House of Representatives

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

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE
The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

I hereby appoint the Honorable BRENDA L. LAWRENCE 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.

MEMORIALIZING POLICE OFFICERS WHO LOST THEIR LIVES IN THE LINE OF DUTY
The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California (Mr. RUZ) for 5 minutes.

Mr. RUZ. Madam Speaker, I rise today in the wake of National Police Week to memorialize our officers who lost their lives in the line of duty.

Nearly 3 years ago, on October 8, 2016, Officers Lesley Zerebny and Gil Vega from the Palm Springs Police Department were shot and killed in the line of duty responding to what appeared to be a routine domestic disturbance.

Through this tragedy, our community came together, not only to remember Officers Zerebny and Vega, but to do more for their families and the entire law enforcement community.

Together, we found that families of fallen first responders, those who gave their all to protect us all, are being shortchanged. That is why I introduced the Heroes Lesley Zerebny and Gil Vega First Responder Survivor Support Act, to honor those who have passed by serving the living.

My bill will increase the Public Safety Officer Benefit from $350,000 to $500,000 in order to pay off the calculated national average debt most families have; it will increase the monthly education benefit from $1,024 per month to $2,000 per month to ensure they can afford the actual rising costs of an education; and it will fix a bureaucratic loophole that, due to unnecessary red tape and delays in receiving benefits, can cost families up to tens of thousands of dollars through no fault of their own.

I urge all Members of Congress to do the right thing: to follow words with action, to follow praise with pragmatic solutions that will improve the lives of fallen first responders’ families. I hope that all Members will cosponsor and support my bipartisan Heroes Lesley Zerebny and Gil Vega First Responder Survivors Support Act.

I urge the Speaker to bring it up for a vote immediately. Let’s support this bill and stand up for the families of fallen officers who have sacrificed so much for us.

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

Mr. BOST. Madam Speaker, a question for those watching at home. Do you have a cell phone?

Has your family dinner been interrupted by a local call, only to realize that it was spam? This is incredibly frustrating and becoming all too common. In 2017, under 4 percent of cell phone calls were spam. In 2018, the number jumped to almost 30 percent.

This year spam calls are expected to rise up to the point of half of all cell phone calls. That is why I am cosponsoring the TRACED Act. This bill gives the FCC broader authority to find scammers and increase penalties for those who are caught.

If you have a cell phone, this legislation will save you a lot of frustration and make those times at home with your family maybe a little bit more enjoyable.

I hope my colleagues will join me in supporting this commonsense legislation.

Mr. BOST. Madam Speaker, the American people don’t trust Washington, D.C. And I know that shocks everyone, but it is a perception that every one of us deals with back home, and after what the majority party pulled last week, it is easy to understand why.

Three—get it, three—bipartisan prescription drug pricing bills made it through committee and were ready to vote on.

Now let me say that one more time. Bipartisan healthcare bills, three of them; that is unheard of around here.

But then politics got in the way. The majority decided to add an unrelated poison pill to drive away the Republican support. This healthcare package now has no chance of being considered in the Senate and will never become law.

That is why I urge the majority to bring to the floor H.R. 2706. This legislation includes only the three bipartisan prescription drug pricing bills, no poison pills.
Let’s come together to address the problem. The American people deserve better than the cynical political games that we are playing.

CELEBRATING THE 19TH AMENDMENT

Mr. BOST. Madam Speaker, Susan B. Anthony once said: “There will never be equality, until women themselves help to make laws and elect lawmakers”—and serve as lawmakers and actually serve in the chair.

One hundred years ago, Congress moved closer to equality by passing a constitutional Amendment granting women the right to vote.

This week, we celebrate the 19th Amendment. To honor the courageous women who ushered us toward a more perfect Union, we wear yellow roses.

I have two daughters. I have seven granddaughters. I am thankful that they can shape their government because of the generations of women who came before them.

IT IS JUST A MATTER OF TIME

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

Mr. GREEN of Texas. Madam Speaker, and still I rise, with love of country in my heart and a belief that the Constitution ought to be honored.

Today, I rise, some 34 days since the Mueller report has been made public. 34 days since we have concluded that impeachable offenses have been committed—34 days, and yet the President still commits actions that are deemed obstruction of justice. 34 days, which means that, for 34 days now, the President is clearly above the law as it relates to the Mueller report—longer than that, but as it relates to the Mueller report and its being released, 34 days.

But there is good news. A good many Members are now considering joining the impeachment effort, and I salute them. I am more than honored to say that you can never be too late when it comes to recognizing the right side of history and the right side of justice. So I salute them, and I believe that others will come on board as well.

I believe they are doing this because they believe that no one is above the law. I think they are doing this because they believe that you have to put principle above politics. They are doing this because I think they love their country, and they refuse to allow this condition to continue without the constitutional impeachment being given its proper place in history as it relates to this President.

And as they do this, I just want to remind us that there is something that is indelible in my mind. I will never forget this image: a baby.

This is a baby crying. I won’t forget this image. For this alone, we should consider impeachment. Separating babies from their parents without a means of reuniting them, for this alone, we should consider impeachment.

But there is much more to add: the whole notion that there are s-hole countries in Africa; that there are very fine people among those who were in Charlottesville where a person lost her life; the whole notion that the Chief Executive Officer of the United States of America, the President, will stand before law enforcement personnel and say: When you are bringing people into your care, custody, and control.

And last night, to go to a rally—this is the President of the United States at a rally with people behind him saying, “Lock her up!”

This is not some outlaw, renegade country. This is the United States of America. Do we want the President of this country to go before the public and have throngs of people shouting, “Lock her up!”? This is a great country. I love my country, and, for this reason, I want to assure my friends that I am going to thank all who are coming on board.

And the question is not, now: Who is going to be the first to come on board? The question really is this: Who will be the last to come on board? Who will be the last person to say: “I believe that no person is above the law”? Who will be the last to say: “I am going to do whatever it takes to uphold the Constitution. Require when we have a person who has demonstrated that he is a lawless, ruthless, reckless person who happens to have control of the executive branch of government.”

It is my belief that sometimes you stand alone and it is better to stand alone than not stand at all. But I also understand that sometimes, when you stand alone, it is just a matter of time before others will stand with you.

I compliment all who are standing with us today, who have been here from the genesis of this.

Madam Speaker, I want to say one final thing.

This is not about whether you are a Republican or a Democrat. I compliment the Republican who had the courage to step forward, the courage, the intestinal fortitude to take the stand for righteousness: Believe me, he won’t be the last. There will be others. It is just a matter of time.

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

ESTABLISHING A NATIONAL VETERANS CEMETERY ON THE SOUTH PLAINS OF WEST TEXAS

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

Mr. ARRINGTON. Madam Speaker, I rise today in strong support of the effort to establish a national veterans cemetery on the south plains of west Texas.

Dating back to the Civil War, the 147 national cemeteries across America are a powerful way to honor those who have gone before us who wore the uniform of the United States and remind us every day of the 1 percent of Americans who were willing to sacrifice everything in defense of our freedom and security.

For some, they serve as what President Lincoln called “a final resting place for those who gave their lives that our Nation might live.”

Yesterday, I had the privilege of meeting with several distinguished veterans who have made it their mission to see this vision become a reality.

Among them were four generals, who have chosen to reside in a little slice of heaven that Chairman Mike Conaway and I call west Texas. I am so honored that they are with us here today in the gallery.

General Edgar Murphy was the commanding general of the 49th Armored Division of the Army National Guard for the State of Texas. In his distinguished 42-year military career, he was awarded numerous medals, including the Legion of Merit. Today the Armed Forces Guard and Reserve Center in Lubbock is named in General Murphy’s honor.

General Anne Sobel is a former major general in the Arizona Air National Guard who served as the first female homeland security director for the State of New Mexico. Today she continues by serving and teaching at my alma mater, Texas Tech University.

Brigadier General Gary Harber is a veteran with 42 years of service and a master army aviator. General Harber also served as the NATO northern regional wartime construction manager and commander from 1989 to 1995, responsible for the United Kingdom, Norway, and Denmark.

Last but certainly not least is my good friend Lieutenant General Bernie Mittemeyer. General Mittemeyer served 28 years in the U.S. Army, earning numerous awards and decorations. He served as our Surgeon General of the Army from 1985 to his retirement in 1995, and he also served as commanding general of the Walter Reed Army Medical Center in Washington, D.C.

Madam Speaker, I am proud to represent over 40,000 veterans in my district and rural America. If you take into consideration eastern New Mexico that this national cemetery would serve, it is over 70,000 veterans.

We must ensure that the commitment we make to our veterans isn’t reserved only for those veterans living in population centers, whether it is long-term care, services for the disabled, or respect that is owed our honored dead. We must never forget all veterans, including those living in rural parts of our country.

Madam Speaker, no group of Americans believes more adamantly in the importance of a strong defense and the mission of our military to keep us safe and free than the good people of west Texas.

Their duty was to serve. Our duty is to remember them. One of the best
ways we can do that is by giving them a hero’s burial in a national cemetery.

God bless our veterans. And go west Texas.

RECOGNIZING BOB DINGEMAN

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

Mr. PETERS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the late Colonel Robert “Bob” Dingeman, a decorated veteran and beloved community leader who dedicated his entire life to service.

Bob’s commitment to service began when he was just a teenager. He was living with his family in Hawaii and serving in the Reserve Officers’ Training Corps when the Japanese attacked Pearl Harbor. Bob helped to get the women and children to safety before joining the defense of the base, and the events of that day led Bob to a life of military service.

He graduated from West Point in 1945 and went on to serve in World War II, the Korean war, and the Vietnam war. During his decades of service, Bob earned a Silver Star, Soldier’s Medal, Bronze Star, and Purple Heart.

After leaving the Army, Bob earned multiple master’s degrees and worked as a college professor at San Diego Miramar College, teaching math, history, and political science.

Bob became a pillar of San Diego’s Scripps Ranch community where he and his wife, Gaye, and their children made their home.

Bob helped create the town’s council, the Scripps Ranch Civic Association; organized many annual traditions, including the Fourth of July Parade; and established the community newsletter.

The Robert E. Dingeman Elementary School opened in 1995, so named by the San Diego Unified School District to recognize Bob Dingeman’s accomplishments in the community. The school celebrates Bob Dingeman Day every year on June 12, Bob’s birthday.

Scripps Ranch and San Diego are better off for Bob’s leadership and his community involvement. His legacy will continue to be an example for us all.

Please join me in honoring Bob Dingeman for his dedication to Scripps Ranch and his service to the country.

RECOGNIZING MARINE CORPS AIR STATION MIRAMAR’S COMMITMENT TO ALTERNATIVE ENERGY

Mr. PETERS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Marine Corps Air Station Miramar on receiving a 2019 Secretary of Defense Environmental Award.

The award recognizes Marine Corps Air Station Miramar’s commitment to protecting the environment while supporting the mission of the military.

The United States Department of Defense is the world’s largest user of fossil fuels, and when the price of those fuels spike, it harms our mission. That is why the Marine Corps views energy security as national security.

The marines at Miramar have led on energy storage research through a partnership with the California Energy Commission’s Electric Program Investment Charge and deployed a methane-to-energy project from an onsite landfill that generates half the base’s energy.

MCAS Miramar’s installation-wide microgrid delivers 100 percent renewable energy to the base. Its distribution can provide reliable energy to mission-critical facilities for 3 weeks if they are ever disconnected from the grid.

This achievement has wide implications for the Marines, San Diego, and the way we power our world. Energy innovation has always come naturally to the military, and MCAS Miramar embodies San Diego’s forward-thinking approach and commitment to sustainability.

I thank Marine Corps Air Station Miramar and all marines stationed there for their service to our Nation. I thank Marine Corps leadership for their dedication to alternative energy.

Please join me in congratulating Marine Corps Air Station Miramar on the 2019 Secretary of Defense Environmental Award.

RECOGNIZING THE NEW CHILDREN’S MUSEUM OF SAN DIEGO

Mr. PETERS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the New Children’s Museum of San Diego, winner of the 2019 National Medal for Museum and Library Service. This award is the highest honor given to museums that demonstrate extraordinary and innovative approaches to community service.

The New Children’s Museum, which will celebrate its 36th anniversary this year, is a cornerstone of arts and culture for San Diego families.

The museum is certainly a model for engaging people of all backgrounds with art. They collaborate with community centers, social service organizations, and schools to spread art, creativity, and play outside the museum.

The New Children’s Museum employs the philosophy that enables children to learn through play. Their philosophy is pervasive in their immersive exhibits that allow children to climb, touch, build, and engage with the art.

I brought my own children there to think, play, and create, like so many families, when they were younger.

Today, the museum offers free and reduced admission for military families, Head Start groups, homeless and foster children, migrant families, and more.

This award is a testament to the New Children’s Museum’s service to San Diegans.

Please join me in honoring the New Children’s Museum.

HONORING SENATOR RICHARD LUGAR

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

Mr. BUCSHON. Madam Speaker, I rise today with my House colleagues to honor and remember Senator Richard Lugar, a giant in Indiana politics who recently passed away at the age of 87.

For those who had the privilege to serve in Congress alongside Senator Lugar, you simply could not find a better mentor, colleague, and friend. Nor could you find a more honorable and decent individual.

Senator Lugar truly defined what it meant to be a principled statesman, dedicating his life to the betterment of the world, our Nation, and the Hoosier State.

From serving in the United States Navy to being elected mayor of Indianapolis in 1968 and to his service in the United States Senate from 1977 until 2013, he spent his entire life in service to his Nation and his fellow Americans.

While Senator Lugar worked on a wide variety of issues during his time in office, it was in the realm of foreign policy that he made the largest impact. Senator Lugar’s knowledge of foreign policy issues was unmatched. Our Nation will forever be stronger and safer because of his tireless efforts.

It was a privilege and honor to serve alongside Senator Lugar during my first term in Congress. As I stand here today, it is truly humbling to say goodbye to a man who inspired so many to answer the call to service.

Our thoughts continue to be with his beloved wife, Charlene; his sons, Mark, John, David; and the rest of the Lugar family.

May he have fair winds and following seas. Godspeed.

MARKING THE CENTENNIAL OF PASSAGE OF 19TH AMENDMENT IN THE U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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

Mr. ROUDA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to mark the 100th anniversary of the Chamber’s passage of the 19th Amendment guaranteeing women the right to vote.

The battle for the 19th Amendment was long and hard-fought. It was 72 years from the Seneca Falls Convention in 1848 to the affirmation in our Constitution that women were owed the right to vote.

But the ultimate goal was not just the vote. It was what the vote means: that American women, all women, could enjoy the same rights and freedoms as American men.

In the last 100 years, we remain well short of that goal. In fact, this past week’s latest assault on women’s bodily autonomy is proof of that. The fact that women make 80 cents on the dollar compared to men, and much less for women of color, shows that we have a long way to go.

While there is so much work left to do to realize full equality for all American citizens, we cannot afford to move backward.
It is clear we need women’s voices now more than ever. I am very proud of the fact that 40 percent of the Democrats in Congress are women, but we need more.

I am proud to serve with the largest group of women in Congress in U.S. history and to call these incredible Congresswomen my friends, colleagues, and Speaker of the House. I look forward to working with them toward full gender equality.

We will not wait another 100 years.

HONORING JIMMIE LEE MASON, SR.

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

Mr. CONWAY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor a longtime good friend of mine named Jimmie Lee Mason from Lubbock, Texas.

Jimmie Lee was a CPA, a consummate professional, and someone who took very seriously and helped create the firm Mason Warner, which is in existence today.

Jimmie Lee passed away on April 5, 2019. He was 89 years old and leaves a giant hole in the hearts of his family, as you might expect.

I first met Jimmie Lee when I joined the State Board of Accountancy in Texas. Jimmie Lee, for whatever reason, and I will now never know, chose to take under his wing. He mentored me. He was a wise counselor.

As a result of his friendship and his help, I was able to chair the State Board of Accountancy. I was able to chair the National Association of State Boards of Accountancy. I did that work much better and more professionally because of my friendship and his leadership and help throughout that entire process.

My story is only one of many, many like it. Jimmie served the Texas State Society of CPAs throughout his entire career. There are countless other CPAs who could have the exact same conversation with you that I am having this morning as a result of his friendship and his leadership.

Jimmie leaves behind a wife of 66 years, Wanda; son Jimmie Lee Mason, Jr.; daughter Kristi Killion and her husband, Jerry; son Greg and his wife, Areace; and his grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Jimmie Lee, everywhere he touched got better, whether it was a not-for-profit organization in Lubbock that he served or his profession that he served diligently for all those years. Countless individuals whom he came in contact with are much better off, none more so than the fellow who stands in front of you here today.

My life is better as a result of my friendship with Jimmie Lee Mason, and I miss my friend.

COMMEMORATING 100 YEARS OF WOMEN’S RIGHT TO VOTE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Indiana (Mrs. BROOKS) for 5 minutes.

Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana. Madam Speaker, one century ago today, the United States House of Representatives passed a constitutional amendment granting women the right to vote. Just 1 year later, the 19th Amendment was ratified.

Even before women had the right to vote, women from Indiana were on their family property fighting for the right to be heard. Hoosier suffragettes such as Amanda Way, Zerelda Wallace, May Wright Sewall, Helen Gougar, Dr. Amelia Keller, and Grace Julian Clarke led the push for suffrage in Indiana and inspired Hoosier women to stand up and speak out about their rights.

Each of these women and so many more across the country paved the way so that other women can now vote and hold local, State, and Federal Government positions.

It is an honor to be one of seven Congresswomen elected thus far to represent the Hoosier State in our Nation’s Capital, but it began with Representative Virginia Ellis Jenckes, who began her service in 1933; then Cecil Murray Harden, who began her service in 1949; Katie Hall in 1962; Jill Long Thompson in 1989; Julia Carson in 2003; and my good friend JACKIE WALORSKI and I in 2013.

Hooray women have certainly left their marks in America’s history book. But, as I stand here today, I am struck at how much work, yes, we still have to do.

Exercising our right to vote is the most powerful tool we have to share our voice. Today, I join many colleagues in the House wearing a yellow rose commemorating the suffragettes fight for our rights to vote. So much has been accomplished by women and for women in the past 100 years. Today, I want to encourage all Americans to consider how much farther we can go in the next 100 years.

CHARACTER

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Washington (Mrs. RODGERS) for 5 minutes.

Mrs. RODGERS of Washington. Madam Speaker, I rise today to reflect on moral character, which is essential to the promise of America in order for us to flourish.

I am reminded that we stand on the shoulders of so many who have gone before us and impacted our lives in many ways—members of our greatest generation—who bravely fought tyranny and oppression during World War II. They were driven by honor, duty, and country. They were selfless, not drawing attention to themselves or seeking to be a celebrity or a hero. They are the models for character that we must always celebrate and remember. They would never admit it, but they are heroes, heroes for bravely and humbly doing their part to protect our freedom.

Madam Speaker, why is character so important? Why does it matter? It is because our character—who we are and the decisions that we make when we are tested—is foundational to the rule of law.

In this body, we talk a lot about the Constitution, our God-given rights, bills and laws, checks and balances, the rules and the procedures that govern debate, the branches that make up this government, and so on. All of these pieces of our government are significant, but they are lifeless and have no meaning without the spirit of good faith.

If we, representatives of the people, don’t lead with moral character, America doesn’t stand a chance against corruption and the breakdown of trust with the people we serve. It is on us, each one of us, doing our part for what is righteous, what is just, and for what will keep America free.

President Reagan once said: "Freedom isn’t passed down to us in the bloodstream; it has to be fought for."

In other words, freedom involves choices, and that is precisely why character matters.

Every single day, every single moment, our character is tested. In politics, it is tested by the temptations of power, palace intrigue, ambition, and personalities.

I won’t blame either side of the aisle, Madam Speaker, but these are the smoldering fires that burn around us that threaten our institutions and our laws.

Did you know that only 3 percent of Americans trust the government will do the right thing—3 percent. Forty-six percent of Americans say that they have very little confidence in Congress. That is a crisis of confidence, and it is a call for reformation of character, so that people will trust and can trust that their representatives will always act in good faith on their behalf.

Again, it starts with us being better examples, not for the glory or the recognition, but because it is the right thing to do. We must be countercultural to the divisiveness that has taken hold of modern politics today. That means stopping the blame game, honoring another’s argument, even when we disagree, and acknowledging, and even celebrating, our differences without attacking the other side’s character. That is the way that we will come together to find out how we can make tough decisions without kicking the can down the road.

I fear what may come if things do not change. As Abraham Lincoln famously said, “A House divided against itself cannot stand.” The glue that binds our Nation, our Constitution, our laws, and our institutions have no greater guardians than us. It is this government of
the people, by the people, and for the people.

We must take this responsibility seriously or, again, we won’t have a fighting chance to rebuild the trust of ‘we, the people’ and keep the promise of America alive. I have said it before and I will say it in the well of this House: this is the promise that will keep us free and empower the next generation to shine. For their sake, our character, the spirit that leads us to do what is right and just, must be our guide so our House will forever stand.

UNITED STATES-MEXICO-CANADA AGREEMENT

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

Mr. SMUCKER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to urge my colleagues to support the agreement negotiated with Mexico and Canada, or the USMCA.

My district that I represent, the 11th District of Pennsylvania, is one of the top ten dairy producing counties in the Nation and one producing county for egg layers.

One thing that I can tell you about the farmers of the 11th District is that they adapt, and they hold on to hope that better times are yet to come. I agree with them, better times are coming for these farmers because the Trump administration has worked to do right by the American farmer in negotiating the USMCA.

Under the agreement, Canada would eliminate its price control systems, which have effectively locked out America’s dairy industry. The agreement also makes improvements for the egg and poultry industry, with Canada agreeing to increase its quota schemes to allow for more American eggs and chicken into the market.

The farmers of my district are eagerly coming for the USMCA to be enacted as soon as possible, and I join them today in that call. I am hopeful that we can get there.

That is why I urge the leadership across the aisle to join in standing up for our Nation’s farmers and to allow a vote on the USMCA. We have a generational opportunity to help American farmers compete and to thrive. Let’s take that opportunity.

HONORING WARDEN CHERYL STEBERGER

Mr. SMUCKER. Madam Speaker, earlier this month was National Correctional Officers and Employees Week, and I rise today to recognize individuals from Lancaster County, who are making a difference improving criminal justice and public safety in our community.

I would like to recognize Lancaster County Prison Warden Cheryl Steberger, who has shown exceptional leadership in managing the Lancaster County Prison. Warden Steberger has substantially improved the welfare of those repaying their debts to society while in prison and helped with their transition out of incarceration.

The warden has done so by meticulously following the data with a program known as Prison Stat. Prison Stat is run in conjunction with the Lancaster County Prison Board, led by Lancaster County Commissioner and Chairman Josh Parsons. This program monitors key metrics on the prison’s performance and holds leaders accountable through transparent and frequent public reviews.

Their work in Lancaster County has been honored by the National Association of Counties, who awarded both Commissioner Parsons and Warden Steberger with the 2018 Achievement Award in Criminal Justice and Public Safety Award.

Madam Speaker, we appreciate the work of our correctional officers and we thank Warden Steberger for her dedication and leadership.

NATIONAL FOSTER CARE MONTH

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

Mr. BACON. Madam Speaker, in honor of National Foster Care Month, I would like to address a vital issue in today’s foster care system: the need for more foster care parents. I would also like to recognize a few foster care organizations in Nebraska’s Second Congressional District. These organizations embrace children in the foster care system and are committed to helping youth find permanent homes through foster parents, so that they, too, can experience love, stability, and the freedom to reach their full potential, regardless of their circumstances.

Lutheran Family Services of Nebraska has been an advocate in the child foster care system for more than 125 years. This year, their mission is to secure 100 foster families who can offer a mature and stable environment. Boys Town, where I was fortunate to speak last weekend at their high school graduation, directly serves about 30,000 children every year and believes that foster parents are the heart of high-quality foster care by offering children protection, permanency, and comfort.

The Child Saving Institute values the overall well-being of children by offering free, trauma-informed training to individuals and couples who want to serve as foster parents.

And the Nebraska Children’s Home Society not only strives to find permanent homes for children, but they also address the need to foster teenagers.

All four of these organizations provide unyielding support to the abused and neglected and encourages the need for foster parents for children of all ages.

Each year, hundreds of Nebraska youth are removed from their homes due to unfortunate circumstances. Many of them fear where they will end up or if they will ever find their forever home.

My wife, Angie, and I adopted two children, Austin and Jessica, from the foster care system when they were just 8 and 9 years old. Even though we already had two sons, we knew that there were not enough homes for older children and siblings. Austin and Jessica are blessings to our family. Even though foster parenting was challenging, choosing to adopt them was one of the best and most rewarding decisions Angie, my wife, and I have ever made.

Even though foster children are hurting, they are just looking for someone to be committed to them and help them succeed. It is time to realize that everyone can play a part in enhancing the lives of children and youth in foster care and that these children just want someone to care for them. It is the hope that one day, through opportunity and lessons, these children will grow up and provide safety for their own children, benefiting future generations.

The idea of children being placed with stable and devoted families is not a partisan issue. I am very appreciative to my colleagues from both sides of the aisle and I am thankful to serve as co-chair for the Foster Care Caucus. I will continue to be an advocate for foster children and encourage the need for foster parents. We must remember that every child, no matter the age, is worthy of love and deserves a family.

HONORING MAJOR JOHN E. CLECKNER, SR.

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

Mr. LAMALFA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of a great man and a great patriot from Redding, California, in my district. His commitment to his fellow veterans is certainly unparalleled. Major John Cleckner, Sr. passed away on May 11, but he leaves behind a tremendous legacy of service.

During a 22-year military career that began in 1957 in the 82nd Airborne Division and later the U.S. Army Special Forces, John received far too many awards and honors to list in this time. During his time as a veteran of the Vietnam war, he was wounded multiple times and received three Purple Hearts and two Bronze Stars.

In 1969, he was assigned to the 5th Special Forces Group. Upon arriving, he initiated a massive rebuilding of their camp’s defenses and intelligence gathering when he heard of increased activity by North Vietnamese units in the area. Not long afterward, a North Vietnamese heavy weapons regiment laid siege to their camp for 5 months, but, thanks to John’s efforts, the camp held.

After receiving his third Purple Heart, John was medically retired in 1979.

As impressive as his military service record is, it might even pale in comparison to his 35 years of dedicated
service to his fellow veterans, both in northern California and across the United States. Much like his military career, his accomplishments as an advocate for veterans are too numerous to properly list in this format.

He has worked closely with me and my office for over 20 years and has been a leader in every sense of the word. John was instrumental in getting a new VA clinic in Redding, whose groundbreaking will be very soon, and started the quest for a veterans’ cemetery in Shasta County, both of which have now come to fruition, thanks to his relentless efforts.

John even collaborated with country music legend Merle Haggard, who is a Redding resident, to coordinate a national fishing tournament for combat-disabled veterans to have a chance to get out and relax and enjoy the outdoors with people who they can relate to. For him, it was all part of making the lives of veterans better in any way that he could.

When John discovered that many veterans struggled to obtain legal help, he went back to college at the age of 62 to get a degree that would allow him to serve as a legal assistant to in-need veterans at no charge to the veteran. That is amazing service. That is the kind of person John Cleckner was.

For his impressive track record, both on the battlefield and in civilian life, the Special Operations Center of Excellence at the U.S. Army John F. Kennedy Special Warfare Center and School inducted John into the Distinguished Members of Special Operations Regiment in 2010.

I know this: Major John Cleckner was an American hero, on and off the battlefield. He devoted his life to his country, and when he could no longer serve his country, he devoted himself to improving the lives of his fellow veterans.

I have seen it firsthand. I consider myself fortunate to have known him as a friend, and I am grateful for the things he helped us—with in my office and others—to accomplish things for veterans in northern California.

John was tough, even a little scary, especially if he thought you weren’t being true to what you were saying you would do. But if you were, you wouldn’t have a stronger ally than Major John Cleckner in what we pursue to help our veterans, to help our Nation be strong, to be true.

His commitment has only strengthened my own resolve to further some of the initiatives he started and we have helped with and to never stop fighting for our veterans. I thank John for his service, his sacrifice, his dedication. We will miss him in northern California but will ensure his legacy lives on through our efforts—all of us—to help our veterans, to help our Nation remain strong.

