau of European and Eurasian Affairs.

UKRAINE

Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe: Commission received a briefing on the state of institutional resilience and political context for the election of Volodymyr Zelenskiy as Ukraine's next president from Michael Carpenter, Penn Biden Center for Diplomacy and Global Engagement, and Natalie Sedletska, Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty Ukrainian Service.

COMMITTEE MEETINGS FOR FRIDAY, MAY 10, 2019

(Committee meetings are open unless otherwise indicated)

Senate

No meetings/hearings scheduled.

House

Committee on Appropriations, Subcommittee on State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs, markup on State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs Appropriations Bill, FY 2020, 8 a.m., H–140 Capitol.

Select Committee on the Modernization of Congress, Full Committee, hearing entitled ''Opening up the Process: Recommendations for Making Legislative Information More Transparent'', 9 a.m., 1310 Longworth.

Next Meeting of the SENATE

3 p.m., Monday, May 13

Senate Chamber

Program for Monday: Senate will resume consideration of the nomination of Michael J. Truncale, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Texas, and vote on the motion to invoke cloture thereon at 5:30 p.m.

Next Meeting of the HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

9 a.m., Friday, May 10

House Chamber

Program for Friday: Consideration of H.R. 2157—Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2019.

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