God bless Major John Cleckner, his faithful wife, Doris, his amazing family, and all that he has ever had touch with during his life of service to his nation and to his brothers.

IN MEMORY OF TROOPER DONALD C. BRACKETT

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

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Madam Speaker, it is with a heavy heart that I rise today to honor the life and memory of Trooper Donald C. Brackett, a dedicated law enforcement professional with the Pennsylvania State Police. Trooper Brackett passed away while on duty Saturday morning at the age of 58.

Our Nation just recognized National Police Week, a time to reflect upon and honor the sacrifices made by the men and women in law enforcement. Trooper Brackett was no exception.

A resident of Bensalem, Trooper Brackett served nearly 18 years in the United States Marine Corps and enlisted in the Pennsylvania State Police in October of 2001. He was most recently assigned to the patrol section of Troop T, King of Prussia, and was previously assigned to Troop K, Media, and Troop M in Trevose throughout his distinguished career.

Madam Speaker, Trooper Brackett lived his life in service to our Nation and to our community. He is truly an American hero, and I send my deepest condolences to his wife, Marta, and his children, Gabriella and Brianna.

Trooper Brackett lived his entire life in service to our community. He set the example for our entire Nation to follow.

IN RECOGNITION OF PAUL STEKLENSKI

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize a native of Perkasie in Bucks County, Pennsylvania, who is promoting animal welfare through the nonprofit organization he established 4 years ago.

Paul Steklenksi, an Army veteran and a network engineer, founded Flying Fur Animal Rescue in 2015. Flying Fur provides animal shelter, mostly dogs, at risk of being euthanized to rescue groups along the East Coast. To date, Paul estimates he has saved the lives of over 1,300 animals in need.

Paul credits Rick Witt, who helps manage the operations at Doylestown Airport, for the success of this organization. Rick allows Paul to use the original aircraft he used to transport the animals.

Madam Speaker, I applaud the work of Flying Fur Animal Rescue and thank Paul for his work. I encourage all of us to follow his lead of being a voice for the voiceless.

RECOGNIZING BRUSH WITH THE LAW

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize an outstanding nonprofit organization in Montgomery County, Pennsylvania, that is serving individuals in need in our community.

Brush With the law, based in Montgomeryville, was founded as a visual arts program at the Montgomery County Correctional Facility in 2013. The program quickly grew popular and was transitioned into one that helps marginalized individuals trying to re-enter society.

Brush With the Law works with municipalities and small businesses in their endeavors, which involves creation of conceptual art installations to beautify our community. These installations seek to raise awareness for issues important to local residents, such as drug addiction, homelessness, and climate change. The principal goal of Brush With the Law is to bring people together, a vision which we all should applaud.

I would like to recognize the founder and director, Maria Maneos of North Wales, for her leadership and for her work in empowering our community.

MOVE ON FROM THE RUSSIAN INVESTIGATION

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

Mr. OLSON. Madam Speaker, on April 18, 2019, my Democratic colleagues were overjoyed. The report on the investigation into Russian interference in the 2016 Presidential election was released. It was two volumes, volume I and volume II. Volume I was 199 pages long, volume II, 182 pages long.

Special Counsel Mueller’s report was my colleagues’ dream: the smoking gun. Now we can impeach President Donald Trump. The taxpayers spent $2.5 million so far, but that is a victory.

The folks back home heard this, one ugly thud. There was no collusion and no obstruction.

So why do my colleagues keep the investigation going? Why are they threatening subpoenas, contempt of Congress? Well, it is because Mr. Putin hacked into our elections with a wide open door given to him by the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee, the DCCC.

Volume I, page 38:

On April 12, 2016, the GRU, the Russians, had gained access to the DCCC computers using the credentials stolen from a DCCC employee who had been successfully spearphished the week before.

A few lines later:

Approximately 6 days after the first hack into the DCCC network on April 12, 2016, the GRU—again, the Russians—gained access to the DCCC networks via a virtual private network connected between the DCCC and the DNC.
Mr. Putin was not interfering in our elections to help Mr. Trump. The report shows he was motivated by the fact of most of my people back home: He wanted anybody but Mrs. Clinton.

Volume I, page 23.

Here is the idea: Use any opportunity to criticize Hillary and the rest—except for Mr. Sanders and Mr. Trump. We support them.

It is time for my friends on the other side of the aisle to admit they left the barn door open, and Mr. Putin let those cows out to run free in our elections.

It is over. Let's move on. Join us in doing the people's work. That means issues they care about, like how about having lower unemployment? That is historical right now for Asians, African Americans, and Hispanic Americans. Let's give that a round of applause.

How about energy independence? Yes, our world is clear because of American energy.

How about helping us secure our border? Address the crisis on our border, have an immigration policy that works.

The American people want this. They are sick and tired of investigation after investigation after investigation. It is time for my friends on the other side of the aisle to admit they left the barn door open, and Mr. Putin let those cows out to run free in our elections.

It is over. Let's move on.

CELEBRATING THE CENTENNIAL OF WOMEN’S SUFFRAGE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Puerto Rico (Miss GONZA´LEZ-COLO´N) for 5 minutes.

Miss GONZA´LEZ-COLO´N of Puerto Rico, Madam Speaker, on June 4, we will celebrate 100 years since Congress passed the 19th Amendment, which correctly recognized women’s right to vote.

At that time, only one woman had served in Congress: Jeannette Rankin, in 1916, from Montana. But today, we have more women serving in this Congress than ever before, with 131.

Miss GONZA´LEZ-COLO´N of Puerto Rico, Madam Speaker, on June 4, we will celebrate 100 years since Congress passed the 19th Amendment, which correctly recognized women’s right to vote.

At that time, only one woman had served in Congress: Jeannette Rankin, in 1916, from Montana. But today, we have more women serving in this Congress than ever before, with 131.

It is the proud moment for both women and our Nation’s history, we also honor the suffragists who, more than a century ago, paved the way that allows women to take part in this democratic process and that also allows me to stand here as the first woman elected to represent Puerto Rico in Congress.

Because of our territorial status, Puerto Rico has been historically excluded from our national process, including the 19th Amendment ratification process.

Prior to becoming a U.S. territory in 1898, Puerto Rico was a Spanish colony, and people on the island advocated for political equality for women, beginning with the right to education. But it wasn’t long after becoming a U.S. territory that Susan B. Anthony advocated for equal political and civil rights for men and women in the new possessions, including Puerto Rico.

This advance in civil rights was one of the first reasons why people on the island began to fight for the conversion of Puerto Rico as a State of the Union.

It was the leaders of the Republican party who first included women’s vote as part of their platform, and they also presented legislation to achieve it. As the measure did not progress, our suffragists sought support from national organizations and the United States Congress, which introduced legislation extending women’s right to vote in Puerto Rico.

Finally, in 1929, Puerto Rico’s Legislature recognized the right to vote, but only for literate women; and in 1935, the right to vote was granted to all women.

These series of events led to the election of Maria Luisa Arcelay, who became the first woman in Puerto Rico to be elected to a government legislative body in 1932.

However, because Puerto Rico is an incorporated territory of the United States, despite being U.S. citizens since 1917, Puerto Ricans cannot vote for the U.S. President, and they are also denied voting representation in this Congress.

While this Congress is legislating to extend benefits to all women, I must raise my voice many times to advocate for these rights to be extended to territories like Puerto Rico that still lack, at a general level, full equality in relation to a State.

Statehood for Puerto Rico will happen. The question is when this Congress will do it.

The end of slavery, the end of segregation, and women’s right to vote are just examples of civil rights that took a while to become the law of the land. Statehood for Puerto Rico will follow.

We are still fighting for equal pay, for equal work, for being able to walk safely without fear of sexual harassment, for eradicating gender violence, for having more access to where decisions are made, for having more representation in different fields, such as science, arts, sports, business, and economics.

As we rejoice and celebrate progress in equality for women, I ask my colleagues to be reminded that their job continues and much more remains to be done to achieve equality for all Americans.

That also includes the veterans of Puerto Rico, veterans that lack access to TRICARE Prime options on the island. Instead, only Active Duty servicemembers and their family members have access to TRICARE Prime, specifically TRICARE Prime Overseas.

This also affects the access by spouses and dependents to benefits as their family member serves our country.

Current law dictates that military retirees under the age of 65 in Puerto Rico and the territories are eligible only for TRICARE Standard.

That is the reason I filed H.R. 2171, which seeks to rectify this problem by making TRICARE Prime available to over 29,000 servicemembers in Puerto Rico, who have retired from the Armed Forces, and their dependents.

According to the report by the Congressional Task Force on Economic Growth in Puerto Rico, not having access to TRICARE Prime is one way in which Puerto Rico is treated differently under several Federal programs.

I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 2171.

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 11 o’clock and 1 minute a.m.), the House stood in recess.

AFTER RECESS

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

PRAYER

Reverend R. Perez Gatling, Ebenezer Baptist Church, Virginia Beach, Virginia, offered the following prayer:

O, Lord, our Lord, how excellent is Your name in all the Earth.

We give thanks for this day that You have made, and we give thanks for these courageous and committed public servants who You have called and commissioned to be the voices of the people. We are grateful for the freedoms we enjoy in this country, and we are thankful for all of the patriots and matriarchs and our uniformed and civilian soldiers who unselfishly sacrificed their lives as payment for this freedom.

I pray that You will endow our legislative leaders with knowledge, understanding, wisdom, and discernment. Give each leader in this Chamber a heart for the people they represent. I pray that through today’s proceedings, a more perfect Union will be formed, justice will be established, domestic tranquility will be assured and ensured, and the blessings of liberty will be secured to ourselves and our posterity.

In Jesus’ name, 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 Texas (Ms. ESCOBAR) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Ms. ESCOBAR led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:
I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

WELCOMING REVEREND R. PEREZ GATLING

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

Ms. LURIA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the Reverend Perez Gatling, the 13th pastor at Ebenezer Baptist Church in Virginia Beach. I thank him for his powerful and poignant prayer on the House floor and know that his words will give Congress strength.

Known as “the church that reaches out,” Ebenezer Baptist Church is the oldest African American church in the city of Virginia Beach and has been the cornerstone of our community since 1859.

Pastor Gatling leads it by humble example, sharing with whomver he meets his personal motto: “I’m just a nobody trying to tell everybody about somebody who can save anybody.”

Pastor Gatling is not only a faith leader, but also a mentor to so many through his church’s prolific community outreach, specifically, for students of all ages.

Pastor Gatling is accompanied today by his loving family: Veleka Gatling, Lewis Gatling, Russell Gatling, Cleo Gatling, Leo V. Williams, Carolyn Williams, and Mary Bowen.

Thank you for joining us today. Thank you, Pastor Gatling, for bringing your wise words and your wonderful family to visit us in Congress.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

RECOGNIZING GOLD STAR FAMILIES

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

Mr. HIGGINS. Madam Speaker, today marks the 100th anniversary of the House passage of the 19th Amendment, which gave women the right to vote.

We respect other values. We respect a woman and the power of a mother.

Congratulations to Madison and her teacher and her proud family as they visit Washington, D.C., for the awards ceremony this week. Her poster will be on display in the Great Hall at the Department of Justice. Check it out.

EMPOWERING WOMEN

(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, today we celebrate an important moment in our Nation’s history: 100 years ago, today, the 19th Amendment gave women the right to vote. Today we commemorate that vote.

Wisconsin was a leader in the women’s suffrage movement. In fact, Wisconsin was the first State to ratify the 19th Amendment.

I am wearing a yellow rose today just as the supporters of women’s rights did a century ago.

As we commemorate the 19th Amendment, let’s focus on how we can work together to empower women and ensure that future generations will never forget that historic vote.

100TH ANNIVERSARY OF PASSAGE OF THE NINETEENTH AMENDMENT

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

Ms. SÁNCHEZ. Madam Speaker, today marks the 100th anniversary of the House passage of the 19th Amendment, which gave women the right to vote.

It is hard to think that, 100 years later, for most of our Nation’s history, including my grandmother’s and great-grandmother’s generations, women contributed to the building of our Nation but lacked this basic civil right.

In America, your vote is your voice; it is what makes all of us equal. We each have one vote. Voting is one of the most important things that you can do as a citizen.

When the 19th Amendment passed over 100 years ago, only one woman served in the United States House of Representatives. When I began my congressional career here in 2003, 60 women were serving in the House.

Today, I am proud to serve in the House with 127 women, including 14 other Latinas. That, my friends, is progress.

While we have made significant improvements to expand the representation of women in our political system, we still have a long way to go. So let
us honor this anniversary by committing ourselves to continuing the unfinished work toward achieving full equality for women in this country.

100TH ANNIVERSARY OF PASSAGE OF THE 19TH AMENDMENT

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

Mr. WESTERMAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the 19th Amendment and the efforts of the women's suffrage movement in the United States.

Susan B. Anthony once said: "Oh, if I could but live another century and see the fruition of all the work for the women. There is so much yet to be done."

Now that we stand on the other side of that century, it is only fitting that we honor the suffragettes who paved the way for millions of women to vote and hold public office.

By a vote of 74-15, my home State of Arkansas became the 12th State to ratify the 19th Amendment.

I would like to specifically recognize Ms. Hattie Wyatt Caraway from Jonesboro, Arkansas, the first woman to ever be elected to the United States Senate and whose portrait is prominently displayed outside the Senate Chamber.

A truly representative democracy necessitates that all voices be heard, and the 19th Amendment signified a turning point in our government.

America's legacy of strong women continues on today in the lives of each woman who casts a ballot and runs for office. I am honored to serve alongside many of these women.

WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE

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

Mr. DELGADO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to join in celebrating the 66th Congress.

100 years ago today, in 1919, this House voted to pass the 19th Amendment to grant women the right to vote. I rise today to celebrate the women's suffrage movement and the women who, at the time, were seen as revolutionary for demanding a voice, a representation in our democracy.

Today, we applaud the women who organized in upstate New York, in Seneca Falls, who marched down Pennsylvania Avenue, and who lifted their voices across this country to demand "votes for women."

As we prepare to celebrate a century of women's suffrage, let us acknowledge the tireless work of women to demand the right to vote and the women, including Ulster County's own Sojourner Truth, who recognized that suffrage still denied treatment under the law for all.

Today, I am proud to celebrate the tireless work of women to demand the right to vote and the men who stood on the right side of history by voting to pass the 19th Amendment.

Their work set the stage for the historic 116th Congress, full of trailblazing women, and firsts in their own right.

CELEBRATING BOLD TRAILBLAZERS OF WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE MOVEMENT

(Mrs. RODGERS of Washington asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mrs. RODGERS of Washington. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the bold trailblazers like Susan B. Anthony, a pro-life woman and Republican, and others like Emma Smith DeVoe and May Arkwright Hutton, who both led the suffrage movement in Washington State.

It was exactly 100 years ago today that this body passed a constitutional amendment granting women the right to vote. Its leaders like Susan B. Anthony and others have inspired generations of women to live their dreams, to be courageous, and to be risk-takers. They fought in search of a more perfect union to make sure the promise of America was available to women of all walks of life so that we, the people, are able to make our voice heard.

Madam Speaker, I am grateful for them. I am honored to stand here today, 100 years later. Their legacy reminds us all why we are empowered to do our part and write the next chapter of America's history.

JOHN BOLTON BEATING DRUMS OF WAR

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

Mr. DeFAZIO. Madam Speaker, if you listen carefully, you can hear drums faintly in the background. It is not a prayer circle. It is John Bolton down at the White House, beating the drums of war.

This is the same John Bolton who thought invading Iraq was a really, really great idea. In fact, he said, "I expect that the American role actually will be fairly minimal." Minimally? The greatest foreign policy mistake in the history of the United States of America fairly minimal?

Now he wants to do the same thing in Iran.

Iraq was one thing, with Saddam Hussein in a relatively small country. Iran? Really, buddy? He hasn't seen any problem around the world that you can't change by regime change: North Korea, regime change; Venezuela, oh, that worked out really well a couple of weeks ago, regime change; now Iran.

I hope that he will be quiet about Russia. I wonder why that is. It might have something to do with his boss.

Now, his boss goes back and forth: War, no war. War, no war. I don't know.

We have to hope Bolton doesn't win this debate. He has never repented. He said in 2019, "I still think the decision to overthrow Saddam was correct." The same guy said, "I confess I had no desire to die in a Southeast Asian rice paddy." Chicken hawk.

RECOGNIZING IMPORTANCE OF 19TH AMENDMENT

(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, exactly 100 years ago today, this House passed the 19th Amendment. On June 4, 1919, the Senate approved it.

The women's right to vote began the ratification, requiring three-fourths of the 48 States to ratify it before it was added to the Constitution. That happened on August 26, 1920.

Madam Speaker, a woman having the right to vote is not at all controversial today. However, in 1848, when the first women's rights convention was held in Seneca Falls, New York, the issue was so contentious that the group of mostly women only narrowly passed including voting rights in their Declaration of Sentiments.

We know some of the leaders of the movement, like Susan B. Anthony, Elizabeth Cady Stanton, and Ida B. Wells, but there are thousands of other women whose names will never be known. They also gave heart and courage to ensuring equality for women.

The passage of the 19th Amendment ensured that all Americans were included in steering our Nation toward the future. One hundred years later, it remains just as important.

CELEBRATE 19TH AMENDMENT WITH POLICIES TO SUPPORT ALL WOMEN

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

Ms. BONAMICI. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the House passage of the 19th Amendment giving women the right to vote.

Suffragettes across the country bravely fought for decades to make that moment possible, enduring hardship and pervasive discrimination. I think about trailblazing women like Oregon's Abigail Scott Duniway.

The right to vote empowered women to shape policy, elevated public discourse, and more.

We have come a long way. There is a record number of women not only voting but serving in Congress. With more women in the table, we will finally enact policies that support all women and their rights, including the right to make our own reproductive
healthcare decisions, to affordable childcare, to paid family and medical leave, to retirement security, and to equal pay for equal work.

We still have work to do. We must continue breaking down barriers so future women leaders of all backgrounds can be heard. Together, we will achieve great things.

I urge all of my colleagues to join me in the celebration of the 19th Amendment.

19TH AMENDMENT ENSURED WOMEN FULL PARTICIPATION IN OUR DEMOCRACY

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

Mrs. WAGNER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to support H. Res. 354, celebrating the 100th anniversary of this body's ratification of the 19th Amendment.

On May 21, 1919, the House of Representatives approved a proposed amendment to the Constitution that provided suffrage for women. This amendment not only ensured that all women are full participants in our democracy, it also ensured that the United States is a full democracy.

Women and girls have always possessed the same fundamental rights as men and are essential to a stable, peaceful society. On the day a woman in the Second District of Missouri, I honor the role that the ratification of the 19th Amendment played in fulfilling the principles of the Constitution for women.

I commit to working to strengthen our democracy as we remember remarkable women like Susan B. Anthony, Elizabeth Cady Stanton, and others who fought for our freedoms.

CONTINUE FIGHTING FOR EQUAL RIGHTS OF WOMEN

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

Ms. ESCOBAR. Madam Speaker, today, we recognize a historic day in our Nation, the 100th anniversary of the House passage of the 19th Amendment, which, once ratified, granted most women the right to vote, bringing them one step closer to equality with their male peers.

That ratification was 10 years in the making. Sadly, this pace of progress, this slow pace, is still all too common. Throughout history, women have had to fight for the same rights automatically afforded to men. Today, that fight continues.

As we stand on the shoulders of all the women who challenged convention, who fought and refused to quit so that we could be here in a moment where some 68 million women vote in America and the first two Latina women represent Texas in the people’s House, our responsibility is to continue that fight against the erosion of women’s rights that we are witnessing today and to fight for equal treatment and opportunity for all.

HONOR 19TH AMENDMENT BY EXERCISING THE RIGHT TO VOTE

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

Mrs. HARTZLER. Madam Speaker, going door to door in my first campaign, a sweet, elderly lady invited me in for iced tea. As she discussed my race, she shared that she had never missed a chance to vote since she was a young girl.

One day, her mother had hitched the horses to the wagon, pulled up in front of the house, told her to get in, flicked the reins, and they were on their way to town. With determination and pride, her mother announced, “Today, for the first time in our country, we get to vote. We must always exercise this privilege.” And that girl did, every election, for over 74 years.

As we celebrate the 100th anniversary of this Chamber passing the 19th Amendment to our Constitution, giving all women the right to vote, we must all reflect on what this right to vote truly means. I am grateful for this privilege not only to vote on election day but also to stand here and represent the good people of Missouri’s Fourth District and cast their vote here in Congress.

We live in the greatest country in the world. Let us always remember those who secured our freedoms and honor their legacy by exercising the right to vote.

HONORING COURAGEOUS WOMEN WHO WON RIGHT TO VOTE

(Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Madam Speaker, just over 100 years ago, my mother was born without the right to vote. Like other women of her time, she had no vote, and she had no voice in her government.

Today, we honor the courageous women who marched, staged hunger strikes, and persevered in order to win this fundamental right for half the country, forever altering our democracy by ensuring that everyone in this country, including women, had the constitutional right to vote.

I am deeply grateful that my mother benefited from their efforts and that she would live to see her daughter run for and be elected to Congress.

Millions of women voted for the first time in November 1920 and in the nearly 100 years since. But we still have much more work to do.

I determined that, one day soon, all of our daughters and sons will witness the ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment, which, at long last, makes it clear that equal means equal.

CELEBRATING THOSE WHO FOUGHT FOR WOMEN’S RIGHT TO VOTE

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

Mrs. LESKO. Madam Speaker, I am proud to speak before the U.S. House of Representatives in celebration of the 100th anniversary of the House passage of the 19th Amendment that gave all women the right to vote. This centennial is one of the most important in our Nation’s history, and I am thrilled to be celebrating it with my colleagues here on the House floor.

The fight for women’s suffrage in my State of Arizona began when we were still a territory in the 1800s. Brave women, like Josephine Hughes of Tucson, Frances Munds of Prescott, and others, led the suffragist movement in Arizona so that women in Arizona won the right to vote even before the 19th Amendment passed.

Let us celebrate the many women and girls who fought for so much over so many years to ensure the right to vote for women in America.

As the daughter of a great mother, as the mother of a wonderful daughter, and as the grandmother to a 1-week-old granddaughter, I am so proud to be here today to honor this great, historic moment.

PROTECTING RIGHT TO CHOOSE

(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, as States like Alabama move forward implementing medieval laws that seek to imprison doctors and punish women for their personal healthcare decisions, I want to make one thing absolutely clear: I will always stand up and defend a woman’s fundamental right to choose.

These near-total bans on abortion are not only unconstitutional, but they also endanger the lives of countless women who will be forced to turn to unsafe procedures.

In 1973, Roe v. Wade was the official cause of death for almost 2,700 women, nearly 20 percent of maternal deaths recorded that year.

We have come too far in the fight for women’s equality to retreat to an era when women lacked the basic right to autonomy over their own bodies.

My district of Rochester, New York, is the proud home of Susan B. Anthony. Today, we commemorate the 100th anniversary of the 19th Amendment, but the fight for women’s rights is far from over.

We must remain resolute in our commitment to protecting and upholding Roe v. Wade. We must support critical
We are still fighting for full equality for all women, including LGBTQ+ women. We are still fighting for reproductive rights. We have seen countless States enact laws that strip away a woman's reproductive freedom, criminalizing a decision that should be made between her and her doctor. But core to women's constitutional liberties is autonomy over their own body and well-being. In order to truly support women, we need to safeguard and improve, not limit, access to comprehensive healthcare.

As we celebrate the strides that women have made in our country, we also recommit ourselves to the fight that women have endured since the founding of our Nation.

100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE 19TH AMENDMENT

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

Mrs. DEMINGS. Madam Speaker, America has always been a work in progress, and, therefore, we always have the opportunity to make our democracy better, stronger, when we simply do the right thing.

The Declaration of Independence may have said that “all men are created equal,” but it took a brave group of Americans to say that it should really be “all people.” If the law applies to each of us equally, then the right to vote must always be equal. The women who fought for their right to vote weren’t in it to make friends. They were mocked and beaten, called extremists, told to slow down, right to vote weren’t in it to make money. So they simply waited. But, nevertheless, they persisted.

Today, on the 100th anniversary of the 19th Amendment passed in the House, let’s be inspired by this group of women who took the hard fight and did the right thing, because they knew our democracy would be stronger and better for it.

You can’t be what you can’t see.

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

Ms. HOULAHAN. Madam Speaker, “Young girls need to see role models in whatever careers they may choose just so they can picture themselves doing that job some day. You can’t be what you can’t see.”

Madam Speaker, Sally Ride, the first American woman in space, spoke those words. She was a personal hero of mine, one of the few women in STEM I could look up to as a child. And to this day, I am grateful to Sally because she showed me, as a young girl, that being a woman did not prevent her from pursuing her dream, from entering a male-dominated world and space.

Yesterday, I spoke on television with my friend Representative Miki SHERRILL, about the launch of the first ever Servicewomen and Women Veterans Congressional Caucus, and it turns out another young girl was watching.

“Oh, why do those two girls have the same necklace on?” she asked her father, referring to my and Representative SHERRILL’s pins. Her father explained the meaning of the pin, explained how we were two women elected to serve in the United States Government.

True equality can only be achieved when every young girl can look up to her leaders and see herself reflected, see a legitimate path for achieving her dreams. For that, we need more women in leadership, more people of color. Our elected representatives need to be a more accurate reflection of America that we represent.

Maybe that young girl yesterday will go into politics, maybe she won’t, but she saw two women who were elected by their peers to serve.

“You can’t be what you can’t see.”

100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE 19TH AMENDMENT

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

Mr. COOPER. Madam Speaker, as we celebrate the 100th anniversary of the vote to pass the 19th Amendment, I would like to recognize Tennessee’s crucial role in the Amendment’s ratification.

State Representative Harry T. Burn was a slow learner. He was originally antisufragist, but he ultimately changed his “nay” vote to “yea” just in time to heed his mother’s advice to “be a good boy” and vote for ratification.

His was the deciding vote in the Tennessee General Assembly, making Tennessee the 36th State, and final State, needed for ratification. Representative Burn explained his vote this way: “I know that a mother’s advice is always safest for her boy to follow, and my mother wanted me to vote for ratification.”

So thank you to Representative Burn and, above all, to his mother, Ms. Phoebe Burn, for her crucial role in aiding women’s right to vote.

100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE 19TH AMENDMENT

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

Ms. MOORE. Madam Speaker, I am so honored to join my colleagues in commemorating the 100th anniversary of House passage of the 19th Amendment to the United States Constitution, guaranteeing women the right to vote everywhere in our country.
My State, Wisconsin, was the very first State to ratify the 19th Amendment, and I am wearing this yellow rose today in honor of the remarkable women who fought for their seat at the table. They persevered; they resisted; they persisted; and the face of Congress is different because of them. Women like Ida B. Wells, Susan B. Anthony, and Sojourner Truth said that, if women want rights, we must be sisters in arms and fight for what is right.

When Wisconsin was the first State to ratify the 19th Amendment, and, unfortunately, they are now leading in the efforts to disenfranchise people. But it is because of the powerful legacy that I will continue to fight to make sure that no one is denied access to the ballot due them as citizens.

CELEBRATING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE PASSAGE AND RATIFICATION OF THE 19TH AMENDMENT, PROVIDING FOR WOMEN’S SUFFRAGE, TO THE CONSTITUTION OF THE UNITED STATES

Ms. DEAN. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on the Judiciary be discharged from further consideration of House Resolution 354, and I ask for its immediate consideration in the House.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York). Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from Pennsylvania?

There was no objection.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 354

Whereas Congress passed the 19th Amendment to the Constitution of the United States, guided by the shared ideals of freedom, sovereignty, democracy, civil liberties, and individual rights;

Whereas from 1919 to 1920, the Sixty-Sixth Congress debated, and State legislatures considered, an amendment to the Constitution to provide women’s suffrage;

Whereas on May 21, 1919, the House of Representatives approved a proposed amendment, followed by the Senate a few weeks later on June 4, 1919;

Whereas the introduction, passage, and ultimate ratification of the 19th Amendment were the culmination of decades of work and struggle by advocates for the rights of women across the United States and worldwide;

Whereas the ratification of the 19th Amendment ensured women could more fully participate in our democracy and fundamentally changed the role of women in the civic life of our Nation;

Whereas August 18, 2020, marks the centennial of the ratification of the 19th Amendment by three-fourths of the States, providing the support necessary under article V of the Constitution of the United States;

Whereas August 26, 2020, marks the centennial of the 19th Amendment becoming a part of the Constitution of the United States, providing for women’s suffrage; and

Whereas the centennial anniversary of the ratification of the 19th Amendment represents a historical milestone to be lauded and celebrated: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives:

(1) celebrates the 100th anniversary of the passage and ratification of the 19th Amendment, providing for women’s suffrage, to the Constitution of the United States;

(2) honors the role of the ratification of the 19th Amendment in further fulfilling the promise of the Constitution of the United States and promoting the core values of our democracy;

(3) renews the opportunity for people in the United States to learn about and commemorate the efforts of the women’s suffrage movement and the role of women in our democracy; and

(4) reaffirms the desire of Congress to continue strengthening democratic participation and to inspire future generations to cherish and preserve the historic precedent established under the 19th Amendment.

The resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE

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

OFFICE OF THE CLERK
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WASHINGTON, DC, MAY 21, 2019.

HON. NANCY PELOSI,
Speaker of the House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MADAM SPEAKER: Pursuant to the permission granted in Clause 2(h) of Rule II of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the Clerk received the following message from the Secretary of the Senate on May 21, 2019, at 9:24 a.m.:

That the Senate passed H. Res. 163.

With best wishes, I am, Sincerely,

CHERYL L. JOHNSON.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 1500, CONSUMERS FIRST ACT; PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 1994, SETTING EVERY COMMUNITY UP FOR RETIREMENT ENHANCEMENT ACT OF 2019; PROVIDING FOR PROCEEDINGS DURING THE PERIOD FROM MAY 24, 2019, THROUGH MAY 31, 2019; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 389 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 389

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. 1500) to require the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau to meet its statutory purpose, 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 amendments specified in this section and shall not exceed one hour equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Financial Services. After general debate the bill shall be considered for amendment under the five-minute rule. In lieu of the amendment to the nature of a substitute recommended by the Committee on Financial Services now printed in the bill, an amendment in the nature of a substitute consisting of text of Rules Clause 2(h) of Rule II as amended by the Committee on Rules accompanying this resolution shall be in order to consider in the House the bill, as amended, without regard to the time limit for amendments under the five-minute rule and shall be considered as read. All points of order against provisions in the bill, as amended, are waived. No further amendment to the bill, as amended, shall be in order except those printed in part A of the report of the Committee on Rules accompanying this resolution. 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, and may 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 a demand for division of the question in the House or 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.

SEC. 2. Upon adoption of this resolution it shall be in order in the House to consider the bill (H.R. 1994) to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to encourage retirement savings, and for other purposes. All points of order against consideration of the bill are waived. The amendment in the nature of a substitute recommended by the Committee on Ways and Means now printed in the bill, made by the amendments set forth as part B of the report of the Committee on Rules accompanying this resolution, shall be considered as adopted. The bill, as amended, shall be considered as read. All points of order against provisions in the bill, as amended, are waived. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the bill, as amended, and on any further amendment thereto. Final passage without intervening motion except: (1) one hour of debate equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Ways and Means; and (2) one motion to recommit with or without instructions.

SEC. 5. Each day during the period from May 24, 2019, through May 31, 2019—

(a) The Journal of the proceedings of the previous day shall be considered as approved; and

(b) The Chair may at any time declare the House adjourned to meet at a date and time, within the limits of clause 4, section 5, article I of the Constitution, to be announced by the Chair in declaring the adjournment.

The Speaker reserves the right to direct Members to perform the duties of the Chair for the duration of the period addressed by section 3 of this resolution as though under clause 8(a) of rule II is suspended.
not constitute a legislative day for purposes of clause 7 of rule XV.

SEC. 6. It shall be in order at any time on the legislative day of May 23, 2019, for the Speaker or any other Member to suspend the rules as under clause 1 of rule XV, relating to a measure making supplemental appropriations for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2019.

SEC. 7. The requirement of clause 6(a) of rule XIII for a two-thirds vote to consider a report from the Committee on Rules on the same day it is presented to the House is waived with respect to any resolution reported through the legislative day of May 23, 2019, relating to a measure making supplemental appropriations for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2019.

SEC. 8. The Committee on Appropriations may, at any time before 5:00 p.m. on Sunday, June 2, 2019, file privileged reports to accompany measures making appropriations for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2020.

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, for the purpose of debate only, I yield the customary 30 minutes to the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. WOODALL), 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.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Colorado is recognized for 1 hour.

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, for the purpose of debate only, I yield the customary 30 minutes to the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. WOODALL), 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.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Colorado is recognized for 1 hour.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The SPEAKER pro tempore of the House, Mr. WOODALL, is recognized for 1 hour.

Mr. WOODALL. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume, and I want to thank my friend from Colorado for yielding me the customary 30 minutes. I yield to the gentleman from Colorado for yielding me the customary 30 minutes.

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, for the purpose of debate only, I yield the customary 30 minutes to the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. WOODALL), 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.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The SPEAKER pro tempore of the House, Mr. WOODALL, is recognized for 1 hour.

Mr. WOODALL. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume, and I want to thank my friend from Colorado for yielding me the customary 30 minutes.

It is a close-knit bunch of folks up there on the Rules Committee, Madam Speaker. If you have not been by recently, you ought to come by. There are only 13 of us there. It is easy to remember everybody’s name, but you don’t go to the Rules Committee when you have important bipartisan legislation to bring to the floor. You go to the Rules Committee when you have contentious pieces of legislation to bring to the floor. I regret that we are here today on things that are absolutely contentious that could have been absolutely partnership bills.

I want to reference first H.R. 1500. That is the bill my friend from Colorado spoke about as it relates to the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau. He is absolutely right. The way this Congress set up the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau when Demo- crats were running this institution and President Obama was in the White House was to make it an independent agency with no accountability to Congress whatsoever. That was a mistake.

But the folks who set it up liked the team that was running it at the time, and so our efforts in the minority to stop that from happening were rebuffed. Now we are here today, Madam Speaker, and you might think that we have a list of legislative fixes to the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau. Not so.

I encourage you to pick up a copy of H.R. 1500 just to see what those fixes...
might be. It is a 40-page bill. You have to get to page 21 before accusations and assertions against former Director Mick Mulvaney end, and the important work, like changing the way we refer-ence the agency by name, begins. I don't blame anyone. No amendments were offered in the Rules Committee last night, Madam Speaker, to talk about all of the things that former Director Cordray did while he was there. The list of things that he did that I don't like are long. The list of things that he did that I thought violated the actual text of the law is pretty long. But he is gone, and we have the ability to fix anything we want to fix that he did. So no amendments were offered to impugn the integrity of the former director. Well, not the former director, Mr. Cordray; but the former director, Mick Mulvaney, yes, acting director.

There are 21 pages of a 40-page bill dedicated to personal attacks on the former director. Madam Speaker, if we wanted to do something about the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau that brought its authority out of 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue and right back here to where it belongs, we would make this agency subject to congressional appropriations. This is a bipartisan issue.

If you want to find something that we agree on as an institution, let's talk about making Art II the law of this country, rather than Article II. Let's talk about taking it out of the White House's hands and putting it back into the people's hands on Capitol Hill. You will not find that idea in these pages.

It is a disappointment because we could be doing something in partnership. Standing for consumers is a trade for the people's House, and we work very hard to do that. I go now to the bill coming out of the Ways and Means Committee. H.R. 1994. Madam Speaker, as my friend from Colorado referenced, this bill passed unanimously out of the Ways and Means Committee. Unanimously.

Take a look at the men and women on the Ways and Means Committee. I think there are 42 of them. These are not shrinking violets on the Ways and Means Committee. I see a couple of them out here. I won't call anybody out by name—Mr. PANETTA—but they are not shrinking violets on this committee. These are serious public policy advocates who represent very diverse parts of the country and who fight hard for the values that their constituents represent.

Unanimously, they came together as a committee, Madam Speaker, to change the rules for retirement, to make it easier for families to save; to change the rules around college savings plans so that families who ran into challenges in secondary years, families whose children develop special needs and might not be going on to college, but who have very real needs today, to allow those dollars to be tapped by those families to serve the educational needs of their children.

Unanimously it passed the committee. In fact, I will read from the committee report. This is not something that was done lightly in committee. Madam Speaker, we are talking about hundreds of pages of legisla-tion, hundreds of pages of a committee report. This was a thoughtfully designed and crafted piece of legislation.

The committee said this:

The committee believes that expanding 529 plans will help families save for education expenses that meet each family's unique needs.

We run into that problem often, Madam Speaker. We try to do something that is good for America, and it turns out that 330 million Americans have different needs and priorities. So the Ways and Means avoided a one-size-fits-all solution, recognizing those unique needs. I will read on.

The committee says:

By allowing tax-free distributions for apprenticeship and pre-apprenticeship, homeschooling expenses, student loan repayments, elementary and secondary expenses, in addition to tuition, families can customize the use of their education savings to make education more affordable.

We didn't read that on the headline of any major newspaper when the Ways and Means passed that unanimously. I am sure there was something in the headline of that major newspaper about wars in foreign lands. I am sure there was something in the newspaper that day about partisan politics and how folks were poking each other with sharp rhetorical sticks.

There was not a word about how the men and women of the people's House on the Ways and Means Committee came together unanimously, not because it wasn't hard to craft solutions. It is hard to craft solutions, but they came together unanimously on a consensus language to move out of committee.

It sounds like I am going to tell a story with a happy ending. Madam Speaker, and I should be. This should be a story about how we get things done, but what happened last night is that you also won't see on the front page of the paper is, we took this consensus product that was passed unanimously by Republicans and Democrats, and we took it up there to the Rules Committee.

On a straight party-line vote, we ripped out all of the language protecting families who were trying to help their children at home; children who may not be getting everything they need through the public schools and so they get additional education at home; families that may have opted out of the public school system because they couldn't get what their children need, and they are homeschooling their children.

This language that was agreed upon unanimously in a bipartisan way, was ripped out in a party-line vote in the Rules Committee last night. We will never vote on it in this Chamber, Madam Speaker.

The Ways and Means Committee in a long committee report, long committee language, they deliberated over this language and concluded that the right thing to do was to help all American families. But somewhere between that unanimous vote in committee and late last night in the Rules Committee, the decision came down from on high—and on by on high I do mean your side of the aisle, Madam Speaker. When you sit in the Speaker's chair, you have that kind of authority. The Rules Committee is, in fact, the Speaker's committee—that said we are going to rip this language out.

We offered an amendment last night. And I think it is only right that folks come to sit here to watch the people's business. They think that we are going to operate a transparent building here, and we run very hard to do that.

We offered an amendment last night in the Rules Committee to allow a simple vote of the people to change this provision. If you don't like parents supplementing their students' education at home, so be it. I don't understand it, but so be it. But let's have a vote on it here just like they did in the Ways and Means Committee. On a party-line basis, the amendment to allow the people's House to have a vote on this provision was defeated.

You might not have noticed it when the Reading Clerk was reading, Madam Speaker. I don't want to tell you how long that took to read. We have a lot of things packaged in this bill. You will have to go all the way down to the 12th section of the rule, and the important words are: modified by the amendment printed in part B of the Rules Committee report, modified by part B of the amendment printed in the Rules Committee report.

So thank you for that, Madam Speaker. That means with no vote of this institution whatsoever and with no consultation or input from the Ways and Means Committee that crafted this legislation, we are going to revoke all benefits that would have gone to families who cannot find the services they need outside the home and, thus, are paying for those services inside the home.

Representative MITCHELL came to the Rules Committee to testify on this amendment last night, Madam Speaker. He said that his family is blessed enough to have the financial resources to take care of their special needs family member. But he talked about all the American families who he has met in his district—the Speaker has them in her district; the gentleman from Colorado has them in his district; and I have them in my district—who don't have the financial means and who don't have that sense of security.

The Ways and Means Committee in its wisdom unanimously said let's provide that security to American families. The Rules Committee in an error
in judgment repealed it because six Members voted “yes” last night. That is all it took. All it took to silence an institution of 435, Madam Speaker, was six Members voting to include this one seemingly innocuous line that disadvantaged families and children all across this Nation.

It is another missed opportunity, Madam Speaker. We could have been here today celebrating the things that we do here together. We could have been here celebrating shared values. We could have been here today making a difference that your constituents have asked of you and my constituents have asked of me.

From the start of this process, for the weeks in committee, and for the weeks since the committee has passed it, we were doing exactly that. In about 6 minutes of voting last night, we erased it all. It took weeks to build bipartisanship, Madam Speaker. It took moments to erase it all.

We have in this institution, Madam Speaker. We made the wrong one in the Rules Committee last night.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to defeat this rule and give us a chance to make a right one. But we only get so many bites at this apple. The trust of the American people in us as an institution and in us as individuals is not infinite. If we betray that trust often enough, it will disappear forever.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Madam Speaker, I will start where my friend from Georgia just left off, complaining about a tiny section in the bill that was stricken in the Rules Committee. He is correct, because there are individuals within our Caucus who don’t think it is appropriate. The bill, however, has dozens of provisions that benefit Americans of every stripe, millions of people.

I would say to my friend from Georgia, if he feels so strongly about it, then bring it up in a motion to recommit. It isn’t the last statement here. If my friend wants to see how many people want to vote for this, then certainly bring it up there.

Otherwise, as my friend said, this was a major step forward on retirement security for so many Americans. The perfect shouldn’t be the enemy of the good because the bill, the SECURE Act, advances that.

Secondly, I wish Representative MALONEY was still in the chair, Madam Speaker, because she would recognize, as it applies to the Consumers First Act, that the purpose of having a single agency focus on consumers first was so important because we saw that by having certain activities handled by the Housing and Urban Development Department, those handled by the Federal Reserve, and others handled by the Federal Trade Commission, consumers were not being protected. Much of that failure to protect—shark practices in the credit card industry and bad practices in the mortgage industry—led to the recession that we faced back in 2008, 2009, and 2010.

The purpose of having an independent agency like the CFPB was to avoid that and put consumers first, just as H.R. 1500 is intended to do.

Madam Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from California (Mr. PANETTA).

Mr. PANETTA. Madam Speaker, I thank Mr. WOODALL for his advocacy as well as his oratory skills.

As a member of the Ways and Means Committee, I want to talk about the SECURE Act and obviously the work that we did in the Ways and Means Committee in regard to not only H.R. 1994 but, more particular, a certain part of that bipartisan legislation that helps home healthcare workers save for retirement. That would include the over 375,000 home healthcare workers in my home State of California.

Madam Speaker, we know that home healthcare is usually less expensive. It is more common, more times, just as effective as the care people receive in a hospital or in a skilled nursing facility.

Home healthcare workers not only provide critical services for seniors and those with physical, mental, or emotional disabilities, but they also ensure that our loved ones with special needs are able to live their lives in a dignified manner.

That dignity, that skill, and that care, I can tell you, is something that I experienced firsthand throughout my childhood when my grandmother suffered a debilitating stroke and had to live with us. We took her in realizing that the effects of her stroke were permanent.

That is why my family decided to ensure that she had appropriate home healthcare, not just the family but with full-time home healthcare workers.

With both parents working full-time, we were forced—but, yes, we were also fortunate—to hire home healthcare workers, people who actually came into our home, took care of my grandmother, and allowed her to live a life with dignity and with the care necessary to enjoy the latter years of her life.

However, and unfortunately, right now under the current Federal Internal Revenue Code, home healthcare providers who were caregivers for my grandmother are not able to participate in a retirement plan or save in an IRA. If you are a home healthcare worker in California who works in and helps out families, then you would be ineligible to participate in the CalSavers retirement program due to the current Federal law.

That is why this bill is so important, because it would allow home healthcare workers to contribute to a pension plan or a retirement plan or IRA, giving home healthcare workers the ability to save and prepare for their own retirement.

These healthcare workers give our family members dignity. This is the least that we can do for home healthcare workers so that they can retire with dignity.

That is what this bill does. That is why I urge my colleagues to support the rule and the underlying legislation.

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

Madam Speaker, you heard the earnestness with which Mr. PANETTA just described the committee’s work. You can go through every one of the committee’s work, and you are going to find a story similar to the one that Mr. PANETTA has told about his family that applies to hundreds of thousands of families across the country.

That is what the committee spent weeks and weeks putting together. That is, candidly, what my constituents think we do up here every day: find problems, find partners, craft solutions, and bring them to the floor.

My friend from Colorado said that we shouldn’t let the perfect be the enemy of the good, and I think he is exactly right. I haven’t voted on the perfect bill before but, yes, I have been here, Madam Speaker. You may have had that opportunity; I have not. I vote on bills that move the ball in the right direction. Even had I been king for a day, I couldn’t have done it better.

The flip side is not that the perfect be the enemy of the good” is that this bill passed out of the Ways and Means Committee unanimously. It was perfect if bipartisanship was your goal. It is now good legislation. But with this change, it is perfectly partisan.

I would advise my colleagues that we spent a lot of time when we were in control—and I had the pleasure of leading the rule, as my friend from Colorado does today—of bringing Members from tough votes. You may not know, Madam Speaker, but the way the Rules Committee works, we could have offered waivers. If you wanted to strike protections for homeschooling families, if you wanted to strike protections for families who need to buy more than what they can find in their public school system for their special needs child, you could have brought an amendment to the floor of this House to do that.

Mr. WOODALL. Madam Speaker, I yield.

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I yield on the underlying legislation.

Mr. PANETTA. Madam Speaker, I thank Mr. WOODALL for his advocacy as well as his oratory skills.

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

Mr. PANETTA. Madam Speaker, I yield on the balance of my time.

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I yield on the balance of my time.

Mr. PANETTA. Madam Speaker, I yield on the balance of my time.

Mr. WOODALL. Madam Speaker, I yield on the balance of my time.

Mr. PANETTA. Madam Speaker, I yield on the balance of my time.
If we want to vote on these issues, then let’s vote on these issues. But I will just tell my friends here in their fifth month of leadership that they will begin to rue the day that they told their new Members they could come to Capitol Hill, be a United States Congressman, and not have to take tough votes.

We began to rue that day when we started down that road, and you only get one chance to start again.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Responding to my good friend from Georgia, we are going to have to chance to vote on this in the rule, and we will see whether or not a majority is in favor of the changes that were made as part of this rule package.

I would say to my friend, as part of the changes, we are adding Gold Star families, with their children to the entirety SECURE Act package to benefit them because in the race to give a $2 trillion tax cut to the richest Americans, the Republican Party forgot about a lot of families and a lot of children. That is being corrected in this bill and in this amendment.

I urge my friend to take another look at it because this rule does benefit Americans all across the board and all income levels.

Madam Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentlewoman from Massachusetts (Mrs. TRAHAAN).

Mrs. TRAHAAN. Madam Speaker, I rise to offer my strong support for the rule and for the Setting Every Community Up for Retirement Enhancement Act.

This is an important retirement savings measure that has the support of a wide range of stakeholders, from the United States Chamber of Commerce to the Girl Scouts. What a credit to the committee for taking up this important legislation for the people.

I want to highlight section 105, a provision that the committee included to offer a tax incentive to small businesses for setting up automatic enrollment for their employees’ retirement plans.

Madam Speaker, while half of private-sector employees have access to a retirement plan through their employer, it is estimated that just 15 percent of small businesses offer a retirement plan. Yet small businesses employ approximately half of the nation’s private-sector workforce.

Ensuring that small business employees have retirement options just like those employed by larger companies will increase small businesses’ competitiveness at a time when the job market is tightening, and it will position these employees for a secure retirement.

Establishing automatic enrollment in retirement plans is critical. Participation rates in defined contribution plans like a 401(k) are above 90 percent among new hires when automatic enrollment is the default. Moreover, 80 percent of participants increase their contributions over time. Alternatively, when employers do not offer automatic enrollment, new hire participation is below 50 percent.

Section 105 is based upon a bill that Mr. KELLY and I introduced, the Small Employer Retirement Savings Auto-Enrollment Credit Act. It would provide small businesses—those with up to 100 employees—a $500 tax credit to defray the cost of offering automatic enrollment. The tax credit would also be available to small businesses that convert their existing employee retirement program from an opt-in to auto-enrollment.

I was pleased to work with the chairman and his staff as well as the gentleman from Pennsylvania on this issue. I urge adoption of the resolution and the SECURE Act.

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

Madam Speaker, I want to associate myself with everything my friend from Massachusetts just said. Every line of this bill, as crafted by the Ways and Means Committee, was designed to make a difference in a family’s life, a difference that every single one of us can be proud of. It has a single bit of concern about that language.

The concern is that, instead of being down here celebrating this bipartisan product, in the dark of night, it was converted.

My friend from Colorado is absolutely right. Not only was the home-schooling provision stripped out; a provision for Gold Star families was put in.

Now, I will just tell you, if you have no concerns, Madam Speaker, let me speak on behalf of the Republican Conference. If you want to stand up for Gold Star families, I have got Members who want to stand with you. I don’t have some; I have them all.

To be fair, that has nothing to do with being a Republican. If I go to the Democratic side of the aisle and look for folks to stand with Gold Star families, I won’t find one; I will find them all.

That is yet another thing that unites us, and kudos to RICHARD NEAL, as chairman of the Ways and Means Committee, for taking an opportunity to make the bill better in that way.

I happen to have his manager’s amendment here, Madam Speaker. This is the language that was taken up by the Rules Committee last night and, again, stuck in because only six people voted “yes.” And page after page is dealing with those Gold Star families and trying to right that clerical error in drafting.

It is in the middle of page 3, with looks like seven words: “In section 302, strike subsections (b) and (d).” You might not know what section 302 is and what sections (b) and (d) are, Madam Speaker. I will read some of that to you, again, from the Democratic chairman’s committee report, from the unanimous legislation that was passed.

The provision allows tax-free treatment to apply to distributions made for certain additional qualifying expenses on behalf of designated beneficiaries attending elementary and secondary schools.

This is the offensive language that my friend referenced that some Members of his caucus had problems with that needed to be taken out. Here it comes. And I don’t mean to offend you by reading these words, Madam Speaker, but I am just going to read them directly because I feel the burden to do it.

In addition to tuition, tax-free treatment would apply to a distribution made for expenses for fees, tutoring, special-needs services, books, supplies, and other equipment incurred in connection with the attendance of elementary school.

I am aghast that that is what the Ways and Means Committee decided to do. I am just going to tell you again, Madam Speaker, the committee, in its wisdom, unanimously decided that we should speak up for families who have problems with expenses for fees, academic tutoring, special-needs services, books, supplies, and other equipment incurred in connection with the attendance of elementary school.

That is what this big to-do was about today. If you want to have a vote on the floor of the House that says, “I don’t want children in elementary school to have any help,” we can have that vote. I think it would lose, and so do my friends on the other side of the aisle.

That is why we are not going to have that vote. We are going to sneak it in, in the rule, and never be able to speak on it.

I appreciate my friend raising the Gold Star issue because that is yet another area of agreement, like the issue my friend from Massachusetts spoke about, like the issue my friend from California spoke about.

Madam Speaker, when you are in the majority in this Chamber, it is easy to get legislation passed. You control the Rules Committee. You control the vote on the floor. You get to jam everything through.

I know. I spent 8 years in the majority, and that is the way every day is when you are in the majority.

But you don’t have to jam everything through. Occasionally—just occasionally—you are not going to get your will on the bill. You are not going to get your way, and you are going to have to negotiate with your committee, bills, like this bill from the Ways and Means Committee, where every single line is dedicated to solving problems, problems that affect your district and problems that affect my district.

Occasionally—just occasionally—we find Members on both sides of the aisle sitting down, rolling up their sleeves, looking for solutions instead of talking...
points. And, when that happens, you produce good legislation like the bill Chairman NEAL brought before us today.

We could have been down here celebrating that legislation, Madam Speaker. Instead, we are talking about the effort to unwind it. And if they win the life of me, I just don’t understand why that is the path we have chosen. I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Madam Speaker, just in response to my friend, we have two bills that are encompassed in this rule: H.R. 1500, the Consumers First Act, and H.R. 1994, the SECURE Act.

The gentleman is focusing on one sentence out of dozens of provisions that benefit millions of Americans to complain about this rule and what was done.

Well, people get to vote on this rule. It isn’t just 6 people or 10 people or 13 people. There will be 435 of us voting on whether we approve the rule or not. There are other opportunities to take care of the one sentence, if my friend is so aghast that it might be stricken in favor of other provisions, including the Gold Star family and children across America.

So, I appreciate the rhetorical abilities of my good friend from Georgia, but, quite frankly, he is missing the forest for the trees through all of this. Secondly, H.R. 1500 is another key piece of legislation that is encompassed in this rule to really get consumers first again, as opposed to the financial services industry being first, which appears to be the effort of the Trump administration.

Madam Speaker, I would inquire of my friend from Georgia if he has any other speakers. If not, I suggest we close.

Mr. WOODALL. Madam Speaker, I don’t have any speakers remaining. I have a powerful previous question vote that I would like to describe, and I am prepared to do that at this time.

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

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

We can’t always get exercised about every single line in every single bill. We would never get anything done.

We have an amendment process so that, if you get exercised about a particular line in a particular bill, you can bring your amendment to the floor and we vote on it.

We are going to get into the appropriations process soon. When we spend money, it turns out to be one of those issues that people feel strongly about. We are going to entertain hundreds of amendments—Republican amendments, Democratic amendments. Some Republican amendments are going to pass; some are going to fail. Some Democrat amendments are going to pass; some are going to fail.

But we are going to work the will of the body, and we are going to do the best we can to get to a final package that we move across the street to the Senate.

My frustration in this moment, Madam Speaker, isn’t that we have the inability of moving things forward and discussing ideas. We do have the ability to do that, and we did that well in the Ways and Means Committee.

My frustration, when people don’t like the way the committee unanimously, in a bipartisan way, did something because they have bipartisan concerns—and, to be clear, the concerns about this language are not Republican concerns. This language was not stricken because Republicans objected. This language was not stricken to satisfy any bipartisan concern of any kind.

This was purely a partisan exercise. And if Committee to make a difference exercise, I know 435 Members who are here all day, who will come down here to the House floor and vote on it, and we can do that.

So I want to offer that opportunity, Madam Speaker. For folks who think this is about public policy, as it was when the committee considered it in a bipartisan way, I want to offer an amendment to this bill.

If we defeat the previous question, Madam Speaker, I will offer an amendment that strikes this offending section. What that means in layman’s terms is the bill would contain the Gold Star family language that is very important to every Member of this Chamber. It would contain the pension language that is very important to every Member of this Chamber. It would contain every line designed in a bipartisan fashion by the Ways and Means Committee.

Vote against the previous question, defeat the previous question, and we can restore the bipartisan consensus language the Ways and Means Committee crafted, and we will add the Gold Star family language that my friend from Colorado and I agree on.

I don’t serve in the Ways and Means Committee, Madam Speaker. They have got big ideas they have to work on over there, I don’t serve on the Financial Services Committee. They have got big ideas they have to work on over there.

I serve in the Rules Committee. My job is to get bills to the House floor and to make sure that voices are heard on perfecting bills.

If we defeat the previous question, we can achieve exactly the partisan goal that the majority wants, but we can achieve it by actually having a vote of the House on that goal.

I think the American people are tired of things being done in secret. I think they are tired of things being done without the full story being told.

I talk to my friends on the other side of the aisle regularly, daily, hourly, Madam Speaker. I know the hunger from your side of the aisle to deliver on behalf of the American people. I know that hunger. I know the hunger on your side of the aisle to roll up sleeves and do hard things. Because the easy things somebody else has already taken care of. All that is left for you and me are the hard things.

Going to the well of partisanship, pulling your sharp stick out of your quiver and poking the dream, those aren’t the hard things. Those are the easy things. And, candidly, those aren’t the surprising things. They have become all too commonplace.

I don’t get to run this institution, but I do get a vote in it. I see opportunities for partnership, not because everybody wants it, but because it has to happen. Republican President, Republican Senate, Democratic House: The only way we succeed, Madam Speaker, is to succeed together. That is the only pathway forward.

If anybody in this Chamber ran for their seat because they wanted to stand up here and talk about it for 2 years, we have got a great pathway for you. But if you ran for this seat because you actually wanted to get it done, these bills today aren’t doing it.

The Senate won’t consider them. The President is not going to sign them. But there are ideas in these bills, and, Mr. Speaker, as expressed unanimously by the Ways and Means Committee, that America is hungry for and you and I can deliver.

Let’s exceed expectations today. Defeat the previous question, and let’s restore this bill to the bipartisan compromise that the Ways and Means Committee created.

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

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

Madam Speaker, I want to thank Mr. PANETTA and Mrs. TRAHAN for joining us today to speak on this rule, the Consumers First Act, and the SECURE Act.

And, just briefly, with respect to the Consumers First Act, there are dozens and dozens of consumer, civil rights, and labor organizations supporting the Consumers First Act and how we are singularly doing our part: Americans for Financial Reform, the Center for Responsible Lending, the Communication Workers of America, the Consumer Federation of America, and the NAACP, just to mention a few, with respect to the Consumers First Act.

With respect to the SECURE Act: AARP, SEIU, the Church Alliance, the Girl Scouts, the Boy Scouts, the National Association of Women Business Owners.

And today is the 100th anniversary of a woman’s right to vote, so here we have got the National Association of Women Business Owners, as well as the
At the end, add the following new section:
Sec. 9. The amendment referred to in section 2 of this resolution is as follows:
In the amendment printed in part B of the report of the Committee on Rules accompanying this resolution, strike “In section 302, strike subsections (b) and (d).”.

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

The yeas and nays were ordered.

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

RECESS

The Speaker pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declared the House in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

Accordingly (at 1 o’clock and 32 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

Votes will be taken in the following order:
Ordering the previous question on House Resolution 389; and Adoption of House Resolution 389, if ordered.

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

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 1500, CONSUMERS FIRST ACT; PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 1844, SETTING EVERY COMMUNITY UP FOR RETIREMENT ENHANCEMENT ACT OF 2019; PROVIDING FOR PROCEEDINGS DURING THE PERIOD FROM MAY 24, 2019, THROUGH MAY 31, 2019; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

The Speaker pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the unfinished business is the vote on ordering the previous question on the resolution (H. Res. 389) providing for consider-
The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mr. WOODALL, 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 230, nays 190, not voting 11, as follows:

[Vote listing with names of representatives and their votes]

So the resolution was agreed to.

So the result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

Stated against: Mr. UPTON, Madam Speaker, I was un-avoidably detained. Had I been present, I would have voted “nay” on rollcall No. 221.

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

Mr. WILLIAMS. 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 (Ms. CASTOR of FL). The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the resolution.
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. WILLIAMS. 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 is not recognized for debate.

☐ 1515

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

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

WHOLE VETERAN ACT

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 2359) to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to submit to Congress a report on the Department of Veterans Affairs advancing of whole health transformation, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 2359

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 “Whole Veteran Act”.

SEC. 2. REPORT ON DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS ADVANCING OF WHOLE HEALTH TRANSFORMATION.

(a) REPORT.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall submit to Congress a report on the implementation of the Department of Veterans Affairs memorandum dated February 12, 2019, on the subject of Advancing Whole Health Transformation Across Veterans Health Administration.

(b) MATTERS INCLUDED.—The report under subsection (a) shall include the following:

(1) An analysis of the accessibility and availability of each of the following services at medical centers and VA facilities of the Department of Veterans Affairs (including community-based outpatient clinics, vet centers, and community living centers):

(A) Massage.
(B) Chiropractic services.
(C) Whole health clinician services.
(D) Whole health coaching.
(E) Acupuncture.
(F) Healing touch.
(G) Whole health group services.
(H) Guided imagery.
(I) Meditation.
(J) Hypnosis.
(K) Yoga.
(L) T'ai chi or Qi gong.
(M) Equine assisted therapy.
(N) Any other service the Secretary determines appropriate.

(2) An assessment of the health outcomes derived from the services specified in paragraph (1).

(3) An assessment of the resources required to expand such services to the entire Veterans Health Administration.

(4) A plan to provide the services referred to in paragraph (1) to veterans who reside in a geographic area served by a community-based outpatient clinic, medical center, Vet Center, or community living center is located.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from California (Mr. TAKANO) and the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. DAVID P. ROE) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California.

Mr. TAKANO. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and insert extraneous material on H.R. 2359.

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

There was no objection.

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

Madam Speaker, before I begin my comments on H.R. 2359, let me acknowledge the centennial year of women’s suffrage and the wonderful yellow roses we are wearing in acknowledgment of that centennial year. Happy 100th year to women’s suffrage in America.

Madam Speaker, American healthcare systems are grappling with the need to redesign the delivery of care model to better meet the needs of veterans struggling with mental health conditions.

Two decades of increased social isolation, economic inequality, and prohibitive healthcare costs have seen an increased use of complementary and alternative medicine such as health coaching, chiropractic services, acupuncture, yoga, meditation, and equine therapy.

The Veterans Health Administration is one of the first healthcare systems to redesign care with a focus on maintaining patient well-being and early intervention, rather than a system designed to treat conditions and diseases only after they have occurred.

This redesign, VA’s whole health transformation, will accommodate the veteran population and their unique needs while empowering veterans to control their health and well-being.

By improving well-being, veterans build resiliency that assists in the early intervention and identification of mental healthcare symptoms that, left untreated, can advance to the point of crisis. In 2017, VA launched the whole health transformation program at 18 flagship sites, with positive early outcomes.

According to a February 2019 memo on VA’s whole health transformation, VA plans to expand the full program to an additional 18 sites by summer 2019, and 140 medical centers have elements of this program.

The pace, efficacy, and reach of the whole health program are not known to Congress. H.R. 2359, as amended, offered by Congressman LAMM, requires VA to deliver a report of a whole health transformation. It will contain an analysis of the accessibility of critical services so that Congress can better inform its efforts to ensure veterans are treated as whole people and not just episodes of care. This is particularly true for socially isolated veterans and veterans living far away from a VA facility.

A two-pronged strategy is needed to effectively address the veterans’ suicide public health crisis. The second prong is treating those veterans in crisis and making treatment more accessible. The first prong must address the complex set of social determinants that cause suicide.

Early interventions in mental healthcare can prevent veterans from falling into crisis and having suicidal ideations. This legislation falls under the first prong of the strategy, which will support creative VA initiatives for early, pre-crisis intervention.

Congress must understand how VA has rolled out the initial expansion outcomes and the resources needed to continue the whole health program.

This body must do everything in its power to reduce the number of veteran suicides in this country because this is a sustained, prolonged, and frustrating national public health crisis.

Sadly, over the weekend, yet another veteran died by suicide at a VA Hospital.

This bill is the first of five measures we will consider today to address mental healthcare and suicide prevention efforts at VA. Our work, however, does not end today. We will write more legislation. We will hold more bipartisan hearings.

In fact, a hearing right this very moment, this afternoon, with the Armed Services Subcommittee on Military Personnel and our Health Subcommittee brought VA and DOD to the same table to help end this crisis. It is a joint hearing through this joint subcommittee between the Veterans’ Affairs Committee and the Armed Services Committee.

We will do whatever it takes to end these tragic incidents of suicide. I am fully committed to this effort. Losing 20 veterans a day is unacceptable.

I will be voting ‘aye’ on this critical piece of legislation, and I call on every Member of this body to do the same and help reduce veteran suicide.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. DAVID P. ROE of Tennessee. Madam Speaker, I yield myself as much time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, I would like to associate my comments with the chairman’s comments about women’s suffrage 100th anniversary today.

Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 2359, as amended, the
Whole Veteran Act. This bill would require the Department of Veterans Affairs to submit a report to Congress on the implementation of the whole health initiative and include information in the report about the availability of a number of complementary and alternative treatments like meditation, acupuncture, yoga, and equine therapy.

VA’s whole health initiative is a component of Secretary Wilkie’s plan to transform the Veterans Health Administration into a more innovative, holistic, and veteran-centric healthcare system that puts veteran patients in the driver’s seat.

I support the Secretary in that effort wholeheartedly, and I look forward to seeing how it will yield improved outcomes and satisfaction among veterans across the country.

The dissemination of best practices and complementary and alternative approaches to pain management is particularly important, given the ongoing opioid crisis that continues to plague our Nation.

I thank Congresswoman CONOR LAMB from Pennsylvania for sponsoring this bill and Congressman BARR from Kentucky for improving it with his tireless advocacy for equine therapy. I encourage all Members to join me in supporting it.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. TAKANO. Madam Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. LAMB), my good friend, the vice chairman of the House Committee on Veterans’ Affairs, and the author of H.R. 2359.

Mr. LAMB. Madam Speaker. I rise today in support of the Whole Veteran Act. I thank the chairman of the Veterans Affairs’ Committee, Mr. TAKANO, and the ranking member, Dr. ROE, for their support for this act, along with all members of our committee.

This is a bipartisan goal, which simply is to reform and continue to improve VA healthcare. Our bill will do that in two very important ways.

First, we aim to make the VA a leader in the future of healthcare. Many doctors have looked at how America’s healthcare system is too expensive and too reliant on prescription drugs. It turns out that not all doctors think that the best way to deal with chronic pain, PTSD, or depression is to simply hand out more pills.

In fact, we believe that the future of health care is going to involve a mix of old and new methods of treatment.

In the future, patients who are suffering will get access to yoga, acupuncture, or meditation before they are ever exposed to these addictive drugs. This is safer and it is also cheaper, and we believe it is the right thing to do.

The NIH, which is the government’s gold standard when it comes to research, has looked at these treatments and found that yoga is effective for back pain, that acupuncture is highly effective for chronic conditions like osteoarthritis, and study after study has documented the benefits of meditation and healthy eating when it comes to anxiety and depression. When it comes to chronic pain and all of the drivers of the suicide crisis that we are seeing today.

In the right combination, these treatments will allow us all to spend less on healthcare and to feel better.

But perhaps, Madam Speaker, the most important part of our bill is that it gives veterans more real choices and greater power to manage their own healthcare.

I visited a Whole Health Clinic here in Washington, D.C., and the veterans who were partaking in that clinic, they like it because they get to pick which treatments work well for them based on how it makes them feel. They pick the classes, they go to the classes, where they meet other veterans who they get to know and spend time with, and it keeps them coming back.

One of the greatest challenges is how we keep people coming back to the VA for treatment once they have got it.

To stop veteran suicide once and for all, one of the most important things we have to do is get out and get all the veterans who are living in isolation and not using VA care.

Thirteen of the 20 veterans who are committing suicide every day are outside of the VA’s reach. We have got to find them, and we have got to give them a reason to come back. This is what the whole health program does. It gives our veterans a reason to come back and stay in the VA that they didn’t have before.

We don’t know right now which parts of the whole health program work the best and which ones still need more work. Our bill will start to answer that question. But we do know one thing, which is that there is no time to lose.

Veterans serve this country because they want to prevent the suffering of others, and now too many of them are suffering themselves. We owe it to them to try anything that will work.

Mr. DAVID P. ROE of Tennessee. Madam Speaker, I have no further speakers at this time, I am prepared to close. I yield the balance of my time.

Mr. TAKANO. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. RYAN), my good friend and cosponsor of H.R. 2359.

Mr. RYAN. Madam Speaker, I thank the chair for yielding. I thank Congressman LAMB for his leadership on this bill. I thank Congresswoman ROE for his leadership on this. I want to also thank Chairwoman DEBBIE WASSERMAN SCHULTZ on our appropriations bill. We continue to invest into the whole veteran system.

I think it has been articulated here that we want the VA system to be the most innovative system that we have, and I believe that the Whole Veteran Act is a step in that direction.

I have been researching and writing about some of these integrative health techniques around meditation, around yoga, around nutrition, around having groups, and how those vets transform after years and years and years of suffering is the most touching, the most inspirational thing we can do.

I have been in yoga classes where the teacher is a vet who just years before, was kicking down doors double amputee, and he is teaching yoga to veterans, and they are healing from post-traumatic stress.

This, to me, is what the government is all about. How do we get these government facilities on the cutting edge, not just in healthcare, but all across the board? That is what this act is doing. It is going to save us money.

The default position for vets should not be how many prescription drugs can we get them on.

This is going to save us money. This is getting these vets their lives back. This is reconnecting them to their families, to their kids, to their spouses, to their communities. This is the most inspirational thing happening in government today.

Madam Speaker, I want to thank Tracy Gaudet, who is leading patient-centered care in the VA. She has been plugging away at this for years. This is a step in the right direction.

Madam Speaker, I can’t thank the chairman enough. I hope we continue to go down this road.

Mr. ROE. Madam Speaker, I know the Secretary of the VA. We have disagreements with him, but he, himself, has testified before our committee talking about these programs and about the importance of these programs.

If you want to be inspired, go sit in a meditation class with a Vietnam vet who has been traumatized for years and listen to them tell you about how these practices have healed them and have fixed their problems and reconnected them back to their families.

Madam Speaker, I want to thank everybody for their leadership on this, and we will continue to try to support it from the appropriations side.

Mr. DAVID P. ROE of Tennessee. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, I, too, want to encourage all Members to support this.

In 2003, spent about $2 billion on mental health and PTSD treatment at the VA; in this year’s budget, it is $8.5 billion. And we have not moved the needle at all on the number of veterans committing suicide.

So I think this is a great idea to see if we can use an alternative treatment to help lower this way-too-high rate and help.
When you think about 20 people a day dying of suicide, by their own hands, it is heartbreaking. So I encourage all Members to vote for this.

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

Mr. TAKANO. Madam Speaker, I also would like to take this moment to ask my colleagues to join me in passing H.R. 2359, as amended.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. TAKANO) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 2359, as amended.

The amendment was agreed to by the yeas and nays: The yeas and nays will be printed in the Journal.

The Speaker then declared the amendment disagreed to.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

**VET CENTER ELIGIBILITY EXPANSION ACT**

Mr. TAKANO. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1812) to amend title 38, United States Code, to furnish Vet Center readjustment counseling and related mental health services to certain individuals, as amended.

The Speaker read the title of the bill.

Mr. TAKANO. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members be permitted to revise and extend their remarks and insert extraneous material on H.R. 1812.

The motion to insert extraneous material on H.R. 1812 was agreed to by the yeas and nays: The yeas and nays will be printed in the Journal.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from California (Mr. TAKANO) and the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. DAVID P. ROE) each will control 20 minutes.

The Speaker recognizes the gentleman from California.

**GENERAL LEAVE**

Mr. TAKANO. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members be permitted to revise and extend their remarks and insert extraneous material on H.R. 1812.

The motion to insert extraneous material on H.R. 1812 was agreed to by the yeas and nays: The yeas and nays will be printed in the Journal.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from California (Mr. TAKANO) and the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. DAVID P. ROE) each will control 20 minutes.

The Speaker recognizes the gentleman from California.

Mr. TAKANO. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members be permitted to revise and extend their remarks and insert extraneous material on H.R. 1812.

The motion to insert extraneous material on H.R. 1812 was agreed to by the yeas and nays: The yeas and nays will be printed in the Journal.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from California (Mr. TAKANO) and the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. DAVID P. ROE) each will control 20 minutes.

The Speaker recognizes the gentleman from California.
I will just pass along a quick story of one of the reasons why I have pushed this so hard. In my Tennessee Guard at home, my previous commander said that in the first 45 days he commanded the Tennessee Guard, he had four suicides. He knew he had to do something, so he instituted a program there to help lower veteran suicides.

We have lowered our suicide rate among our Tennessee guardsmen by 70 percent. We would like to make sure that all of our reservists have access to the benefits they need, the therapy they need, and the help they need for their families by allowing them to get this help at the vet center.

Madam Speaker, I encourage all Members to support this, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. TAKANO. Madam Speaker, I urge all of my colleagues in the House to support H.R. 1812, as amended, so we can finally pass it into law and get justice for these veterans. Madam Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from California (Mr. LEVIN), my good friend and fellow Californian, the chairman of the Economic Opportunity Subcommittee, and also a cosponsor of H.R. 1812.

Mr. LEVIN of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 1812, the Vet Center Eligibility Expansion Act.

Madam Speaker, I was proud to introduce this bipartisan legislation with my friend from Tennessee and ranking member of the House Veterans’ Affairs Committee, Dr. ROE.

We must do more to address the epidemic of suicide among veterans in this country. We can start with ensuring all servicemembers have the mental health support they need.

Currently, most National Guard, Coast Guard, and Reserve servicemembers are precluded from receiving readjustment counseling services at veteran centers. Guardsmen and Reservists often face emotionally challenging deployments to natural disasters, drug interdiction missions, national emergencies, or civil disorders that can have serious mental health consequences.

This bipartisan legislation is an important step in closing the mental health gap for those service members who compose four of the 20 veteran suicides we see each day in this country. As we continue to see veterans turn to suicide, often on the grounds of VA facilities, we must have an all-hands-on-deck approach, and this bill can play a critical role in this effort.

Mr. DAVID P. ROE of Tennessee. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, I encourage all Members to support this. I think it is a great step forward for our Guard and Reservists.
(1) the effectiveness of TAP for members of each military department during the entire military life cycle;
(2) the appropriateness of the TAP career readiness standards;
(3) a review of information that is provided to the Department of Veterans Affairs under TAP, including mental health data;
(4) TAP success rates.

III. FIVE-YEAR LONGITUDINAL STUDY REGARDING TAP

A. Purpose

The purpose of this study is to provide the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, the Administrators of the Small Business Administration, and the appropriate committees of Congress with critical information about the effectiveness of TAP. The study will evaluate the performance of TAP participants and the impact of TAP on their transition to civilian life. The study will also identify areas for improvement and recommend modifications to enhance the effectiveness of TAP.

B. Conducting the Study

The study will be conducted over a five-year period, beginning with the first year after the enactment of this Act. The study will involve the following components:

1. Participants: The study will include participants who have completed the TAP program within the past five years. The study will be divided into three cohorts:
   (a) the cohort that entered the TAP program during the first year after the enactment of this Act;
   (b) the cohort that entered the TAP program during the second year after the enactment of this Act; and
   (c) the cohort that entered the TAP program during the third year after the enactment of this Act.

2. Data Collection: The study will collect data on a variety of outcomes, including employment status, income, education, and quality of life.

3. Analysis: The data will be analyzed to determine the effectiveness of TAP and to identify areas for improvement.

IV. FINAL REPORT

A. Report Requirements

The Secretary of Veterans Affairs, the Administrator of the Small Business Administration, and the appropriate committees of Congress shall submit to Congress a final report on the effectiveness of TAP. The report shall include:

1. Information about the effectiveness of TAP in reducing unemployment rates among members of the Armed Forces who have separated, retired, or discharged from the Armed Forces.

2. Information about the effectiveness of TAP in helping members of the Armed Forces to transition to civilian life.

3. Information about the effectiveness of TAP in helping members of the Armed Forces to find employment.

V. CONCLUSION

The legislation would establish a five-year longitudinal study of TAP to determine the need for TAP as a program to assist service members entering civilian life. The study will evaluate the performance of TAP participants and the impact of TAP on their transition to civilian life. The study will also identify areas for improvement and recommend modifications to enhance the effectiveness of TAP.
would ease the process of participation for service members, veterans, and spouses who may have had difficulty attending classes on bases.

Upon completion of the respective 1- and 5-year studies, the Secretary of the VA shall submit the findings to Congress to improve the quality of transition resources provided to veterans and service members.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. DAVID P. ROE of Tennessee. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 2326, as amended, the Navy SEAL Chief Petty Officer William "Bill" Mulder (Ret.) Transition Improvement Act of 2019.

One of the most important things our government can do to help our Nation’s service members is to ensure that their transition from military to civilian life is as seamless as possible. We all know that an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure, and I believe that so many of the problems that veterans encounter later in life could have been mitigated if they had a more supportive and successful transition. I know that is the goal of this bill. I want to thank him, as the former chair of the Subcommittee on Economic Opportunity, for taking the time last Congress to sit down with stakeholders and really examine the transition process from the very beginning and look at the need for improvements.

While this bill was a culmination of a bipartisan review and work, it is only one step in the process to ensure a successful transition for all service members. I know that we all remain dedicated to making improvements to this process to reach this goal. We were unable to persuade the Senate to act on this bill last Congress, and I want to thank Mr. ARRINGTON, Chairman TAKANO, and subcommittee Chairman LEVIN for picking up where we left off in pushing this bill through yet again. I am confident, with their continued support, we can ensure it is on President Trump's desk very soon.

Mr. Speaker, I want to just say from a point of privilege, when I separated from the military, the U.S. Army in 1974, a long time ago, my transition: Was how quick can I get to the front gate? We have made huge improvements since the end of the Vietnam war. There really was no program for veterans then. It was a mistake then. I appreciate the efforts of my colleague to rectify this mistake.

Madam Speaker, I encourage all Members to support H.R. 2326, as amended, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. TAKANO. Madam Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from California, Mr. LEVIN, my good friend, the chairman of the Economic Opportunity Subcommittee, and also the author of H.R. 2326.

Mr. LEVIN of California, Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 2326, the Navy SEAL Chief Petty Officer William "Bill" Mulder (Ret.) Transition Improvement Act of 2019.

Madam Speaker, I was proud to introduce this bipartisan legislation with my friend from Texas, Mr. JODEY ARRINGTON. Mr. ARRINGTON was a friend of Mr. Mulder and represents his hometown of Plainview, Texas. William Mulder, or Bill as his friends knew him, passed away nearly 2 years ago on June 9, 2017. He was a decorated Navy SEAL of 26 years whose awards included three Bronze Stars with Valor. He was also a father, husband, brother, and friend.

This legislation honors him by better equipping service members for the challenges and opportunities they will face as they transition from Active Duty military service to civilian life. Far too often, the men and women of our Armed Forces lack the support and coordinated resources they need to return to civilian life and we cannot abandon them there. We owe it to those who have served and their families to ensure that they have everything they need to connect with community organizations, to pursue educational opportunities, to launch new careers, or to start their own businesses. That is why we must improve the Transition Assistance Program.

This bill would extend a pilot program for off-base transition training, allowing veterans and their spouses more time and convenience to digest and access resources.

It would also create a grant program for organizations to provide multiple transition assistance services such as resume assistance, interview training, and job recruitment training from a central source.

We can also improve the program by expanding access to better employment data at the Departments of Labor and Veterans Affairs, which this bill does.

And, finally, it is important that we constantly evaluate the effectiveness of the Transition Assistance Program, which is why this bill would require a 1-year independent assessment and a 5-year study of the program.

We have a solemn duty to ensure that our Nation's heroes are able to readily access the best possible services when it is time to transition back to civilian life.

I do not believe that we are living up to that duty right now, but this bipartisan bill will help change that. I strongly encourage my colleagues to vote in support today.

Madam Speaker, again, I thank the gentleman from Texas, Mr. ARRINGTON, my friend, and our original cosponsors: Mr. CISNEROS; ranking member of the Economic Opportunity Subcommittee, Mr. BILIRAKIS; Mr. CUNNINGHAM; and Mrs. LEE.

Together, we can do more than pay lip service to our veterans. We can give them the support and the resources they have earned and deserve.

Mr. DAVID P. ROE of Tennessee. Madam Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Florida, Mr. BILIRAKIS, my good friend.

This is my sixth term in Congress, and I have served each one with GUS. I can assure you, there is nobody in this body, of the 435 of us, who is more supportive of our Nation's veterans than GUS BILIRAKIS of Florida.

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Madam Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 2326, the Navy SEAL Chief Petty Officer William "Bill" Mulder (Ret.) Transition Improvement Act of 2019.

As ranking member of the Economic Opportunity Subcommittee, I am proud of the work we have done in the subcommittee so far this year on a bipartisan basis and through regular order. In Congress, we want to make reforms to the Transition Assistance Program at the Department of Defense, enacting a portion of this bill in the National Defense Authorization Act. We created a more individualized process for service members to undergo counseling and training for civilian life well before their discharge. I think that is the key.

The bill was formed as a result of multiple roundtables and hearings, which included stakeholders from my district who discussed the importance of community involvement in their transition process and stakeholders from all over the country, Madam Speaker. And yet, despite all the progress we have made, there is still more work to be done. I am grateful that we are revisiting this issue today.

H.R. 2326 will provide access to veteran employment training to service members transitioning to the VA and to the Department of Labor. It will also reestablish a pilot program for an off-base TAP program for veterans and their spouses, made available at local high schools and community centers. Madam Speaker, I think it is so important to include the spouses.

H.R. 2326 would also create a 5-year grant program at the VA for qualified community organizations that provide innovative transition assistance services to veterans.

I know we have many of these organizations in my district in Florida and all over the country. One example of this is Veterans Alternative in Holly Hill, Florida. I am grateful for the great work that they do.

Finally, this bill would require the VA, DOD, DOL, and SBA to coordinate their efforts to conduct a 2-year independent assessment and curriculum review of TAP and the transition process, as well as a 5-year longitudinal study on the effectiveness of these TAP changes.

I am glad to see the bill being taken up today by my friend and the subcommittee chairman, Mike Levin,
whom I have gotten the pleasure to know this year.

I think I don’t have much more time, but I want to give him so much credit for doing a great job as chairman of the Economic Opportunity Committee, as well as Chairman Takano and my good friend, Ranking Member Roe. I also commend Representative Arrington for doing a great job. We are helping our veterans.

Let’s pass this good bill and get it to the Senate and to the President so it can become law.

Mr. Takano. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. Cunningham), my good friend and member of the Economic Opportunity Subcommittee and cosponsor of H.R. 2326.

Mr. Cunningham. Madam Speaker, today, I rise in support of H.R. 2326, the Navy SEAL Chief Petty Officer William ‘Bill’ Mulder (Ret.) Transition Improvement Act.

First, I thank my colleagues, Congressmen Levin and Bilirakis, for all their hard work on this bipartisan bill and for their leadership on the Subcommittee on Economic Opportunity.

I am honored to have helped introduce this legislation, which will improve the military’s Transition Assistance Program and help to ensure that our men and women in uniform can successfully transition to life in the civilian world at the end of their service.

H.R. 2326 will streamline the transition process and allow the VA to partner with third-party organizations that teach veterans critical job-seeking skills. By creating a pilot program for transition training off-base, this bill will also make that stressful transition process more convenient and accessible for servicemembers and their families.

Finally, this legislation will allow policymakers to more effectively address the needs of our veterans by directing an independent assessment of its effectiveness and by expanding the VA’s access to Federal employment data.

The bottom line is, we have a responsibility to our servicemembers to make sure that they are equipped with the tools to succeed both on the battlefield and when they return.

Madam Speaker, I urge all my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to join me in supporting this legislation and ensuring every veteran has access to the support that they have earned.

Mr. David P. Roe of Tennessee. Madam Speaker, I yield 4 minutes to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. Arrington), my good friend who was a previous chairman of the Economic Opportunity Subcommittee on the Veterans’ Affairs Committee, and have him tell you about this bill because this was his friend.

Mr. Arrington. Madam Speaker, what a moving tribute and an honor to serve under the ranking member’s leadership in the 115th Congress, my first term. I thank him for letting me lead the subcommittee and initiate the legislation that will have an impact—I believe a tremendous impact—on the lives of folks like my friend Bill, so I thank him.

Madam Speaker, I enjoyed working with Chairman Takano, and I congratulate him on his chairmanship. I thank him for being a great colleague and for being a friend to the veterans, most importantly.

Madam Speaker, I thank Chairman Levin for being such a gentleman and statesman. He and I come up to me on the floor of the House and tell me he was going to pick up this bill and he was going to run it all the way down the field and into the end zone so that we can score points, not politically for Democrats or Republicans, but for the American people who expect that we take care of our veterans and, most of all, for our military men and women who are transitioning and have unique challenges in that regard, as Bill had, much to me.

If I don’t say anything else here, I want to say thank you. I say that on behalf of Bill’s family because I know it means a lot to them.

He is worthy. Bill Mulder is worthy to be on this legislation. Don’t ask me, ask his teammates, his fellow Navy SEALs.

I mean, just look at him. He is Captain America. I am so jealous. I was always jealous. He was tough. He was strong. He was courageous.

Madam Speaker, I promise you this, that when he stood between you and me and the enemy, we were safe, and the enemy was scared, as they should be.

Thank God for Bill Mulder, and thank God for our men and women who wear the uniform.

Our country makes a tremendous investment in preparing our citizen soldiers to be freedom fighters, to be part of the best fighting force in all the world, but then we invest a fraction of that in their transition back to civilian life.

This is an investment in prevention, as has been said. If we can do a better job on the front end, then we can prevent folks from struggling with addiction, unemployment, homelessness, suicide, and a number of challenges that disproportionately affect our veterans.

Next Monday, we will celebrate Memorial Day and take time to pay tribute to those who not only served but made the ultimate sacrifice, those American heroes who never made it home.

However, even when our soldiers do return home from war, it doesn’t always mean that the conflict is over for them. There is often a battle that continues to rage on. It is a big reason that we see so many soldiers take their own lives.

One of those veterans, sadly enough, was my friend Bill, my fellow Plainview Bulldog for whom this bill was named. I am so proud that this legislation bears his name, and I am so grateful that you guys kept it that way.

Bill was a warrior’s warrior. He served this country with honor and distinction.

Like many veterans, Bill’s greatest fight was after the battle. It was the struggle that often ensues from the mental, emotional, and physical wear and tear of military service.

After 20 years as a combat Navy SEAL, Bill bore scars you couldn’t see, struggles to help him transition from Active Duty to civilian life.

For all of these folks, it is not the skills gap that is important. It is not always the education gap. It is not even redefining your mission and purpose after such a sacred calling as to wear the United States uniform. Sometimes, it is a mental health issue.

I am grateful that we have included that in that comprehensive assessment and in this legislation because that was the case for Mr. Mulder.

The Speaker pro tempore. The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mr. David P. Roe of Tennessee. Madam Speaker, I yield an additional 1 minute to the gentleman from Texas.

Mr. Arrington. Madam Speaker, I am sorry for going on a little long.

Let me just say, we owe this to the likes of Bill Mulder.

I really believe, Ranking Member, Chairman Takano, and Chairman Levin, of all the things I worked on, on this Veterans’ Affairs Committee—and it was a tremendous honor; I didn’t serve our country in the military, so this was my way of serving those who served—I don’t believe anything is going to have a greater impact. And it may just save lives. I believe it will. I really do.

Madam Speaker, I am proud to be a small part of it. God bless our veterans. God bless those guardian angels that keep guard over us every day. God bless the United States of America.

Mr. David P. Roe of Tennessee. Madam Speaker, I have no further speakers. I am prepared to close, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. Takano. Madam Speaker, let me say that I extend my congratulations to the work of my colleague from Texas (Mr. Arrington). I thank him also for naming the bill after such a distinguished warrior and someone who exemplifies the need for this legislation, Chief Petty Officer Navy SEAL Bill Mulder all the success in the world.

Madam Speaker, I have no further speakers, and I am prepared to close, so I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. David P. Roe of Tennessee. Madam Speaker, I think it is appropriate, as we approach this Memorial Day, as many families go on picnics, to remember what it means. We not only memorialize those whom we lost in combat, but I think we also memorialize those who lose a part of themselves because of the invisible wounds of combat.

I can’t think of a more fitting time to pass this bill for Navy SEAL Chief
Petty Officer Bill Mulder. It is a small consolation for his family, but I think they know his memory can live on by helping other veterans. I encourage all Members to support this legislation.

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

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

Madam Speaker, before I begin my closing comments, I want to correct my remarks. I misunderstood. Chief Petty Officer Bill Mulder is deceased, and so I refer respectfully to his family. We certainly are honored to have this piece of legislation carry his name in the hopes that it is going to serve many more veterans.

In his memory, I am most honored and privileged to make sure that this legislation passes.

Mr. TAKANO. Madam Speaker, I want to thank Mr. LEVIN and Mr. BILIRAKIS for these necessary improvements to the Transition Assistance Program. A testament to their work is the broad support they received from committee members on this bill, and I look forward to their future work on this as they continue to focus, and I refer respectfully, on the program.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in passing H.R. 2326, as amended, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mrs. BEATTY). The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill, H.R. 2326, as amended.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

SUPPORT FOR SUICIDE PREVENTION COORDINATORS ACT

Mr. TAKANO. Madam Speaker. I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 2333) to direct the Comptroller General of the United States to conduct an assessment of the responsibilities, workload, and vacancy rates of Department of Veterans Affairs suicide prevention coordinators, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 2333

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 “Support for Suicide Prevention Coordinators Act”.

SEC. 2. COMPTROLLER GENERAL ASSESSMENT OF RESPONSIBILITIES, WORKLOAD, AND VACANCY RATES OF DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS SUICIDE PREVENTION COORDINATORS.

(a) ASSESSMENT REQUIRED.—The Comptroller General of the United States shall conduct an assessment of the responsibilities, workload, training, and vacancy rates of Department of Veterans Affairs suicide prevention coordinators. Such assessment shall include a determination of—

(1) the extent to which the use and staffing of suicide prevention coordinators varies between Department facilities; and

(2) the extent to which the Secretary provides oversight of suicide prevention coordinators.

(b) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—Not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General shall submit to the Committees on Veterans’ Affairs of the Senate and House of Representatives a report containing the findings of the assessment required by subsection (a).

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the gentleman from California (Mr. TAKANO) and the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. DAVID P. ROE) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California.

Mr. TAKANO. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H.R. 2333.

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

There was no objection.

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

Madam Speaker, according to the National Suicide Data Report for 2005-2016, approximately 20 veterans, Active Duty servicemembers, and members of the National Guard and Reserves die by suicide each day.

This rate is disproportionately higher than that of the civilian population. Of those 20 a day, 14 are not enrolled in the VA healthcare system. Part of the VA’s effort to combat veteran suicide is by strengthening the role of the suicide prevention coordinator. The VA is the only healthcare system that has full-time employees dedicated to suicide prevention.

Suicide prevention coordinators identify high-risk veterans and ensure they receive appropriate care, conduct outreach, and promote awareness and best practices within the VA system. As of April 2019, the VA had approximately 444 suicide prevention coordinators stationed at medical centers across the country.

These coordinators manage care for almost 30,000 veterans who are high risk for suicide, in addition to managing their other duties as assigned.

In fiscal year 2018, these coordinators conducted more than 20,000 outreach events, reaching almost 2 million people. During the oversight trips to VA facilities, VA committee staff heard from coordinators who are overworked and struggled to keep up with their casework.

Last week, I visited the Atlanta VA Medical Center and one of three Veterans Crisis Centers. Last year, the Atlanta VA crisis line received 3,600 referrals. The Atlanta suicide prevention team is staffed with only eight social workers and one employee for administrative support to respond to all crisis line referrals and approximately 200 veterans identified as high risk for suicide.

Let me repeat that. They have eight social workers to manage 3,600 referrals and 200 high-risk patients a year. This team does all it can to keep up with the staggering number of referrals, but they simply do not have the capacity to conduct outreach to veterans in the community who may need help.

Suicide prevention team staffing shortages in Atlanta and at VA medical facilities across the country is why H.R. 2333, introduced by Congressman BRINDISI, is so important.

It would direct the Government Accountability Office to access the workload and vacancy rates of VA suicide prevention coordinators. This report is essential to better informing Congress of the current state of suicide prevention coordinators, the resources at the facilities where they work, and the challenges they face in addressing the needs of our most vulnerable veterans.

The role of these coordinators is vital to combating veteran suicide, and this report will illustrate where the gaps in care delivery exists, especially for the clinicians, social workers, and suicide prevention coordinators working on the front lines.

I fully support this bill and I really want to thank Mr. BRINDISI for championing this legislation, and I urge my colleagues to vote “yes” on H.R. 2333.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. DAVID P. ROE of Tennessee. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 2333, the Support for Suicide Prevention Coordinators Act. This bill would require a Government Accountability Office report on the responsibilities, management, workload, training, and vacancy rates of Department of Veterans Affairs suicide prevention coordinators. The VA employs at least one suicide prevention coordinator in every VA medical center to coordinate, care for, and conduct outreach to service members and veterans at risk of suicide.

These men and women are on the front lines of the fight against the tragic loss of 20 of our Nation’s service members and veterans every day to self-harm. We must ensure that they are appropriately staffed, supported, and overseen as they go about their difficult and incredibly important work.

Passage of the Support for Suicide Prevention Coordinators Act today will help us do just that.

This is a bipartisan bill sponsored by several members of the Veterans’ Affairs Committee, including Congressmeno RANKERS from both sides of the aisle, and ranking member of the Subcommittee on Technology Modernization; Congressman MIKE BOST of Illinois, the ranking
member of the Subcommittee on Disability Assistance and Memorial Affairs; Congressman STEUBE from Florida, a member of both the Disability Assistance and Memorial Affairs Subcommittee, and Health Subcommittee. I want to thank each of them, as well as the bill’s lead sponsor, Congressman ANDY BRINDISI from New York, for their efforts.

Madam Speaker, I encourage all Members to join me in supporting H.R. 2333, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. TAKANO. Madam Speaker, I yield 4 minutes to the gentleman from New York (Mr. BRINDISI), my good friend and the author of H.R. 2333.

Mr. BRINDISI. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 2333 and taking action to address the crisis of veteran suicide.

As we know too well, data from the Department of Veterans Affairs indicates that 20 veterans die from suicide every day. I want to thank Chairman MARK TAKANO, and Ranking Member PHIL ROE for their bipartisanship and their commitment to addressing this crisis and bringing these bills to the floor today.

One area we have to get right is the work of VA’s suicide prevention coordinators. Suicide prevention coordinators are the face of the VA’s efforts to combat veteran suicide. They identify high-risk veterans and ensure they receive appropriate care. They conduct outreach and promote awareness and suicide prevention best practices within the VA.

However, many suicide prevention coordinators report being overworked and unable to keep up with their many responsibilities. In an effort to improve suicide prevention and mental health resources at the VA, I introduced H.R. 2333, the Support for Suicide Prevention and Mental Health Resources Act, which Mr. BRINDISI’s bill addresses.

As a veteran, first off, let me say this: I couldn’t be prouder than to serve on the Veterans’ Affairs Committee with the men and women we serve with because we get the opportunity to actually make a difference in those veterans’ lives.

Twenty veterans commit suicide every day, and as was mentioned a while ago, that number hasn’t changed much. So clearly, the current situation is not good enough.

We need to think differently about veteran suicide. President Trump recently took action on this issue. Now Congress is too, and it is vitally important that we do. We are acting in a bipartisan manner.

I am honored to stand with the gentleman from New York in supporting this legislation to improve the VA’s suicide prevention coordinators.

Veteran suicide isn’t a Republican or Democrat issue, and I am proud of the work we have been doing to try to help our veterans. They deserve our help, and, hopefully, with this bill, they are going to get it.

We have to turn the tide on our veterans crisis. I want to bring suits that are around this Nation at the level that they are. We have to do everything we can.

This bill, I believe, was a step in the right direction. I believe that we should pass it to the Senate as quickly as possible and the Senate should then move forward, and then it should be implemented.

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

As I said in my remarks related to Mr. BRINDISI’s legislation, I visited the Atlanta VA Medical Center and it receives 3,000 referrals per year from the Veterans Crisis Line, which is the highest number of crisis line referrals any individual veteran medical center receives nationwide.

I know that at the medical center itself that there is a 22 percent vacancy rate among mental health professionals. They have that suicide preventionists across their hospital and outpatient clinics since the beginning of the year. Staff who resigned have cited salaries and workload stress as their main reasons for leaving the VA.

Mr. BRINDISI’s legislation goes to, however, the position of suicide prevention coordinators, and currently, the coordinators at this particular medical center are staffed up, but we are trying to figure out where these staff coordinator positions across the country may be vacant or insufficient because we know these crisis lines are being used. We have to make sure that we have the coordinators to respond to them.

But in addition to that, we need coordinators to do the outreach events to reach those veterans who are not connected with the VA. So the VA medical center in Atlanta is just one example of the staffing shortages in VA hospitals and clinics throughout the country. We know that beyond the stress and strain of our psychiatrists and of our suicide prevention coordinators, which Mr. BRINDISI’s bill addresses, there are nearly 50,000 vacancies at VA.

If we want to fully address the veteran suicide crisis in this country, we need to make sure that suicide prevention teams are sufficiently staffed and do more to address mental health clinician understaffing.

Mr. BRINDISI’s legislation is a significant step in making sure all of this happens.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.
Mr. TAKANO. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 2340) to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to provide to Congress notice of any suicide or attempted suicide in a Department of Veterans Affairs facility, and for other purposes, as amended. The Clerk read the title of the bill. The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 2340

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 “Fostering Intergovernmental Health Transparency in Veteran Suicides Act” or “FIGHT Veteran Suicides Act”.

SEC. 2. CONGRESSIONAL NOTICE OF SUICIDES AND ATTEMPTED SUICIDES OF VETERANS AND AT THE VETERANS AFFAIRS FACILITIES.

(a) Definitions.—

(1) The term “veteran” means a person who served in the Armed Forces.

(2) The term “VA facility” means—

(A) a Department of Veterans Affairs hospital;

(B) a Vet Center;

(C) a facility providing services at a Federal facility that is the primary care provider for veterans in the area.

(3) The term “VA health administration” means the Department of Veterans Affairs Health Administration.

(b) Notice requirement.—

(1) Within five days after the completion of any suicide or attempted suicide at a VA facility, the Secretary shall provide to the Committees on Veterans’ Affairs of the Senate and the House of Representatives notice of the following information:

(A) whether the veteran died by suicide;

(B) whether the veteran completed suicide in or on the grounds of a VA facility;

(C) the enrollment status of the veteran with the Department under section 1705 of this title;

(D) the most recent encounter between the veteran and a member of the Department under section 1705 of this title;

(E) the housing status of the veteran;

(F) the employment status of the veteran;

(G) the marital status of the veteran;

(H) the time period when the veteran served in the Armed Forces;

(I) the Armed Force in which the veteran served;

(J) the age of the veteran;

(K) the sex of the veteran;

(L) the race of the veteran.

(2) The Secretary shall maintain a centralized database of suicide deaths.

(c) Timing of notice.—

(1) The Secretary shall provide notice to the Committees on Veterans’ Affairs of the Senate and the House of Representatives not later than 60 days after such date, notice of the following information:

(A) the veteran’s full name;

(B) the date of the veteran’s suicide or attempted suicide;

(C) whether the veteran died by suicide;

(D) the location of the veteran’s suicide or attempted suicide; and

(E) the Veteran Crisis Line and readjustment counseling.

(d) Access and use of information.—

(1) Congressional notice requirements.—

(A) The Secretary shall make available to the Committees on Veterans’ Affairs of the Senate and the House of Representatives notice of information described in paragraphs (a)(3) and (b)(1)

(B) The Secretary shall provide notice of the resources the Department determines necessary to—

(i) deter the sensationalism of suicide;

(ii) assist families of veterans who have died by suicide;

(iii) provide Congress with communications for purposes of dissemination that is designed to—

(A) deter the sensationalism of suicide;

(B) provide information regarding warning signs that are often exhibited by veterans at risk of suicide and

(C) provide notice of the resources the Department offers to veterans, to include extraneous material on H.R. 2340, as amended.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from California? There was no objection.

Mr. TAKANO. 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 H.R. 2340, as amended.

Madam Speaker, since the beginning of this year, seven—seven—veterans have died by suicide in or on the grounds of VA facilities. Sadly, another suicide occurred at a VA hospital in Washington just this weekend. Currently, VA staff notify both the House and Senate Committees on Veterans’ Affairs of the events as a matter of courtesy; however, should the Department’s leadership change, there is no assurance this courtesy would continue.

I have made veteran suicide prevention the top priority for the Committee on Veterans’ Affairs because 20 suicides a day is far too many. One suicide is far too many. But to address this alarming trend, Congress must be informed when a suicide occurs on a VA campus and must be provided all relevant data.

This information will allow the committee to conduct appropriate oversight, write legislation that will improve outcomes, and, when necessary, hold individuals accountable when there are clear failures that impact the timely and adequate care for veterans.

As such, H.R. 2340, as amended, the FIGHT Veteran Suicides Act, would require the VA Secretary to notify Congress following an attempted or a completed suicide by a veteran in or on the grounds of a VA facility.

This measure also requires VA to provide Congress with communications guidance to deter the sensationalism of suicide, provide information on identifying the warning signs often exhibited by veterans at risk of suicide, and identify resources offered by the Department for at-risk veterans, including the Veterans Crisis Line and readjustment counseling.

It is essential that this information be shared, regardless of leadership at
VA, what party controls Congress, or who occupies the White House.

I thank Congressman ROSE, a combat veteran, for leading the fight against this tragic national public health crisis, and I want to commend him for his leadership and for writing this important legislation that will ensure Congress does all it can to understand and reduce veteran suicide. I encourage my colleagues to join me in voting “yes” on this bill.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. DAVID P. ROE of Tennessee. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 2340, as amended, the FIGHT Veteran Suicides Act.

This bill would require the Department of Veterans Affairs to report to the local congressional delegation, as well as to the committee, whenever a veteran attempts or dies by suicide in or on a VA facility.

We have all heard the heartbreaking stories of veterans who have died by suicide on VA campuses, including five veteran suicide deaths in the last seven weeks alone. There is no indication that these events represent an increase in the rate of suicide among servicemembers and veterans, but they are particularly poignant because they occur so close to help and appear to be an indictment on the healthcare system that was created to support them.

To be clear, suicide is a national public health crisis that is not unique to VA, the military, or veterans. However, we must pay careful attention to the incidents of suicide among those who have served and sacrificed on our behalf and do everything we can to point those in crisis to the resources they need to recover from the traumas and live long, full, healthy lives.

I am grateful to Congressman MAX ROSE from New York for sponsoring this bill, which will allow us to learn all we can about the suicides that occur on VA campuses so that we can take action that may save other lives in the future.

I encourage all Members to support this much-needed piece of legislation.

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

Mr. TAKANO. Madam Speaker, I, too, ask my colleagues to join me in passing H.R. 2340, as amended, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California.

Mr. TAKANO. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1200) to increase, effective as of December 1, 2019, the rates of compensation for veterans with service-connected disabilities and ailments.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

VETERANS’ COMPENSATION COST-OF-LIVING ADJUSTMENT ACT OF 2019

Mr. TAKANO. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1200) to increase, effective as of December 1, 2019, the rates of compensation for veterans with service-connected disabilities and ailments, raise the rates of dependency and indemnity compensation for the survivors of certain disabled veterans, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 1200

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

SEC. 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the ‘‘Veterans’ Compensation Cost-of-Living Adjustment Act of 2019.’’

SEC. 2. INCREASE IN RATES OF DISABILITY COMPENSATION AND DEPENDENCY AND INDEMNITY COMPENSATION.

(a) RATE ADJUSTMENT.—Effective on December 1, 2019, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall increase, in accordance with subsection (c), the dollar amounts in effect on November 30, 2019, of rates of disability compensation and dependency and indemnity compensation under the provisions specified in subsection (b).

(b) AMOUNTS TO BE INCREASED.—The dollar amounts to be increased pursuant to subsection (a) are the following:

1. WARTIME DISABILITY COMPENSATION.

Each of the dollar amounts under section 1114 of title 38, United States Code.

2. ADDITIONAL COMPENSATION FOR DEPENDENTS.

(a) RATES.

Each of the dollar amounts under subsections (a) through (d) of section 1311 of such title.

(b) CLOTHING ALLOWANCE.

The dollar amount under section 1162 of such title.

(c) DEPENDENCY AND INDEMNITY COMPENSATION.

TO SURVIVING SPOUSE.

Each of the dollar amounts under subsections (a) through (d) of section 1313 of such title.

(d) DEPENDENCY AND INDEMNITY COMPENSATION.

TO CHILDREN.

Each of the dollar amounts under subsections 1313(a) and 1314 of such title.

(e) DETERMINATION OF INCREASE.

Each dollar amount described in subsection (b) shall be increased by the same percentage as the percentage by which benefit amounts payable under title II of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 401 et seq.) are increased effective December 1, 2019, as a result of a determination under section 215(1) of such Act (42 U.S.C. 415(b)).

(f) SPECIAL RULE.

The Secretary of Veterans Affairs may adjust administratively, consistent with the increases made under paragraph (a), the rates of disability compensation payable to persons under section 10 of Public Law 85–857 (72 Stat. 1263) who have not received compensation under chapter 11 of title 38, United States Code.

SEC. 3. PUBLICATION OF ADJUSTED RATES.

The Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall publish in the Federal Register the amounts specified in section 2(b), as increased under this subsection, not later than the date on which the matters specified in section 215(3)(D) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 415(3)(D)) required to be published by reason of a determination made under section 215(1) of such Act during fiscal year 2020.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from California (Mr. TAKANO) and the gentleman from Tennessee (David P. Roe) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California.
In keeping with the traditions of the Committee on Veterans’ Affairs, this bill was introduced by Disability Assistance and Memorial Affairs Subcommittee Chair ELAINE LURIA and Ranking Member MIKE BOST. I appreciate their commitment to ensuring that veterans and their families can afford living expenses when prices go up. H.R. 1200 authorizes a cost-of-living increase for veterans and their families next year if Social Security recipients receive an increase.

To put this in perspective, in 1975, a veteran who was rated totally disabled would receive at least $655 in monthly disability compensation. Because of the COLAs that Congress has passed for decades, totally disabled veterans now receive $2,907 in tax-free monthly disability compensation, an increase of 443 percent over the years. As you can see, H.R. 1200 is necessary to prevent inflation from eroding the value of veteran and survivor benefits.

I encourage all Members to support H.R. 1200, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. TAKANO. Madam Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentlewoman from Virginia (Mrs. LURIA), who is my good friend and the chairwoman of the Disability Assistance and Memorial Affairs Subcommittee and also a cosponsor of H.R. 1200.

Mrs. LURIA. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of my bipartisan bill, H.R. 1200, the Veterans’ Compensation Cost-of-Living Adjustment Act of 2019. In Congress, I have vowed to keep our Nation’s veterans at the top of my mind, and I plan to deliver on that promise through this critical piece of legislation.

I represent a coastal Virginia district with eight major military installations, including Naval Station Norfolk, the largest naval station in the United States, so veterans are clearly a critical part of my constituency, just as they are members of every congressional district across America.

Our veterans put their lives on the line and are deployed far from home to keep America safe. As a 20-year Navy veteran myself, I am proud to bring a bill to the floor that would eliminate the erosions of benefits they earned in service to our country.

The Veterans’ Compensation Cost-of-Living Adjustment Act would recognize that the benefits we provide our veterans need to be modernized and increased the same way that Social Security has raised benefits to meet cost-of-living increases.

My bill enhances benefits for wartime disability compensation, compensation for dependents, clothing allowance, dependency and indemnity compensation to surviving spouses, and dependency and indemnity compensation to children.

We have seen costs for disability care, clothing, and childcare increase over the years, and it is vital that we continue to provide benefits that actually meet the demands that our veterans see on the ground.

A cost-of-living increase would aid veterans, their families, and their survivors to help maintain the value of their benefits against inflation. Without consistent increases, veterans and their families may not be able to have a consistent quality of life into their later years.

Providing quality benefits to our veterans and their dependents can change lives, and Congress must honor the commitment to those American heroes who served in harm’s way so that we can live in peace at home.

I thank my colleagues on the Disability Assistance and Memorial Affairs Subcommittee and my ranking member, MIKE BOST, for being a cosponsor of this legislation, and I urge swift House passage so that we can do our part to push this into law and help our Nation’s veterans.

Mr. DAVID P. ROE of Tennessee. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. Bost), ranking member of the Subcommittee on Disability Assistance and Memorial Affairs and a cosponsor of H.R. 1200.

Mr. BOST. Madam Speaker, this is a must-pass bill.

I want to thank the chairman and the ranking member for moving this piece of legislation forward as well. Many disabled veterans and their families depend on their veterans benefits to pay for things like food and medicine. For many of these veterans, these payments are a lifeline. In some cases, the benefits may even be the only income that the veteran has.

It is only fair that we ensure that the benefits paid to veterans who were injured during military service do not lose value because of inflation. If we don’t, it could be hard for people who were injured while serving our Nation in uniform to keep their heads above water.

I want to thank Disability Assistance and Memorial Affairs Subcommittee Chair LURIA for her introduction of the bill.

Madam Speaker, this bill has always enjoyed bipartisan support. I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 1200.

Mr. DAVID P. ROE of Tennessee. Madam Speaker, I have no further speakers, and I am prepared to close.

Madam Speaker, I encourage everyone to support this commonsense bill.

I think my last duty assignment was probably in Mrs. LURIA’s district, Fort Eustis, Virginia. That is where my last 9 months in the Army was.

I was raised in a military town: Fort Campbell, Kentucky, and Clarksville, Tennessee. I grew up around the military, and I just cannot thank them enough.

This is the very least we can do for our disabled veterans, to give them a COLA which will, hopefully, make their lives a little bit better and thank them for their service.

Madam Speaker, I encourage all Members to support this legislation, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. TAKANO. Madam Speaker, I, too, join my ranking member in asking all of our colleagues to pass H.R. 1200. It is a bipartisan Chairwoman LURIA and Ranking Member Bost of the Subcommittee on Disability Assistance and Memorial Affairs for their hard work.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 1200, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. TAKANO) that the House agree to the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1200.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.
Mr. DAVID P. ROE of Tennessee. 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 H.R. 2372, as amended.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. DAVID P. ROE)? Each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California, GENERAL LEAVE.

Mr. TAKANO. 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 H.R. 2372, as amended.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from California? There was no objection.

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

Madam Speaker, to meet the needs of veterans, VA has long relied on community partners to provide outreach and services, particularly to address mental health needs and suicide prevention.

The number of mental health- and suicide prevention-related agreements between VA and these organizations has increased exponentially since 2014. It is anticipated that these relationships will continue to grow in the months following the signing of Executive Order No. 13861 on March 5, 2019.

Now, this executive order seeks to establish grants to local communities to better collaborate and integrate service delivery and resources for veterans. As reliance on outside groups grows, Congress must better understand the effectiveness of the programs and mental health services these private organizations offer. VA must also ensure such partnered organizations are able to provide quality, culturally competent, evidence-based services to veterans.

Congresswoman LAUREN UNDERWOOD’s legislation, H.R. 2372, as amended, would require the Government Accountability Office to conduct an assessment of the effectiveness of all memoranda of understanding and memorandum of agreement entered into by the Department of Veterans Affairs and other governmental or private-sector entities regarding suicide prevention activities and outreach, as well as the coordination of mental health services, during the 5-year period preceding the date of enactment.

For the last two decades, approximately 20 of our Nation’s servicemembers and veterans have died by suicide on a daily basis.

Suicide is, unquestionably, a tragedy that impacts all Americans and is a crisis that VA cannot combat alone. In light of that, VA has become increasingly mindful of the need to collaborate with partners in both the public and private sectors to connect with servicemembers, veterans, and their families wherever they reside and with whatever they may be struggling.

This bill would ensure that Congress has an up-to-date picture of those collaborations and whether or not they are working as intended to reduce incidents of suicide among those who have served our country.

Madam Speaker, I encourage all Members to support this bill today, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. TAKANO. Madam Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Illinois (Ms. UNDERWOOD), my good friend, member of the Disability Assistance and Memorial Affairs Subcommittee, and author of H.R. 2372.

Ms. UNDERWOOD. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of my bill, the Veterans’ Care Quality Transparency Act.

With Memorial Day just around the corner, I am humbled to see these bipartisan efforts to bring forward legislation that will help all veterans receive the care that they have earned through their service to our Nation.

I am so pleased to see the chairman’s focus on ensuring access to healthcare for veterans, particularly women veterans, who face unique challenges navigating a VA system originally designed to serve men.

I am committed to working to make needed improvements to the VA by working with my colleagues on the Servicewomen and Men Veterans Congressional Caucus and on the Women Veterans Task Force.

I am also pleased to see this bipartisan, wide-ranging focus on veterans’ mental health and suicide prevention.

Our work, however, has just begun. We have an urgent responsibility to continue to fight for the highest standards of care on behalf of veterans.

Despite much good work by the VA and significant Federal investment, the veteran suicide rate hasn’t gone down. We must empower the VA to find innovative, effective ways to end this crisis. That is why I have introduced this bill, which will address a vital but overlooked part of veteran suicide prevention.

The bill directs the GAO to evaluate the effectiveness of agreements that the Department of Veterans Affairs has with outside providers for mental healthcare and suicide prevention services.

Expanding access to care for veterans struggling with mental health or with thoughts of suicide is an essential part of reducing veteran suicide rates, and partnering with providers outside the VA is just one way to do that. But there just isn’t enough data on the ability of these outside providers to meet the high standards of care we expect from the VA.

All veterans deserve access to convenient and high-quality healthcare, and it is unacceptable that outside providers are not currently held to the same high standards as the VA.
The mission of the VA is undermined each time a veteran receives substandard care. My bill would help ensure outside providers are held to the standard of providing high-quality mental healthcare and suicide prevention services.

Our efforts to stop veteran suicide need to focus on wider, better informed, and data-driven paths to tangible results so that we can save lives. This bill is about increasing transparency so that we can ensure that those who have served our Nation are not left behind when they return home. I am grateful to my colleagues on the Committee on Veterans’ Affairs who have reaffirmed their commitment to this issue and who have acted so quickly to respond to the veteran suicide crisis with the focus and resources it deserves.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to support this bill.

Mr. ROE of Tennessee. Madam Speaker, I have no further speakers, and I am prepared to close.

Madam Speaker, I want to thank Congresswoman UNDERWOOD for submitting this legislation today. I think it is much needed. I have thought it all along. Let’s find out what works and what doesn’t work. I appreciate her doing this, and I feel like it will be supported by the entire body.

I encourage all Members of the body to support this legislation, and I yield back the balance of my time.

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

I want to thank Congresswoman UNDERWOOD for introducing H.R. 2372, and the tremendous, profound professional background she brings to her role in Congress, and for introducing legislation that will ensure that we hold outside entities to the same standard of care that we impose internally on the VA.

So I do urge all of my colleagues to join me in passing H.R. 2372, as amended.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

ESTABLISHING VETERANS ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY AND TRANSITION ADMINISTRATION

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 2045) to amend title 38, United States Code, to establish the Veterans Economic Opportunity and Transition Administration and the Under Secretary for Veterans Economic Opportunity and Transition of the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill. The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 2045
Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, SECTION 1. DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY AND TRANSITION ADMINISTRATION.
(a) VETERANS ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY AND TRANSITION ADMINISTRATION.—There is in the Department of Veterans Affairs a Veterans Economic Opportunity and Transition Administration. The primary function of the Veterans Economic Opportunity and Transition Administration is to help veterans to successfully reintegrate into the workforce.
(b) RESPONSIBILITIES.—The Under Secretary for Economic Opportunity and Transition shall be responsible for:
(1) the administration of programs within chapter 80 of title 38, United States Code, to establish the Veterans Economic Opportunity and Transition Administration, as established under chapter 80 of title 38, United States Code, as (modified or expanded)
SEC. 2. UNDER SECRETARY FOR VETERANS ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY AND TRANSITION ADMINISTRATION.
(a) UNDER SECRETARY.—
(1) IN GENERAL.—There is in the Department an Under Secretary for Veterans Economic Opportunity and Transition, who is appointed by the President, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate.
(b) RESPONSIBILITIES.—The Under Secretary for Veterans Economic Opportunity and Transition is the head of, and is directly responsible to the Secretary for the operations of the Administration.
(c) VACANCIES.—(1) Whenever a vacancy occurs in the position of Under Secretary for Veterans Economic Opportunity and Transition occurs or is anticipated, the Secretary shall establish a commission to recommend individuals to the President for appointment to the position.
(2) A commission established under this subsection shall be composed of the following members appointed by the Secretary:
(A) Three persons representing employers and employees in the health care, real estate, mortgage finance and related industries, and survivor benefits activities affected by the Veterans Economic Opportunity and Transition Administration.
(B) Two persons who have experience in the management of private sector programs of similar content and scope.
(2) the administration of programs within the Veterans Economic Opportunity and Transition Administration or programs of similar content and scope.
(7) The Under Secretary for Veterans Economic Opportunity and Transition is determined by the Secretary.
(5) The Under Secretary for Veterans Economic Opportunity and Transition shall be without regard to political affiliation or activity and solely on the basis of demonstrated ability in—
(1) information technology; and
(2) the administration of programs within the Veterans Economic Opportunity and Transition Administration or programs of similar content and scope.
(8) Responsibilities.—The Under Secretary for Veterans Economic Opportunity and Transition Administration is the head of, and is directly responsible to the Secretary for the operations of the Veterans Economic Opportunity and Transition Administration.
(9) Vacancies.—(1) Whenever a vacancy occurs in the position of Under Secretary for Veterans Economic Opportunity and Transition occurs or is anticipated, the Secretary shall establish a commission to recommend individuals to the President for appointment to the position.
(2) A commission established under this subsection shall be composed of the following members appointed by the Secretary:
(A) Three persons representing employers and employees in the health care, real estate, mortgage finance and related industries, and survivor benefits activities affected by the Veterans Economic Opportunity and Transition Administration.
(B) Two persons who have experience in the management of private sector programs of similar content and scope.
(3) E F F E C T I V E DATE.—Chapter 80 of title 38, United States Code, as added by section (a), shall take effect on October 1, 2020.
“3) A commission established under this subsection shall recommend at least three individuals for appointment to the position of Under Secretary for Veterans Economic Opportunity and Transition. The commission shall submit all recommendations to the Secretary. The Secretary shall forward the recommendations to the President and the Committees on Veterans’ Affairs of the House of Representatives and the Senate with any comments the Secretary considers appropriate. Thereafter, the President may request the commission to recommend additional individuals for appointment.

“4) The Assistant Secretary or Deputy Assistant Secretary of Veterans Affairs who performs personal management and labor relations functions of the Office of Personnel Management shall be excluded from the provisions of subsection (a).

“5) The Under Secretary for Veterans Economic Opportunity and Transition shall be exempt from the provisions of subsection (a).

“6) The Under Secretary for Veterans Economic Opportunity and Transition shall provide any services to veterans to the Veteran Economic Opportunity Administration, as established under section 8001 of title 38, United States Code, as added by section 3 of H.R. 2045, as amended.

“7) The Under Secretary for Veterans Economic Opportunity and Transition shall provide any services to veterans to the Senate and House of Representatives with the assistance of a commission established under this subsection.”

(2) Clerical Amendment.—The table of sections at the beginning of such chapter is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 306 the following new item: “306A. Under Secretary for Veterans Economic Opportunity and Transition.”

(b) Conforming Amendments.—Title 38, United States Code, is further amended—

(1) in section 306(c)(2), by striking subparagraphs (A) and (B) and redesignating subparagraphs (C), (D), (E), and (F) as subparagraphs (A) through (E), respectively;

(2) in section 317(d)(2), by inserting after “Under Secretary for Benefits,” the following: “the Under Secretary for Veterans Economic Opportunity and Transition”; and

(3) in section 318(d)(2), by inserting after “Under Secretary for Benefits,” the following: “the Under Secretary for Veterans Economic Opportunity and Transition”;

(4) in section 316(e)(2)(C), by striking “Health and the Under Secretary for Benefits” and inserting “Health, the Under Secretary for Benefits, and the Under Secretary for Veterans Economic Opportunity and Transition”; and

(5) in section 541(a)(2)(B), by striking “Health and the Under Secretary for Benefits” and inserting “Health, the Under Secretary for Benefits, and the Under Secretary for Veterans Economic Opportunity and Transition”;

(6) in section 542(a)(2)(B)(i), by striking “Health and the Under Secretary for Benefits” and inserting “Health, the Under Secretary for Benefits, and the Under Secretary for Veterans Economic Opportunity and Transition”;

(7) in section 544(a)(2)(B)(vi), by striking “Health and the Under Secretary for Benefits” and inserting “Health, the Under Secretary for Benefits, and the Under Secretary for Veterans Economic Opportunity and Transition”;

(8) in section 709(c)(2)(A), by inserting after “Under Secretary for Benefits,” the following: “the Under Secretary for Veterans Economic Opportunity and Transition”;

(9) in section 770(c)(2)(A), by inserting after “assistance” the following: “,”; other than assistance related to Economic Opportunity and Transition; and

(10) in section 7703, by striking paragraphs (2) and (3) and redesignating paragraphs (4) and (5) as paragraphs (2) and (3), respectively.

(c) Effective Date.—Section 306A of title 38, United States Code, as added by subsection (a), and the amendments made by this section, shall—

(1) take effect on October 1, 2020.

(2) and the amendments made by this section, shall apply to such Administration and the transition of the provision of services to veterans by such Administration, as established under section 8001 of title 38, United States Code, as added by section 4 of H.R. 2045, as amended.

(3) take effect on October 1, 2020.

(4) take effect on October 1, 2020.

(5) as paragraphs (2) and (3), respectively.

(6) in section 706, by striking “Under Secretary for Benefits, and the Under Secretary for Veterans Economic Opportunity and Transition”;

(7) in section 708, by striking “Under Secretary for Benefits,” and inserting “the Under Secretary for Veterans Economic Opportunity and Transition”;

(8) in section 709(c)(2)(A), by inserting after “Under Secretary for Benefits,” the following: “the Under Secretary for Veterans Economic Opportunity and Transition”; and

(9) in section 770, by striking paragraphs (2) and (3) and redesignating paragraphs (4) and (5) as paragraphs (2) and (3), respectively.

(d) Transfer of Services.—The Secretary of Veterans Affairs may not transfer the function of providing any services to veterans to the Veterans Economic Opportunity and Transition Administration, as established under section 8001 of title 38, United States Code, as added by section 4, and the transition of the provision of services to veterans by such Administration, as established under this subsection.

(1) the transition of the provision of services to such Administration will not negatively affect the provision of such services to veterans;

(2) such services are ready to be transferred.

(3) Failure to Certify.—The Secretary shall submit to the Committees on Veterans’ Affairs of the Senate and House of Representatives the certification required by subsection (b)—

(1) no earlier than April 1, 2020; and

(2) no later than September 1, 2020.

(4) The Secretary fails to submit the certification required by subsection (b) by the date specified in subsection (c)(2), the Secretary shall submit to the Committees on Veterans’ Affairs of the Senate and House of Representatives a report that includes—

(1) the reason why the certification was not made by such date; and

(2) the estimated date when the certification will be made.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from California (Mr. DAVID P. ROE) and the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. DAVID P. ROE) each will control 20 minutes.

The Speaker recognizes the gentleman from California.

Mr. TAKANO. 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 H.R. 245, as amended.

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

There was no objection.

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

Madam Speaker, when our service members conclude their military service, they are taxed with returning to civilian life after putting their lives on hold for years to protect and defend the sacrifice they make for our security.

In exchange, we owe them more than a thank you and well wishes. We owe them a commitment that their transition to civilian life will go smoothly, and a VA that responds to their needs.

That is why we passed the first GI Bill nearly 75 years ago, and why we continue today to make improvements to provide veterans with the benefits they earned.

Unfortunately, VA has struggled to track the effectiveness of education and employment programs and, consequently, Congress has struggled to determine the Department’s resource needs. We have identified a contributing factor through hearings and discussions with our Veterans Service Organizations that the Veterans Benefits Administration is simply asked to do too much.

With the focus on managing countless compensation claims, the responsibility of managing transition education, and housing benefits often takes a back seat.

To put it in perspective, the Veterans Benefit Administration’s structure has not significantly changed since the creation of the Department of Veterans Affairs in 1930.

During the last 89 years, the services needed by veterans have drastically increased, and that is why our committee has an Economic Opportunity Subcommittee. It is time for the VA to understand this as well.

The VET OPP Act, as amended, would create a new administration within the department to manage education and training, vocational re habilitation and employment, education and career counseling programs, and broadly defined transition assistance programs that are shared across agencies.

Now, that means veterans’ education, housing, and economic programs will have a dedicated Under Secretary for Veterans Economic Opportunity and Transition. The Veterans Economic Opportunity and Transition Administration will solely focus on fulfilling these promises to veterans, so that they get the education that they want, the housing they need, and the careers they deserve.

During our April 9 Economic Opportunity legislative hearing, this proposal received support from the Veterans of Foreign Wars, American Enterprise Institute, and the Tragedy Assistance Program for Survivors.

Now these organizations know firsthand how hard it is to navigate the process of using benefits, so I want to thank the hard work of our Economic Opportunity Subcommittee for holding hearings on H.R. 245, as amended, where this legislation received universal acclaim from our VSO community.

I also want to thank our VSO community, and the American Federation of Government Employees, who worked with us to make this legislation work for all veterans and all employees currently employed at the VA.

This is a bipartisan bill because we are not trying to make a political point or attack the VA. Instead, we simply want to make the VA run more effectively for the veterans it serves.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. DAVID P. ROE of Tennessee.

Mr. TAKANO. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members be permitted to make such closing remarks as they may want, the housing they need, and the careers they deserve.

During our April 9 Economic Opportunity legislative hearing, this proposal received support from the Veterans of Foreign Wars, American Enterprise Institute, and the Tragedy Assistance Program for Survivors.

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Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. DAVID P. ROE of Tennessee.
most of its time, attention, and resources to disability compensation-related issues and backlogs that rise and fall with time.

The focus on compensation programs creates programs when other VBA programs are lacking. An example of this was the implementation last fall of the Forever GI Bill which was, to say the least, rocky, the start was.

While I know that the VA has many dedicated employees who tried their best to prevent the delays that occurred, I do believe that if the implementation of this law had received more attention from senior leaders at VA, things could have been better.

The true heroes of our military have paid an enormous price for our freedom. As chairman of the House Veterans’ Economic Opportunity and Transition Administration and led by a new Under Secretary for Veterans Economic Opportunity and Transition, the new Under Secretary would oversee education benefits like the GI Bill, the Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment Program, VA’s home loan programs, the Transition Assistance Program, or TAP program, and the small business programs. Creating a new administration within VA to house education and employment programs will ensure that those programs receive the focused leadership time and attention that they deserve.

I appreciate my friend and colleague, Congressman WENSTRUP from Ohio, for championing this legislation. It has my full support.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. TAKANO. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from California (Mr. Levin), my good friend, chairman of the Economic Opportunity Subcommittee, and also a co-sponsor of H.R. 2045.

Mr. LEVIN of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 2045, the Education, Transition and Opportunity Prioritization Plan, or VET OPP Act of 2019.

Madam Speaker, I was proud to introduce this bipartisan legislation with my friend from Ohio, Mr. WENSTRUP. We have a responsibility to provide America’s servicemembers with the best possible resources and opportunities as they transition back to civilian life, and we must do more to meet that responsibility.

Education, employment, housing, and transition assistance programs are critical to veterans’ economic success. But many veterans aren’t receiving these opportunities because of bureaucratic red tape at the VA. These programs are lumped with compensation programs under the Veterans Benefits Administration.

As chairman of the House Veterans’ Affairs Economic Opportunity Subcommittee, one of my top priorities is ensuring that veterans are receiving their benefits as efficiently as possible, and it is clear that the current structure at the VA isn’t meeting this need.

This bipartisan bill will allow us to deliver economic resources more effectively by creating a new Economic Opportunity and Transition Administration at the VA and bringing more oversight and accountability to economic programs for veterans.

I strongly urge my colleagues to support this bipartisan legislation.

Mr. DAVID P. ROE of Tennessee. Madam Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Florida (Mr. BILIRAKIS), my good friend and a Member I have served with on the Veterans’ Affairs Committee the entire time I have been in Congress. As I have said previously, there is no one in this body, in this House that I have seen that cares for veterans more than Congressman BILIRAKIS does, and he is the ranking member on the Economic Opportunity Subcommittee.

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to strongly support H.R. 2045, the Veterans’ Education, Transition, and Opportunity Prioritization Plan, or the VET OPP Act of 2019, which would create a significant structural change at the Department of Veterans Affairs to better align and specialize economic opportunity for our veterans, our veterans.

As ranking member of the VA Economic Opportunity Subcommittee, I know this committee understands the importance of prioritizing veterans’ education, workforce training, transition, and vocational rehabilitation programs.

However, the way the VA is structured, under the current system, it puts all benefit programs under one roof at the Veterans Benefits Administration. While I certainly understand that the VBA focuses a significant amount of time on processing disability claims and working to decrease its backlog of appeals, as the doctor stated, as VBA failed to promote these programs.

This failure by the VA to update their IT systems caused massive delays in processing GI Bill claims for thousands of student veterans last fall, many of whom rely on their payments as the only source of income. And, sadly, it was not the first time that the VA has failed to provide GI Bill payments on time. Hopefully, it’s going to be the last time.

To help solve this inequity, H.R. 2045, the VA would create a fourth administration at VA called the Economic Opportunity and Transition Administration, led by the new VA Under Secretary appointed by the President of the United States. This new Under Secretary would be tasked with managing all education, home loans, small business certification, transition assistance, and vocational rehabilitation and employment benefits within the VA.

This bill is a smart, commonsense policy that will allow VA to improve outcomes for our Nation’s veterans seeking better economic opportunities.

Finally, the bill will allow Congress to provide significantly better oversight and accountability of those running these programs.

I want to thank the sponsor of H.R. 2045, DR. BRAD WENSTRUP, for introducing this legislation this Congress.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mrs. AXNE). The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mr. DAVID P. ROE of Tennessee. Madam Speaker, I yield the gentleman from Florida an additional 30 seconds.

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Madam Speaker, I also want to thank the chairman of the subcommittee, my good friend, MIKE LEVIN, who is doing an outstanding job for co-leading the bill with us.

I urge my colleagues to pass H.R. 2045, as amended.

Mr. TAKANO. Madam Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON LEE), my good friend.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Madam Speaker, I thank the sponsor of this legislation for really tapping into something that every single Member must face with their veterans, and certainly those who have been out of the military for a period of time, and then all of our new veterans who are coming in from some of the more recent conflicts that we have had, and wars that we have had.

Just about a week or so ago, I was meeting with veterans from a certain battalion that had flown into Houston to share with us their concerns about the state of mind and the increasing number of suicide of our veterans, but, in addition to those conversations and ones that I have had, the idea of a Veterans Economic Opportunity and Transition Administration and the Under Secretary of Veterans Economic Opportunity and Transition of the Department of Veterans Affairs to oversee vocational rehabilitation employment, educational assistance, veterans housing loans, and the verification of small businesses.

"1715"

I think this is important because veterans want to know that they can fully integrate into society when they return home.

One of the initiatives that I had was to ensure that their service-related professions, whatever their assignments were in the military, would equate in civilian life and that they would be respected for their hierarchy of rank and alien.

Having an office like this one helps those veterans with creative minds who want to start small businesses.
When we had the impact of Hurricane Harvey, one of the hardest hit groups were small businesses. We carved out dollars to help small businesses by grants and not loans because that is the economic engine of this Nation.

With respect to veterans, they are very creative. They see solutions where there are problems. To have an office that would focus on their vocational rehabilitation, employment, and giving them educational assistance, that is also very important.

I have gone to my college campuses and met many, many, many veterans who are using some of the dollars that this House provided for them back during the first time Speaker Pelosi was Speaker, when we voted on major reform of the process of giving dollars to veterans for their educational assistance, a great bill dealing with Iraq and Afghanistan veterans that has helped them a lot.

I see the impact that getting a home has changed their life as well, and I have been involved in projects where organizations are in the business of donating homes to disabled vets. What a difference it makes in their lives.

Madam Speaker, I applaud the author of the legislation and the Veterans’ Affairs Committee as well because you are now looking holistically at these veterans and giving them a hand up, as they want, and not a handout.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentlewoman has expired.

Mr. TAKANO. Madam Speaker, I yield the gentlewoman an additional 30 seconds.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman for his courtesies.

Madam Speaker, I rise to support this bill, H.R. 2045, because, as I have said, whether it is a homeless vet, whether it is a vet who has been a veteran for a long period of time or those in the recent conflicts or those coming home today, this is a package that they need.

This is what Members of Congress try to help them with, in their offices. If we knew that we had an office in the Veterans Affairs Department that deals with education, vocational rehabilitation, and small business, and it is a one-stop shop, I think that our veterans will appreciate that very much.

Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding, and I ask my colleagues to support H.R. 2045.

Mr. DAVID P. ROE of Tennessee. Madam Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. WENSTROP), my good friend, a Congressmen, doctor, colonel, Iraq war veteran, and in the previous Congress, chair of the Health Subcommittee on the Veterans Affairs’ Committee, and currently a member of the House Committee on Armed Services and the House Select Committee on Intelligence.

Mr. WENSTROP. Madam Speaker, I thank Dr. Roe for yielding. I appreciate his leadership on the Veterans Affairs’ Committee for the many years that he has been here and has always been a leader.

As an Iraq war vet and an Army reservist, I know how important it is to help our service members succeed in their transition from Active Duty to civilian life. We should prepare our warfighters for success outside the military from the day they take their oath of enlistment to the day they begin their civilian careers. I think we have ignored this for too long.

Leaving the military with a plan and a purpose is key to the long-term well-being of all of our servicemembers. I know when I came back from Iraq as a reservist, they said, "You have 90 days before you have to go back to work." I said, "I am going next week. What am I going to do, sit around my house and just look at the walls?"

You go from having a job in the military, where you have a purpose and a meaning, and you get out that you have the same. That makes the transition and your life that much better.

Economic opportunity and transition programs are critical support for veterans and when they complete their service. The current structure of the VA allows economic opportunity and transition programs for our veterans to fall by the wayside. These programs should be treated with the same importance as health, compensation, and other benefits.

The Veterans’ Education, Transition, and Opportunity Prioritization Plan Act, known as the VET OPP Act, will streamline services and help the VA empower veterans and set them on a path to a successful civilian life.

Mr. DAVID P. ROE of Tennessee. Madam Speaker, I yield myself as much time as I may consume. I have no further speakers, and I am prepared to close.

Madam Speaker, I strongly encourage my colleagues to support this bill. When I first got here to Congress in 2008, the Veterans Benefit Administration had a $1 billion backlog that disability claims. It is hard to focus on something else when you have that much on your plate.

I think we have recognized that over the last several years, and I commend Dr. Wenstrup and others for bringing this up.

Madam Speaker, I strongly encourage all Members to support this, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. TAKANO. Madam Speaker, I yield myself as much time as I might consume.

Madam Speaker, if anyone thinks that business as usual is working at the VA, I would only ask you to look at the implementation of the Forever GI Bill. My good friend the ranking member knows that there were definite issues with the implementation. It did not go well. We are still months away from implementation which should have happened last year.

When the IG and others evaluated what went wrong, one thing was very clear; there was no accountable leader. That is what happens when programs are buried in layers of bureaucracy, and that is why I urge my colleagues to join me in passing H.R. 2045, as amended, the VET OPP Act, which will establish an accountable leader at VA for all of those programs that we have under the purview of our Economic Opportunity Subcommittee.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. TAKANO) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 2045, as amended.

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

The Clerk read the title of the bill. The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 2045

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

SECTION 1. EXEMPTION OF CERTAIN TRANSFERS OF FUNDS TO DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS FROM CERTAIN PROVISIONS OF THE ECONOMY ACT.

Mr. TAKANO. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1947) to amend title 38, United States Code, to exempt transfers of funds from Federal agencies to the Department of Veterans Affairs for nonprofit corporations established under subchapter IV of chapter 73 of title 38, United States Code, and to exempt transfers of funds to nonprofit corporations established under section 1533 of chapter 73 of title 38, United States Code, from certain provisions of the Economy Act, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 1947

SECTION 1. EXEMPTION OF CERTAIN TRANSFERS OF FUNDS TO DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS FROM CERTAIN PROVISIONS OF THE ECONOMY ACT.

Section 736(b)(1) of title 38, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following new sentence: "Any amounts so transferred after September 30, 2016, shall be available without regard to fiscal year limitations, notwithstanding section 1533(d) of title 38 of United States Code."

SEC. 2. IMPROVEMENTS TO ASSISTANCE FOR CERTAIN FLIGHT TRAINING AND OTHER PROGRAMS OF EDUCATION.

(a) USE OF ENTITLEMENT FOR PRIVATE PILOT’S LICENSES.—Section 304(d) of title 38, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1) by striking the semicolon and inserting the following: "and is required for the course of education being pursued (including with respect to a dual major,
concentration, or other element of a degree); and:
(2) by striking paragraph (2); and
(3) by redesigning paragraph (3) as para-
graph (2).
(b) ACCELERATED PAYMENTS FOR FLIGHT TRAINING.—Section 3313 of such title is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:
"(1) ACCELERATED PAYMENTS FOR CERTAIN FLIGHT TRAINING.—
"(1) PAYMENTS.—An individual enrolled in a program of education pursued at a voca-
tional school or institution of higher learning in which flight training is required to earn the degree being pursued (including with respect to a dual major, concentration, or other element of such a degree) may be
to receive accelerated payments of amounts for tuition and fees determined under sub-
section (c). The amount of each accelerated payment shall be an amount equal to twice the
amount of tuition and fees for the program of education. The amount of monthly sti-
pends shall be determined in accordance with such subsection (c) and may not be ac-
celerated under this paragraph.
"(2) EDUCATIONAL COUNSELING.—An indi-
vidual may make an election under para-
graph (1) notwithstanding the individual receives edu-
cational counseling under section 369A(a) of this title.
"(3) CHARGE AGAINST ENTITLEMENT.—The
center must be determined in accordance with
such subsection (c) and may not be ac-
celerated under this paragraph.
"(4) IN GENERAL.—Section 3313 is amended—
(A) by redesignating paragraphs (3)(a)(I) and (3)(a)(II) as paragraphs (3)(a)(I) and (3)(a)(II), respectively;
(B) by redesigning paragraphs (3)(b)(I) and (3)(b)(II) as paragraphs (3)(b)(I) and (3)(b)(II), respectively;
(C) by redesigning paragraphs (3)(c)(I) and (3)(c)(II) as paragraphs (3)(c)(I) and (3)(c)(II), respectively;
(D) by redesigning paragraphs (3)(d)(I) and (3)(d)(II) as paragraphs (3)(d)(I) and (3)(d)(II), respectively.
(2) SPECIAL RULE FOR CURRENT STUDENTS.—
In the case of an individual who, as of the date of the enactment of this Act, is using
educational assistance under chapter 33 of title 38, United States Code, to pursue a
program of education that includes a program of education described in item (bb) or (cc) of
section 3313(a)(1)(A) of title 38, United States Code, the amendment made by
such subsection shall apply with respect to a quarter, semester, or term, as applicable,
upon the earlier of the date of enactment of this Act or two years after the date of the enactment of this Act.
SEC. 3. PROVISION OF INSCRIPTIONS FOR SPOUSES AND CHILDREN ON CER-
tain Headstones and Markers Furnished by the Secretary of
Veterans Affairs.—In the case of an individual who dies on or after October 1,
2017, and is eligible to receive educational assistance under chapter 33 of title 38, United States Code, the Secretary, if feasible and upon request, shall
furnish an inscription for the surviving spouse or eligible dependent child of
such individual following the death of the surviving spouse or eligible dependent child.
(1) In General.—Section 2306 of title 38, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:
"(j)(1) In addition to any other authority
under this section, in the case of an indi-
vidual whose grave is not in a covered
crematory (as that term is defined in
section 369A(a)) and for whom the Secretary has fur-
nished a headstone or marker under sub-
section (a) or (d), the Secretary, if feasible
and upon request, may replace the headstone
or marker to add an inscription for the sur-
viving spouse or eligible dependent child
described in subsection (a) or (d), as
applicable.
(2) If the spouse or eligible dependent
child referred to in paragraph (1) is deceased, the Sec-
retary may, if feasible and upon request, add an
inscription for the spouse or de-
pendent child on the headstone or marker
furnished under section 369A(a), as
applicable.
(c) PAYMENTS.—In the case of an indi-
vidual who is referred to in paragraphs
(a)(1) and (b) of this section, the Secretary shall pay to the surviving spouse or eligible
child of the individual a payment equal to
the amount of the monthly payments
made under section 369A(a) for the
surviving spouse or eligible dependent
child.
"(3) CHARGE AGAINST ENTITLEMENT.—The
amount of such payments shall be determined in accordance
with section (c).
"(4) IN GENERAL.—Section 3313 is amended—
(A) by redesignating paragraphs (4)(a) and (4)(b) as paragraphs (4)(a) and (4)(b), respectively;
(B) by redesigning paragraphs (4)(c) and (4)(d) as paragraphs (4)(c) and (4)(d), respectively;
(C) by redesigning paragraphs (4)(e) and (4)(f) as paragraphs (4)(e) and (4)(f), respectively;
(D) by redesigning paragraphs (4)(g) and (4)(h) as paragraphs (4)(g) and (4)(h), respectively.
SEC. 4. DETERMINATION OF BUDGETARY EF-
FECTS.
"(a) in General.—In the case of an indi-
vidual who died after September 30, 2017, in a program of
education described in item (bb) or (cc) of
section 3313(a)(1)(A) of title 38, United States Code, the Secretary may, if feasible and upon request, add an
inscription for the surviving spouse or eligible
dependent child of the individual.
"(b) PROVISION OF INSCRIPTIONS FOR SPOUSES AND CHILDREN ON CER-
tain Headstones and Markers Furnished by the Secretary of
Veterans Affairs.—In the case of an individual who died on or after October 1,
2017, and is eligible to receive educational assistance under chapter 33 of title 38, United States Code, the Secretary, if feasible and upon request, shall
furnish an inscription for the surviving spouse or eligible dependent child of
such individual following the death of the surviving spouse or eligible dependent child.
"(3) CHARGE AGAINST ENTITLEMENT.—The
amount of such payments shall be determined in accordance
with section (c).
"(d) CERTAIN PROGRAMS OF EDUCATION CARR-
IED OUT UNDER CONTRACT.—Section 3313(c)(1)(A) of title 38, United States Code, as added by subsection (c)(2)(E), is amended by adding at the end the following new item:
"(cc) A program of education pursued at a
public institution of higher learning in which the public institution of higher learning entered into a contract or agreement with an entity (other than another public institution of higher learning) to provide such pro-
gram of education or a portion of such pro-
gram of education.
"(e) APPLICATION.—
"(1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided by
paragraph (2), the amendments made by this
section shall not apply with respect to a quarter,
semester, or term, as applicable, commencing on or after the date of the enactment of this
Act.
"(2) MEASUREMENT OF CURRENT ENROLLMENT.—In the case of an individual who, as of the date of the enactment of this Act, is using
educational assistance under chapter 33 of title 38, United States Code, to pursue a
program of education that includes a program of education described in item (bb) or (cc) of
section 3313(a)(1)(A) of title 38, United States Code, the amendment made by
such subsection shall apply with respect to a quarter, semester, or term, as applicable,
upon the earlier of the date of enactment of this Act or two years after the date of the enactment of this Act.
"(3) CHARGE AGAINST ENTITLEMENT.—The
amount of such payments shall be determined in accordance
with section (c).
"(4) IN GENERAL.—Section 3313 is amended—
(A) by redesignating paragraphs (4)(a) and (4)(b) as paragraphs (4)(a) and (4)(b), respectively;
(B) by redesigning paragraphs (4)(c) and (4)(d) as paragraphs (4)(c) and (4)(d), respectively;
(C) by redesigning paragraphs (4)(e) and (4)(f) as paragraphs (4)(e) and (4)(f), respectively;
(D) by redesigning paragraphs (4)(g) and (4)(h) as paragraphs (4)(g) and (4)(h), respectively.
SEC. 5. CONSTRUCTION OF BUDGETARY EFFECTS.
"(a) in General.—In the case of an indi-
vidual who died after September 30, 2017, in a program of
education described in item (bb) or (cc) of
section 3313(a)(1)(A) of title 38, United States Code, the Secretary may, if feasible and upon request, add an
inscription for the surviving spouse or eligible
dependent child of the individual.
"(b) PROVISION OF INSCRIPTIONS FOR SPOUSES AND CHILDREN ON CER-
tain Headstones and Markers Furnished by the Secretary of
Veterans Affairs.—In the case of an individual who died on or after October 1,
2017, and is eligible to receive educational assistance under chapter 33 of title 38, United States Code, the Secretary, if feasible and upon request, shall
furnish an inscription for the surviving spouse or eligible dependent child of
such individual following the death of the surviving spouse or eligible dependent child.
"(3) CHARGE AGAINST ENTITLEMENT.—The
amount of such payments shall be determined in accordance
with section (c).
"(d) CERTAIN PROGRAMS OF EDUCATION CARR-
IED OUT UNDER CONTRACT.—Section 3313(c)(1)(A) of title 38, United States Code, as added by subsection (c)(2)(E), is amended by adding at the end the following new item:
"(cc) A program of education pursued at a
public institution of higher learning in which the public institution of higher learning entered into a contract or agreement with an entity (other than another public institution of higher learning) to provide such pro-
gram of education or a portion of such pro-
gram of education.
"(e) APPLICATION.—
"(1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided by
paragraph (2), the amendments made by this
section shall not apply with respect to a quarter,
semester, or term, as applicable, commencing on or after the date of the enactment of this
Act.
"(2) MEASUREMENT OF CURRENT ENROLLMENT.—In the case of an individual who, as of the date of the enactment of this Act, is using
educational assistance under chapter 33 of title 38, United States Code, to pursue a
program of education that includes a program of education described in item (bb) or (cc) of
section 3313(a)(1)(A) of title 38, United States Code, the amendment made by
such subsection shall apply with respect to a quarter, semester, or term, as applicable,
upon the earlier of the date of enactment of this Act or two years after the date of the enactment of this Act.
"(3) CHARGE AGAINST ENTITLEMENT.—The
amount of such payments shall be determined in accordance
with section (c).
"(4) IN GENERAL.—Section 3313 is amended—
(A) by redesignating paragraphs (4)(a) and (4)(b) as paragraphs (4)(a) and (4)(b), respectively;
(B) by redesigning paragraphs (4)(c) and (4)(d) as paragraphs (4)(c) and (4)(d), respectively;
(C) by redesigning paragraphs (4)(e) and (4)(f) as paragraphs (4)(e) and (4)(f), respectively;
(D) by redesigning paragraphs (4)(g) and (4)(h) as paragraphs (4)(g) and (4)(h), respectively.
Dr. Roe’s legislation, H.R. 1947, as amended, would provide explicit authority for NPCs to administer research funding without regard to fiscal year limitations.

To ensure this legislation does not raise spending, section 2 addresses a loophole in GI Bill flight school benefits. This loophole had been exploited by flight schools that had contracted with public institutions of higher learning to offer flight-related degrees. In some cases,活下去ors were exempt from GI benefits that resulted in the VA paying over $500,000 in tuition and flight payments to one student.

H.R. 1947 fixes this loophole by marrying the cap on tuition at private institutions with a cap on flight school tuition at public institutions.

In addition, to ensure that the fewest possible students are impacted, the legislation also includes a provision to allow flight school students to accelerate their GI benefits. This will allow them to be better used for flight school, which is regularly more expensive, but takes fewer months to complete.

Finally, section 3 of H.R. 1947, as amended, authorizes VA to replace a veteran’s headstone or marker in a private cemetery so that an inscription may be added to remember a deceased spouse or a child following their deaths.

Madam Speaker, I thank Representative LAMALFA for introducing the original legislation and Ranking Member Roe for offering the legislation as an amendment during markup.

This bill is another example of our committee working on a bipartisan basis to get it right for all veterans.

This legislation allows veterans to memorialize their loved ones in the way they want and where they want. Every veteran deserves to know that their wish to be remembered in perpetuity alongside spouses and their children will be granted. The same is true for surviving spouses and children who want reburial rights that they, too, will be memorialized with their veteran spouse or parent.

Madam Speaker, I thank Dr. Roe for his tireless efforts to care for veterans, and I commend him on this bill. I look forward to joining him in voting ‘yes’ on this legislation.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. DAVID P. ROE of Tennessee. Madam Speaker, I yield myself as much time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of my bill, H.R. 1947, as amended.

This bill would address a limitation in current law that prevents funding from being transferred to the Department of Veterans Affairs nonprofit research and education corporations, or NPCs, for longer than I fiscal year.

NPCs were established by Congress in the late 1980s to provide a flexible funding mechanism to support research. Collectively, they have contributed more than $2 billion to VA research projects over the last decade.

However, last year, VA’s Office of the General Counsel uncovered a legal limitation that prevents funding from being transferred to NPCs for longer than I fiscal year. This upturned years of practice by the NPCs and threatened a number of ongoing research projects across the country that could benefit veterans and all Americans.

Madam Speaker, I have been involved in a number of research projects over the years, and they just don’t go for 365 days. Many of them go for years and years. This bill would correct that limitation and preserve the ability of the NPCs to support important multyear research projects.

Additionally, H.R. 1947, as amended, includes a provision from Representative LAMALFA’s bill, H.R. 1126, the Honoring Veterans’ Families Act.

Currently, VA is authorized to add a memorial inscription for a veteran’s deceased spouse or eligible dependent child to a VA-furnished marker, but only if they are buried in a national cemetery or veterans cemetery. Unfortunately, VA cannot provide this benefit to veterans and their families if they are buried elsewhere, such as a private or local cemetery. H.R. 1947, as amended, would address this problem by allowing VA to memorialize deceased spouses or certain children on the veteran’s marker, regardless of where they choose to be laid to rest.

The cost of this bill will be paid for by closing a loophole in GI Bill rules related to flight schools by capping the total tuition and fees that can be used at a public school for flight training at the current private school cap of $23,671 per year. The bill would authorize a 2-year grandfather clause so that no current students are impacted by this change.

It also includes provisions that would make it easier for students to attend flight training by removing the prohibition against GI Bill funds paying for a private pilot’s license and giving students the option to accelerate their GI benefits to pay for the increased cost associated with flight training.

These changes to flight training for the GI Bill have had wide bipartisan and veteran service organization support in the past, and I am pleased that they are included in this bill.

I encourage all Members to support H.R. 1947, as amended.

I thank the chairman for his kind comments and support of this bill.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. TAKANO. Madam Speaker, I have no further speakers and I am prepared to close.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. DAVID P. ROE of Tennessee. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from California (Mr. LAMALFA), my good friend and an author of one part of this bill.

Mr. LAMALFA. Madam Speaker, I thank Ranking Member Roe and Chairman TAKANO for including my legislation, H.R. 1126, within H.R. 1947. It is generally acknowledged that oversight that was pointed out by northern California veterans to me a while back, the choice of being able to have a family member, a spouse, inscribed on a grave marker, simply the difference between a VA and a private cemetery or one that is private. That is really the bottom line on this.

This bill changes that oversight so that the choice can be at any recognized cemetery. That is simply what we are after: to have our veterans who have served us honorably know that, when they are at their final resting place, that this oversight cannot happen for their family member that they held so dear to share that gravestone with them.

So, whether it is a private cemetery or a VA, or whatever other type you might have as your choice, veterans need to have this choice as well.

Madam Speaker, I thank Ranking Member Roe and Chairman TAKANO for including this so we can take care of this oversight quickly and have our veterans have the choices that they feel they deserve and, indeed, do deserve. I appreciate it.

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

Mr. DAVID P. ROE of Tennessee. Madam Speaker, I yield 4 minutes to the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. GOSAR), my good friend and Western Caucus chair.

Mr. GOSAR. Madam Chair, I rise not against this bill, but I have concerns about a provision capping the veterans’ training benefits. This severely undercuts the importance of helping our Nation’s veterans enter a field where they are desperately needed.

H.R. 1947 does have needed improvements for structural veteran flight training benefits. This includes an accelerated payment provision to provide greater flexibility and a more efficient funding mechanism to help veterans complete their flight training.

The bill also provides coverage for obtaining a private pilot’s license when it is incorporated into the requirements of a professional flight training program.

Additionally, this action provides flexibility to public schools, allowing them to contract for flight training, which, in turn, makes aviation training more available to interested veterans.

There is improved fiscal responsibility by the government, and there is strong support for tightening the existing regulations of the Department of Veterans Affairs to prohibit abuses by a minority of flight schools affiliated with collegiate degree programs. However, the bill caps payments for flight
training programs, which unfairly impacts the ability of veterans to pursue well-paying jobs in the civilian aviation sector.

Capping funds available for flight training degree programs virtually guarantees that veterans seeking to use their GI Bill benefits to enter the aviation industry will have insufficient funds to achieve their goals. They will either abandon their pursuit or be burdened with significant personal debt through either expenditure of personal funds or taking on severe student loans. This will harm veterans and limit their employment opportunities in the aviation industry.

It is unfair and discriminatory to single out these funding caps for veterans seeking employment in aviation. These caps deprive them of the ability to pursue collegiate flight training, a common path to a career as a commercial pilot.

I hope this provision can be addressed prior to finding its way to the President. High jobs in aviation are in high demand, and our veterans are some of the most deserving and most needed.

Mr. TAKANO. Madam Speaker, I continue to reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. DAVID P. ROE of Tennessee. Madam Speaker, I have no further speakers, am prepared to close, and I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Before I yield back, I do want to express my disappointment that H.R. 2196 is not on the floor for consideration this afternoon. This bill, introduced by my friend and outstanding member of our committee, Congressman BARR from Kentucky, would clarify the eligibility of the Edith Nourse Rogers STEM Scholarship program. This scholarship, which was enacted as part of the Forever GI Bill, authorizes extra GI Bill funding to help student veterans complete their undergraduate degree in technology, engineering, and math, STEM fields.

Madam Speaker, we all know that there is a need to fill vacancies for high-paying jobs in the STEM fields. The Smithsonian Science Education Center found STEM-related jobs grew at three times the rate of non-STEM jobs between 2000 and 2010. By 2018, they projected that 2.4 million STEM jobs would go unfilled.

The Edith Nourse Rogers STEM Scholarship program is critical to ensure that veterans are the ones who fill these vacancies. However, the way the original law was drafted, it would unintentionally prevent most students from using this scholarship in all but a few STEM programs.

With the scholarship going live on August 1, 2019, I am grateful to Mr. BARR for quickly stepping up to the plate to offer this bill to ensure students are eligible for it. We all know that the Senate generally takes a lot longer to review legislation than the House. Let me report that. We all know that the Senate generally takes a lot longer to review legislation than the House. Let me report that.

I want to thank all of the members of the Veterans’ Affairs Committee, the chairmen and others, as you have seen today, for the work they have done in a bipartisan way to help our Nation’s heroes.

As I said, for me, personally, as a veteran, this is a very difficult day because it is a day that we mourn the loss of veterans who served on Active Duty and paid the ultimate price. I want to just mention a few names of people.

First, Sergeant Thomas E. Thayer, a tremendous man whom I knew as a young boy growing up. He was my Scout master. He was in the 101st Airborne and was killed in Vietnam, receiving the Silver Star in 1965.

Johnny Parham, who was also an Eagle Scout, as I am. Johnny and I ran on the 2-mile relay team together in high school. I have to say, we were pretty competitive in 1969 in Vietnam and was unable to have the wonderful life that I have had, to be able to raise a family, have children and grandchildren, because of service to our Nation.

Bob Perry, a young man whom I went to elementary school with all the way through high school. I found out at my high school reunion many years later that Bob also died in Vietnam.

We just heard today, Chief Petty Officer Bill Milde, a highly decorated Navy SEAL who protected this Nation, giving up his life because of, really, the invisible wounds of war.

I just want to thank all of those who paid the ultimate price for our freedom. Thank you, thank you, thank you.

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

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

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in passing H.R. 1947.

Before I close, let me say that I appreciate the kind words of the ranking member, Mr. ROE of Tennessee, and I associate myself with his eloquent tributes to his classmates and the people who did not get to live the full lives that he, himself, has been able to live.

I, myself, have also known people who have served our country and who have also paid the ultimate price. I certainly share his sentiments as we enter this Memorial Day weekend, as all Americans reflect on the ultimate sacrifice of all the people buried in our national cemeteries and cemeteries that aren’t national cemeteries that are marked by VA grave markers.

It is always a poignant moment to walk through my national cemetery and to watch the Girl Scouts and the Cub Scouts planting American flags on every headstone to see if all happen within 20 minutes because there are so many Americans who want to come to my cemetery to make sure that every grave is honored.

To my colleague from Tennessee, I wish him a pleasant Memorial Day weekend, but, also, to all Americans, let us reflect on what Memorial Day weekend does mean to our Nation.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. TAKANO) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1947, as amended.

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

The title of the bill was amended so as to read: "A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to exempt transfers of funds from Federal agencies to the Department of Veterans Affairs for nonprofit corporations established under subchapter IV of chapter 73 of such title from certain provisions of the Economy Act, and for other purposes."

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.
100 YEARS OF WOMEN’S SUFFRAGE

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

Mr. SPANO. Madam Speaker, this country was built by great leaders on the bedrock of even greater ideals. The idea that all are created equal and endowed with those certain inalienable rights.

The idea that democracy was instituted not to bestow rights given to us by God, but to safeguard them from tyranny. The conviction that a government must protect our rights comes solely by consent of the governed. But as we are a country of imperfect leaders, we often fall far short of these perfect ideals.

And 100 years ago today, great women brought this country into a new age; an age where women are endowed with that inalienable right to vote; an age where women can safeguard their rights at the ballot box; an age where the power of our democracy comes from the consent of all the governed.

And at a time when a woman serves as Speaker of the House and there are more Congresswomen with us today than at any other point in our history. We are in this age because of great women. And I am honored to share this House with so many of you.

100TH ANNIVERSARY OF UCLA

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

Mr. TED LIEU of California. Madam Speaker, today, I rise to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the founding of the University of California, Los Angeles.

UCLA’s excellence is clear. With 13 Nobel laureates, 13 MacArthur Fellows, 9 National Medal of Science winners, 3 Pulitzer Prize winners, a Fields Medal, an A.M. Turing Award, UCLA’s academic credentials are rivaled by few. And the Bruins have enjoyed 117 NCAA team championships and 261 Olympic medals over their 100-year history.

Alumni have gone on to make incredible strides in fields like rocket science, film, and politics. It has been an incredible century for UCLA.

In honor of UCLA’s centennial, I would like to extend my sincerest congratulations to Chancellor Block, UC President Janet Napolitano, and UCLA students, faculty, and alumni.

I am the consent of all the people in UCLA’s history that ensured the university could light the way for the next 100 years to come. Go Bruins.

CELEBRATING 100 YEARS OF THE PASSAGE OF THE 19TH AMENDMENT

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

Ms. DAVIDS of Kansas. Madam Speaker, today we come together to celebrate 100 years since the United States House passed the 19th Amendment prohibiting the government from denying the right to vote on the basis of sex.

It was a milestone in the evolution of women’s suffrage, but the hard work of making sure that all women could vote continued long after its passage.

Women still had to fight to build a system where Native Americans, African Americans, Asian Americans and all women of color could not only register to vote but could actually cast their ballot.

In 1924, when Native Americans were granted U.S. citizenship, we took a big step toward Native American women’s suffrage. And in 1964 when the Voting Rights Act was passed, we took another step in breaking down obstacles that prevented Black women and other women of color from voting.

The history of women’s suffrage, like the history of our Nation, is complex, but it is a history that we must acknowledge and that we absolutely need to reckon with, because we know that people all over this country today still face voter suppression.

So let’s take this opportunity to celebrate this historic day but let us also recognize the full movement for women’s suffrage has continued long after, and let’s recommit to making sure that every citizen in this country can exercise their constitutional right to vote and participate in our democracy.

CENTENNIAL OF THE PASSAGE OF THE 19TH AMENDMENT

(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 centennial of the passage of the 19th Amendment in the House of Representatives.

Women’s right to vote was won by the brave work of suffragettes, many of whom were from North Carolina.

In 1917, the National American Women Suffrage Association held a 4-day suffrage school in Raleigh to advance the movement in our State. Instructor Halsey Wilson said, “We have a government of men, by men, and for the people, instead of a realization of the hopes of Abraham Lincoln of a government of the people, by the people, for the people.

Today, I am grateful to be serving among the largest group of women ever elected in this body. When the 19th Amendment was ratified, 10 million women joined the electorate, but the suffragettes’ work also laid the foundation for women in public offices and the House of Representatives we have today.

SUFFRAGE CENTENNIAL

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

Mr. LEVIN of Michigan. Madam Speaker, today marks 100 years exactly since the U.S. House of Representatives approved the 19th Amendment and moved our Nation one step closer to full voting rights for women.

I am so proud that the great State of Michigan was among the first to ratify the 19th Amendment, and I was proud to join my colleagues today to pass a bipartisan resolution to commemorate and celebrate the amendment.

I rise now to honor all the suffragettes whose names we know and all those we don’t, who put themselves in danger to help make a more perfect union. But I also rise to honor those who follow in their footsteps, like my incredible classmates in the 116th Congress.

Just like the suffragettes helped usher our Nation forward, they, too, have opened doors that young women like my own daughter, Molly, may walk through some day.

It is an honor to fight alongside them today and every day.
CONGRATULATING DR. DEBbie LUPEIKA

(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 congratulate a great woman—a great doctor—who is from my district in northern California, who earned an incredible honor over the weekend.

Dr. Debbie Lupeika has been named as the 2019 National Clinician of the year by the Association of Clinicians for the Underserved.

She teaches residents at Mercy Medical Center in Redding, California, and Shasta Community Health Center, which serves mostly underserved or uninsured patients.

Dr. Lupeika has helped treat many families that were displaced from their homes in Shasta County by the Carr fire last year—everyone from children to adults.

In rural communities like ours, it is even more important to have great doctors who truly care about their patients and their craft when also faced with these rural issues that are so difficult for retaining doctors in rural areas such as the one that Dr. Lupeika fully embodies that in every way.

Madam Speaker, I thank her for her commitment to improving healthcare in our rural communities, and I congratulate her on receiving this prestigious award.

THE CENTENNIAL OF 19TH AMENDMENT

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

Ms. LEE of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the 19th Amendment passing in the House giving women the right to vote.

Today, along with my yellow rose, I stand here wearing a purple and a black ribbon honoring the history of African American women who are unsung heroes, like Sojourner Truth, and Ida B. Wells, and Mary Church Terrell.

These women fought tirelessly so all women would have the right to vote. Although, even after the ratification of the 19th Amendment, many Black women and Native American women were still denied their voting rights.

Madam Speaker, let us not forget the sacrifices and the achievements of Black women and all women of color who continue to fight for women’s right to vote, many of whose names we may never know, but without whom many of us would not be here today.

As we celebrate this important milestone with this historic number of women and women of color in Congress, let us remember the words of suffragette Mary Church Terrell. She said: “And so, lifting as we climb, onward and upward we go.”

NEW LOCK AT THE SOO LOCKS

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

Mr. MOOLENAAR. Madam Speaker, the Appropriations Committee has now passed legislation with $75.3 million in funding for the construction of a new lock at the Soo Locks.

This is the first time in decades the construction of a new lock at the Soo Locks is being funded in legislation.

I have been pushing for this funding with my work on the Appropriations Committee, and I am grateful for the support of our colleagues.

Right now, the lock is 50 years old, and it has survived harsh winters through extraordinary maintenance.
Mr. PALMER. Madam Speaker, almost from the day that I have been elected to Congress, I have looked forward to the opportunity to honor my wife’s great-grandmother. She was able to vote in the 1920 election. Prior to that, in Boston, they distributed sample ballots. This document that I have with me today has been in my wife’s family for almost 100 years. On the back of the document, Miss Abby Mayhew Cushing wrote this note: “First vote for President of these United States.”

You can feel the pride and the patriotism in those words that she experienced for the first time. Abby Mayhew Cushing was 67 years old.

With all due respect to my Democrat colleagues, she wrote: “Voted straight Republican ticket. Smashing victory for Harding and Coolidge.” Then she added this: “President Harding died very suddenly August 2, 1923, in California. Burial in Marion, Ohio, Friday, August 10.”

This is, for the Cushing family, a historic document that celebrates the patriotism of American women earning the right to vote.

NO ONE IS ABOVE THE LAW

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker’s announced policy of January 3, 2019, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. GREEN) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

Mr. GREEN of Texas. Madam Speaker, and still I rise, and I do so with the love of my country within my heart, and I do so this evening because I believe that no one is above the law. No one.

We find this to be the case in our great country: If you are a person who exceeds the speed limit, you are breaking the law. If you are caught exceeding the speed limit, there is a price to pay. No one is above the law.

If you are a person who happens to, in the State of Texas, decide that you are going to go through the supermarket, and pick and choose certain things that you would like to sample, at some point, if you partake of more than is reasonable, you will be charged with grazing. It is a crime in the State of Texas to graze, to take more than is reasonable in having a sample of a grape. No one is above the law.

People are prosecuted in the State of Texas for grazing.

In the State of Texas, a good many persons have been prosecuted for not causing their children to go to school. Thwarting public attendance in school was a law in the State of Texas. People paid fines for not having their children in school.

The list of laws is too long to ever mention in a statement such as this, but the point is, no one is above the law. There are laws that deal with persons who commit felonies and persons who commit misdemeanors. When you break these laws, you are prosecuted.

You are not allowed to break the law with impunity, and you are not allowed to do it with immunity. No one is above the law.

I believe that this is a part of the very hallmark of our criminal justice system in this great country. We believe that no one is above the law and that no one is beneath the law, meaning that the law should apply equally to all. Every person ought to be treated the same when it comes to the very bedrock principle of whether or not someone is above the law. No one is in this country.

However, we find ourselves with a unique circumstance now. We have the highest office holder in the executive branch, the chief executive officer, if you will, who has refused to cooperate with lawful investigations of the Congress.

He refused to cooperate in this sense. He has said to witnesses they should not appear and give testimony in a lawful investigation. He indicated that subpoenas will not be answered. They were issued pursuant to lawful investigations.

No one is above the law. If you are not above the law, then if you are called upon to testify, you have to testify. If you have some document within your possession and there has been a request for it by way of a subpoena, then you have to produce it. No one is above the law.

Well, we currently have a circumstance where the chief executive officer is at odds with the legislative branch. This places the legislative and the executive at odds with each other. They are in a stalemate, if you will.

When this occurs, you have one branch of government refusing to cooperate with lawful requests of another branch, the executive refusing the request of the legislative, then you have a standoff, as I indicated. No one is above the law.

This, in my opinion, creates a constitutional crisis. Now, there are people who would differ with me. But remember this: What they are expressing is what I am expressing, an opinion. This is my opinion. They have their opinion. There is no hard and fast definition for a constitutional crisis.

There are some who would contend that to have a constitutional crisis in this area, the subpoenas that have been issued would have to go to court. They would have to be litigated. At some point, a court might say to the executive branch of the government that it must obey the subpoena issued by Congress, the lawful subpoena.

If the executive officer declines to obey the subpoena, it would be concluded that you have a constitutional crisis because the chief executive officer is not only disobeying Congress, he is disobeying a third branch of the government, the judicial branch, the judiciary. So you would then have a constitutional crisis.

I differ. It is my opinion that you have a constitutional crisis when the
chief executive officer declines and refuses to obey a lawful request from the legislative branch. I think that when you get to the point that the President of the United States, or the chief executive officer, refuses an order from the court, you have a constitutional crisis, but you also have a collapse.

That is when you have gone beyond a constitutional crisis. It is a collapse. The crisis leads up to that point. Once this happens and the President refuses to obey as well as the legislative, you have a collapse.

Right now, we are in a constitutional crisis. In this constitutional crisis, we have a circumstance that has developed that we cannot tolerate. You see, it is the legislative branch that has the duty to provide the check on the executive branch such that we maintain the balance of power. When the legislative branch seeks to check the executive branch and it is absolutely refuses to cooperate, that is what happens. The system of checks and balances is being ignored.

The system of checks and balances was put in place by the Framers of the Constitution to prevent the concentration of power in any one branch of government. To prevent the executive branch from having a concentration of power, the legislative branch was given this ability to check it. When the legislative branch cannot get cooperation, the ultimate check that it has is impeachment. The legislative branch prevents the concentration of power by saying to the chief executive officer: Mr. Chief Executive Officer, you are out of balance. You are assuming more authority than the Constitution accords you. Because you cannot do this, we, the Members of the legislative branch, can bring you before the bar of justice. We can call on you to answer for your failure to honor lawful investigative requests of the legislative branch. So we bring you before the bar of justice, and that is called impeachment.

But I think it is important to remember that the Framers of the Constitution put the system of checks and balances in place to prevent a concentration of power. Why would we want to prevent a concentration of power? Because if the chief executive officer, the President, is allowed to have power concentrated beyond what the Constitution accords, meaning there are no guardrails, the President can do whatever he chooses. The monarch is the law.

We never intended in this country for the chief executive officer, the President, to be the law. We intended for the President to enforce the law by and through the various agencies that are under his domain. If he is going to use his will, but not to be the law itself, not to decide what the law is on any given day, not to decide that he will obey the law when he chooses. No one is above the law.

The Mueller report is a good indication of how the system of checks and balances is working. The Mueller report indicates that there are many instances where, but for a rule that the Justice Department adheres to, the President would be indicted, but for this rule.

You won’t find the words stated exactly as I have stated them, but that is the essence of what is stated in the Mueller report as it relates to obstruction of justice. Mr. Mueller was assigned the responsibility of looking into certain allegations that the President participated in before being elected and to ascertain whether or not there was some collusion, obstruction of justice, if you will.

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The Mueller conclusion is that the President is not exonerated when it comes to obstruction of justice and that the President but for these rules that he has, he would be indicted. I say, likely be, because Mr. Mueller didn’t say he would be, but he did say that the President wasn’t exonerated when it comes to obstruction of justice.

So the President is not above the law, and if the Justice Department is not going to prosecute, then where is the bar of justice?

It is here. It is right here in this room; this very august body that we call the Congress of the United States of America. We then have the responsibility. If the Justice Department is not going to pursue the President, then it is left to the Congress. This is the last alternative for making sure that the checks and balances are maintained and that the President is not above the law.

Who agrees with the Mueller Report as I have expressed it?

Some 800 former prosecutors have indicated that if this were any other person who violated the law as they see it in the Mueller Report, that this person would be prosecuted. They go on to say that it is critical that obstruction of justice be prosecuted. That if you do not, then what you are sending is a message to people that they can interfere with lawful investigations. They don’t say it in those exact words, but that is the import of the message that they do share with us, some 800 prosecutors, persons who understand this law.

Many of them have said that there is more than enough evidence here to prosecute anyone other than the President. But they have been respectful, and they understand that there is a rule in the Justice Department—the Office of Legal Counsel has promulgated it—that indicates that a sitting President won’t be prosecuted.

If the sitting President is not going to be prosecuted, then these 800 lawyers are saying to us that the bar of justice has to be the place where the President will be brought, and that bar of justice is here in the House of Representatives. No one is above the law.

We now recognize that we are some 34 days since the Mueller Report was made public. This is the number of days that the Trump administration has been above the law, some 34 days.

Why?

Because we have one official in the administration who has refused to honor a lawful request by the Ways and Means Committee to produce certain records, certain records belonging to the President, tax records—refused to produce those records in contravention of the law. Another official, the person who heads the Justice Department, is declining to respond to requests of the Judiciary Committee.

No one is above the law. So we now have not only the President refusing, but the persons who are part of the administration are refusing. Some 34 days now I would say the administration itself has been above the law.

These are the days since the Mueller Report has been released to the public, the number of days the Trump administration has been above the law.

I love my country. I never came to Congress to give the speech I am giving tonight. I didn’t come to Congress to take on the most powerful person on the planet Earth. I find myself standing here because I cannot see that this moral imperative exists to make sure that the law is followed and treated the same as it relates to all people and then ignore it. I just don’t see how you can do it. I cannot refuse to ignore the fact that the President has obstructed justice.

The President is not above the law. No one is. I will not allow political expediency, this notion that rather than deal with this now, let’s just wait and let the next election determine the fate of a person who has breached the law in the highest office of the land, I might add. I refuse to accept it. I just cannot.

The President is not above the law. I don’t come to Congress to say this, but I love my country, and I see what this is doing to the country, when we have the chief executive officer saying to law enforcement officers—and he did say what I am about to tell you—that you don’t have to be nice when you arrest people.

What message are you sending to them in terms of what their behavior should be when they take people into their care, custody, and control? If you are saying to them you can break the law.

What kind of message do you send when you are at a campaign rally and
you say to people: Don’t worry about how you treat them; if they arrest you, I will take care of it.

That wasn’t the exact language, but that was the message. This is the chief executive officer. This is the person who is the standard-bearer for the United States of America—the standard-bearer, the person who carries the torch of freedom for the United States of America.

What are you saying when you say that you are the person who would support the breaking of the law and then you would support destroying the person who breaks the law?

You are saying you are above the law and you believe it, and you are saying you are willing to take care of those who would break the law as well.

We have seen circumstances in this country that I never thought we would see: a President sending messages and signals indicating that if you side with me, I have the magic wand. If you side with me, I have the power to erase your offenses, your crimes. It is not really erasing, but I am communicating that it is a pardon. The President has this power, and he sends signals: break the law, but worry not, I have the power to erase it.

Is this what we expect from the highest office in the land in the greatest country in the world?

Are we going to allow ourselves to be brought into this complicity that we see so many people succumbing to? I don’t think so. I will not. We cannot allow ourselves to become complicit. We cannot allow ourselves to become a party to what is going on here. The mere fact that we stand silent, as Dr. King put it: at some point, aliveness in and of itself becomes betrayal.

The silence is betraying our country, it is betraying the Constitution, and it is betraying the Republic. The silence is betraying the country.

When will we cease to be silent on the greatest issue confronting us at this time?

The Republic is at stake. It is not about Republicans, it is about the Republic and whether we will maintain it. It is not about Democrats, it is about our democracy. This is bigger than all of us. It is bigger. It is bigger than the President. It is about the country we love and whether we are going to allow one person to destroy the concept of no one being above the law.

It is bigger than we are, and the truth is it has now become an issue that is about Congress. This issue is now about Congress. It is about whether the Congress of the United States of America is going to fulfill its responsibility. It is about whether the Congress of the United States of America will see and say—see that the President is obstructing and say that the President is obstructing.

I marvel at the number of Members of Congress who have said that the President is obstructing justice, who have said that the President has committed impeachable offenses, impeachable acts, but notwithstanding having said it will not say that the President ought to be impeached. There are some who say that he should be impeached as a matter of fact and still won’t move to impeach him.

The President is not above the law. We are the law, the Members of Congress, 435 of us. We have been given an awesome responsibility. It is awesome. I don’t take it lightly. It is not something that I think everybody should have. You are not supposed to go and say to a company because there are a good many people who don’t believe that you should prosecute a President. They think that if the President commits a crime, well, that is the President. I am not one of them.

They think that you have to commit a crime, by the way, before you can be impeached, a good many people. I am not one of them. The President doesn’t have to commit a crime to be impeached. It is not something that I think everybody should have. You are not supposed to go and say to a company because there are a good many people who don’t believe that you should prosecute a President. They think that if the President commits a crime, well, that is the President. I am not one of them.

This is what Congress has to look into. This is what Congress has to bring before the bar of justice, this whole notion that the President is not above the law.

So let’s just take a moment now and talk about the process of impeachment because a good many people don’t understand. Impeachment does not mean that a President is removed from office. Impeachment is sort of like an indictment, and it is not the same but very much similar to an indictment. The Members of the House of Representatives serve as a body very similar to a grand jury. It is not the same, but it is similar to a grand jury. The Members of the House of Representatives determine whether or not a President should be impeached. They do so with a vote, a majority of the House voting to impeach, and the President is impeached.

The President doesn’t have to commit a crime, a majority of the House voting to impeach, and the President is impeached. Andrew Johnson was impeached in 1868. Article 10 of the articles of impeachment against him for a high misdemeanor that was not a crime—a misdemeanor is a misdeed, aside from being a minor criminal offense, it is also a misdeed. He was impeached for his misdeed, and we here in this body can impeach any President for misdeeds.

So if the body impeaches, it doesn’t mean that the President is removed from office. It simply means that the President must stand trial in the Senate. There is no requirement in the Constitution for the House to have to investigate the Mueller Report. The Mueller Report has been shared with us. There is enough evidence in that report to impeach the President. The Mueller Report has evidence shared by virtue of talking to witnesses who gave their testimony under the penalty of perjury. We can use that as the reason to move to impeach the Senate where a trial will take place.

Remember, impeachment is sort of like an indictment—not the same but similar. It goes to the Senate. The Chief Justice of the Supreme Court would preside over that trial—the Chief Justice.

In so doing, the House will have persons called managers. These managers would act as prosecutors. They would bring evidence before the Senate for the Senate to act upon. The Senate acts upon the evidence. The Chief Justice is there to make sure certain rules are followed. For example, if the House prosecutors, the managers, if they would like to call a witness, the Chief Justice will then be there to assist the process to get that witness before the Senate.

There is a trial. Witnesses are called. Subpoenas can be issued, and you don’t have to meander through some lower inferior courts because all courts, when it comes to the impeachment of the President, are inferior to the Senate when it sits in trial of the President.

They are all inferior, all of the courts.

So you have the Chief Justice there to make his ruling. All of this is done before the public. There will be a trial. All of these subpoenas that are not being honored, all of the witnesses that are refusing to testify, take them before the Senate. Call them; have them sworn; have them give their testimony; and let the world hear and see.

There is a desire to have a trial before the trial in the House, to have a trial in the Senate. There is a desire to have a trial in the Senate, and they say that the Senate is inferior to the House when it sits in trial of the President.

This is the position of the Senate, but that is not what we are doing. We are saying that we have to move forward. We are moving forward.

Remember, impeachment is sort of like a trial, but in a sense, we are having the witnesses come in and give their testimony. There is a desire to do this.

To be very honest with you, I am not antithetical to the idea, but I do understand that, if the witnesses are not coming, if the subpoenas are not being honored, then the option left to us is to impeach and have that trial in the Senate, where they will have to come. Subpoenas will have to be honored. That is the means by which we maintain the system of checks and balances when the President refuses to perform as expected under the Constitution—as a matter of fact, as required under the Constitution.

So, given that the President is not following those norms and not following the law and eventually we could take this through the inferior courts—they are inferior to the Senate when it sits
History is not going to be kind to Democrats or Republicans. History is going to present us as people who saw an injustice in the highest office of the land and refused to do our jobs. It won’t be kind to us. Reputations are going to be tarnished. People who were acclaimed heroes today who were just waiting to do the right thing at the right time, history is not going to be kind to them. There are too many things on record that they already said. And there are too many things on record through these records, videos of what they have said.

They can walk it back now, and they can have friendships now that will be of assistance to them, but history is not going to be kind to them.

But there is a means by which we can bring ourselves back in proper alignment with the Constitution. It is called impeachment. This is what we can do, and it is never too late to get on the right side of history. There are many people in this House who are on the wrong side of history, wrong side of history. The right side of politics, as they see it. I would rather be on the right side of history and the wrong side of politics.

So these persons who are now on the wrong side of history, my hope is that they will do as I see many of my colleagues doing now, and they are coming forward and they are acknowledgments. History will be kind to us. History is a solution that has to be pursued.

The question no longer is who is going to be the first to engage in this notion that we have to bring the President before the bar of justice in the House of Representatives. This is not the question.

The question now is who will be the last person to say we must do it, because there seems to be a momentum building that is going to cause some people who would have made history to be made by history.

History can make people, and people can make history. There are some people who are going to be proclaimed by our contemporaries now as having made history, but the truth is that history will make them. History will make them do what they should do and should have done.

They are going to have to face history. Maybe not right away, but, I assure you, time always tells. The truth is known, and history always judges.

We are going to be judged, my friends. We all are. We are going to be judged. So why don’t we just get on the right side of history now and salvage some of the reputation that we have?

They don’t have to lose their entire reputation. They don’t have to become adamant about this. They have made their point. Let it go. Get on the right side of history. We know where this is going. It is just a matter of time.

There will be additional votes on impeachment right here on this floor of the House of Representatives. Be on the right side of history for our children, for our grandchildren, for our great-grandchildren, for unborn generations. Get on the right side of history.

History makes people; people make history. Either way, be on the right side of history. Don’t find yourself on the wrong side of history. If you hold yourself out to be a person who adheres to moral authority, the moral imperative to do the right thing. Be on the right side of history.

I have heard people say that the soul of the country is at risk. I concur. But I also say this: Before the soul of the country goes, the soul of the House of Representatives will have gone, the soul of the House of Representatives, the very soul that we have in our hands, that has the moral authority, the moral imperative, to go forward and not allow political expediency to jeopardize our duty to do that which the Constitution affords us the opportunity to do if we have but only the will to do it.

The House is now on trial. The House of Representatives is on trial in the court of public opinion. Some would say: Well, the court is not unanimously opposed. Some 40-plus percent of persons say that impeachment is appropriate.

The public is here today and there tomorrow. The public has no duty to stay in one place all the time. We are looking at a snapshot in time, and the public opinion will change. It does.

When Nixon was first brought before the attention of the Senate, as they were investigating, public opinion was not such that it would call for his impeachment then. Public opinion changed.

The bailout was a great example—unrelated to impeachment, but a great example.

I remember when we had to vote on what has been called the “bailout.” I remember the calls to my office. People knew that we were about to, as they saw it, bail out the banks, and the calls were very strong.

People called in large numbers, saying: Don’t you vote to bail out those banks. Don’t you do it. If you do it—there was at least one caller, probably more, who said—we will run you out of town.

Well, I remember standing in the back of the Chamber, and as I stood there, after having cast my vote against the bailout, I saw the votes go up and the stock market go down.

And having done what I thought was the appropriate thing pursuant to the requests of my constituents, I could not wait to hear what the response would be the next day.

The response the next day was: What is wrong with you? Don’t you see what you have done to my 401(k)? What is wrong with you? We are going to run you out of town.
I learned a lesson about public opinion. Public opinion can be in one place today and in an entirely different place tomorrow.

We should do what we believe is the right thing based upon what our conscience dictates. That is what I do.

I am going to follow my conscience, and I will have done the right thing.

Dr. King said there are times when you have to do that which is neither safe, nor politic nor popular. You do it because it is right.

I am going to do the right thing because conscience dictates that this is the right thing to do.

Madam Speaker, 34 days the President, the administration, is above the law—34 days.

But there is one other thing. There are some things that are indelible, some things that you can't get out of your mind, some things that you just can't reconcile within yourself.

This baby—and we have all seen this picture, or a good many of us have—crying, being separated from a parent—babies—at the border. I don't know the people. I know that they are part of the same race. I am a part of the human race. I know that I have a kinship and a relationship with them.

For our executive office to promulgate a policy, produce a policy that separates babies from their parents and not have a means by which they can be reunited is simply indefensible.

Babies separated from their parents and no means of reuniting them in place at the time you make this separation?

This is indelible in my mind. There are many other things to think about, some things that you just can't get out of your mind, some things that are indelible, some things that you can't get out of your heart.

I don't know them. I have never encountered them. I know that all of us have cried, and that we ought to be friendly with each other.

But he is going to be vindicated. Stay strong. People are going to say ugly things. He may even get threats. But stay strong, because he is on the right side of history.

More importantly, he is on the right side of righteousness. The right side of righteousness, what a great place to be.

Do not let the head convince you that the heart is wrong. The heart speaks to the soul, to your very being. The head speaks to those who would listen to you. Let your heart speak to you.

Madam Speaker, I pray that we, in this House, will do that which the Constitution and the Framers of the Constitution have given us the opportunity to do in a time such as this with a President such as Trump.

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.

ADDRESSING THE IMMIGRATION CRISIS

The Speaker pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2019, the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. GROTHMAN) is recognized for 50 seconds as the designee of the minority leader.

Mr. GROTHMAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to address what I think is the most pressing issue in America right now. But prior to addressing it, I yield to the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Ms. FOXX).

Ms. FOXX of North Carolina. Madam Speaker, I rise to congratulate Samaritan's Purse, an international Christian relief organization headquartered in Boone, North Carolina, on its expansion in North Wilkesboro.

This inspiring organization has been providing spiritual and physical aid to impoverished victims of war, disease, famine, and natural disaster since 1970.

The new North Wilkesboro Ministry Center will serve as a lifeline to remote missions in developing countries. It will house inventory from World Medical Mission, including lifesaving medical supplies and an emergency field hospital.

This expansion and the wide-reaching vision of Samaritan's Purse would not be possible without the hardworking and dedicated staff behind it. These great humanitarians are an honor to represent, and I know that they are wonderful ambassadors of North Carolina and the Fifth District around the world.

Ms. FOXX of North Carolina. Madam Speaker, I rise to congratulate North Wilkes Middle School and West Wilkes Middle School in North Carolina's Fifth District on their recent achievement of Lighthouse certification for implementing the Leader in Me program. Lighthouse certification is the highest recognition awarded by the FranklinCovey institute, and these are the first schools to receive this distinction in our State.

I commend the school's administration, faculty, and students for embracing the new paradigm of leadership and under-taking the comprehensive school improvement model put forth by the Leadership in Me program. The program aims to provide a holistic education that encompasses leadership, a culture of student empowerment, and academic achievement.

Congratulations to North Wilkes Middle School and West Wilkes Middle School for their demonstrated success. The high-achieving students are evidence of how effectively local leaders in Wilkes County foster positive results with innovation in education.

Mr. GROTHMAN. Madam Speaker, prior to addressing the immigration crisis, which is the biggest problem, I think, facing America today, after hearing a rather lengthy speech before mine, I was analyzing the well here and noticing the flag of the United States at that flag, I couldn't help but think about the Pledge of Allegiance.

The Pledge of Allegiance begins: "I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands."
I pondered why that Pledge of Allegiance refers to this country as a republic instead of a democracy of which it stands. I think it would be a good thing for the other Congressmen up here to think about that as well.

There have been several versions of the Pledge of Allegiance. In each one of the versions, while there are changes made, it refers to our country as a republic instead of a democracy. We should wonder why that is, and I think every American should read up on the difference.

Now, the reason I am here today is to discuss what I think is the biggest problem in the United States of America, the one thing we have to deal with in the immediate future and something that I believe does not grab the attention of Congress the way it should, and that is the immigration crisis.

One more time, another month will go by, and another 100,000 people will enter this country not at the designated points of entry. We believe another 10,000 people will enter at the points of entry and claim asylum, whether they actually need asylum or not.

No country can afford to have over 100,000 people pour into that country month after month without being appropriately vetted, stepping in line ahead of the people who are doing what is appropriate to become a citizen of the United States or appropriate to get a work visa in the United States.

Ultimately, this will destroy our country, and it is something that this Congress should be dealing with immediately.

I think it is a little embarrassing, hearing all the other speeches up here and no speeches about the immigration crisis.

I want to point out, neither I nor President Trump wants to reduce the 700,000 people who are sworn in as citizens of the United States every year, neither do I nor President Trump want to deport some people who already have orders to be deported.

The next thing I strongly think that this House should take up is sanctuary cities. First of all, it encourages people to come here illegally. If you come here illegally, knowing that if they have a child here, it will create a situation in which there is a good chance the rest of the family will follow.

The next thing I think we can do is put immigration judges on the border. Right now, people are showing up, and they are asking for asylum. They are given a court date 5 years down the line.

Well, who knows whether they will be around in 5 years. They probably will not show up for the court date at that time.

I strongly encourage President Trump to put judges on the border so we can immediately judge whether these people are entitled to asylum or not.

The next thing, along the same lines, I strongly encourage the Border Patrol to be trained to judge credible fear. By doing that, and by the people coming from other countries who claim they have a credible fear who do not meet that standard as far as coming to the United States, we know that people are being coached as to what to say to come into this country. By getting our Border Patrol trained to deal with these issues, we will not have so many people coming into the country illegally.

The next thing I strongly think that President Trump should do is he should have ICE round up the million people who already have orders to be deported. This should be a relatively simple matter. By deporting some people, it sends the message to people in other countries that the United States will take its immigration laws seriously.

Today, to a certain extent, because far too many politicians are encouraging things like sanctuary cities, getting rid of ICE, talking about giving public benefits to people who are here illegally, it is not surprising that people in other countries are getting the message that the United States does not treat its immigration laws seriously.

The next thing I think we ought to do is I hope President Trump expedites the rule in the Department of Homeland Security dealing with allowing for removal of people who are taking advantage of public assistance.

Obviously, the United States cannot become the welfare magnet for the entire Western Hemisphere. Everybody knows that, while it is frequently illegal, many people who are here illegally are taking advantage of public assistance, and we should expedite the legal ability to remove these people.

So I would like to take a pause here to congratulate Secretary Ben Carson for removing illegals from public housing. I will point out something a lot of people don’t know. Frequently, under Section 8 or, even under Section 42, the housing assistance they get from the government gives people housing that is superior to what many of the working people get. It is even more ridiculous when people who are here illegally get housing superior to what many of the native-born people in this country who rent are receiving.

So I would like to thank Secretary Carson for having the ability to step up and begin to take a stand on the idea that, if you come here illegally, you should get free or reduced housing.

The next thing I would like to see this House take up is sanctuary cities. I have introduced H.R. 516, which takes away grants from State and local units of government that become sanctuary cities.

There are a variety of problems with sanctuary cities. First of all, it encourages people to go to those cities to get some sort of welfare benefit.

Secondly, whenever a mayor or a Governor wants to declare their city or State a sanctuary city, it sends the message that the United States is not going to enforce its immigration laws.

Finally, I would like to take a pause here to say that if not for immigration, people will continue to flow into our country, and it will eventually be the end of the United States.

The next thing I want this body to do is pass H.R. 848, another bill of mine. The purpose of that bill is to increase the verification for compliance on any welfare benefits which people who are not in this country could be receiving. We are also saying that anybody who is a citizen of this country should not receive any public assistance, which should be common sense.

If you are coming here for an opportunity and you are not able to find a job, even if you are coming here legally, the answer is not to have the American taxpayer who is already $23 trillion in debt pick up the tab. The answer is, if you cannot find opportunity in this country, return to your country of origin.

Today, this body, which is spending so much time dealing with less important issues, takes up this bill in the near future.

Finally, I ask President Trump to continue to work towards the wall. I ask this Congress as we move appropriation bills out, to make sure that wall is funded.

I have been down on the border. I did not find any Border Patrol agents who were embarrassed to do their job or didn’t want to do their job. The Border Patrol agents that I talked to on the Arizona-Mexico border felt we desperately needed a wall. They realize...
that walls work in other countries, and they realize that in the long- or even in the short-term, walls would save us a lot of money.

Right now, different estimates vary between $5 billion, $10 billion a year is lost because of illegal immigration. Given the cost, the wall would be $23 trillion in debt, we need big cost savings.

In any event, those are suggestions of some of the things we can do to deal with this problem.

Think about it: 100,000 people coming here every month, people unvetted, people who may wind up on welfare, people who may wind up having a criminal record, and all coming here skipping ahead in line of those people who have sometimes waited 5 or 10 years to come here legally, which is incredibly unfair to them.

In any event, I hope Congress begins to act on these measures. I encourage President Trump to make border enforcement his number one priority over the next couple months, because we can see it. It is very difficult to remove any of these people once they come to this country.

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

WOMEN’S SUFFRAGE CENTENNIAL

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

Mr. HILL of Arkansas. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the historic vote taken exactly 100 years ago which is the progress of women’s right to vote.

The most powerful tool we have is to share our voice, cast our ballot, and exercise our right to vote. This momentous vote finally allowed women to use that tool and forever have a voice in the future of our beloved Nation.

Adolphine Fletcher Terry, a civic-minded woman from a prominent Little Rock family in the late 1800s and early 20th century, served her State and her country tirelessly to promote the education of women and women’s rights. Terry marched for voting rights for women during the ratification process in 1920, saying: “To me, the vote represents more than just saying how a person feels about an issue or a candidate. It represents human dignity and the fact that a citizen can express his or her opinion on any subject without fear of reprisal. That, I think, is what real human dignity consists of.”

In advance of the final State’s ratification vote in Tennessee, both suffragists and anti-suffragists began wearing roses to identify their respective sides. Tennessee’s voters who supported women’s suffrage wore yellow roses; those against wore red roses. I proudly, today, have worn a yellow rose on my lapel throughout today’s activities to show my support of women’s right to vote.

What a thrill it is and a proud thing to say, thank you, Madam Speaker, for your service.

FENTANYL SANCTIONS

Mr. HILL of Arkansas. Madam Speaker, today I rise today to recognize the tireless and dedicated efforts Madam Speaker, today I rise today to recognize the tireless and dedicated efforts of those who have been affected by the opioid crisis and how it has claimed the lives of their loved ones. We can’t allow more families to be destroyed by this truly national nightmare.

Furthermore, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention have reported that fentanyl is now considered the number one U.S. opioid killer in 2018. Targeting the source of the world’s largest producers and distributors of fentanyl will begin to stop the flow of these drugs coming across our borders and onto our streets.

Madam Speaker, in just one Sweet’N Low packet, about a gram, an equal amount of fentanyl has the power to kill 500 of our citizens. That is why I am pleased to support the bipartisan legislation that I recently helped introduce, H.R. 2483, the Fentanyl Sanctions Act. This takes the necessary steps to target the bad actors responsible for illegally trafficking fentanyl into the United States.

I applaud my colleagues Max Rose of New York, Anthony Brindisi of New York, and Brian Fitzpatrick of Pennsylvania for their support in introducing H.R. 2483.

This legislation is the first ever fentanyl sanctions effort by the House of Representatives. It will apply pressure on the Chinese Government to honor their commitment to make all fentanyl illegal in China. This bill will also provide the United States with more tools and resources to go after illicit traffickers in China, Mexico, and other countries.

H.R. 2483 has support from both parties and both Chambers, and we need to act now in order to get this done. We cannot wait any longer.

ASSOCIATION OF MILITARY BANKS OF AMERICA 70TH ANNIVERSARY

Mr. HILL of Arkansas. Madam Speaker, today I rise to congratulate the 60th anniversary of the Association of Military Banks of America.

Just as they did back in 1959, military banks today consider themselves privileged to provide financial services, support, and education to the military and veteran communities across this country.

I am particularly proud that First Arkansas Bank and Trust, which serves our women and women at Little Rock Air Force Base, is one of these military banks.

On base, financial institutions have the unique opportunity to provide support and education to the military and stress faced by our troops and their families so that they can focus on their mission of protecting our great Nation.

Congratulations on 60 years of serving the financial needs of our Nation’s heroes.

COURT SECURITY OFFICER OF THE YEAR, JIMMY HOWINGTON

Mr. HILL of Arkansas. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the tireless and dedicated efforts of a security officer who continues to have an indelible impact on my State of Arkansas, Mr. Jimmy Howington, who this year was the Court Security Officer of the Year.

Jimmy is one of 33 court security officers in Arkansas and serves under the jurisdiction of the Eighth U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals.

He was chosen for the award from roughly 600 court security officers working in 30 courthouses in the seven States within the Eighth Circuit’s jurisdiction.

Jimmy was recommended for this honor for noticing and investigating two suspicious situations on courthouse property during a period of several bomb threats at Little Rock’s Richard Sheppard Arnold U.S. Courthouse, where he has worked since 2016.

A former state trooper and sergeant major in the United States Marine Corps Reserve, Jimmy’s life of service makes him well deserving of this award.

I would like to extend a hand of gratitude and congratulations to him for his selfless service to Arkansas and our Nation.

BRIGADIER GENERAL PAUL ROWLETT

Mr. HILL of Arkansas. Madam Speaker, today I rise today to honor the accomplishments and to congratulate Brigadier General Paul Rowlett, who recently was promoted to brigadier general of the Arkansas Air National Guard.

Rowlett is a native of Salem, Arkansas, and as a brigadier general will serve as the chief of staff for the Arkansas Air National Guard. He joined the military in 1988 and is currently an intelligence officer with the National Guard and works with remote-piloted aircraft. His duties include strategic planning on current and future missions.

Rowlett has been assigned to Active-Duty positions throughout his career, including locations such as Guantánamo Bay, and recently he has been assigned to Little Rock Air Force Base for the majority of the time since 2001. He has become one of only three general officers in Arkansas.

My congratulations and best wishes for Brigadier General Rowlett and his bright future defending our beloved Nation.

NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE SYSTEM EMPLOYEE OF THE YEAR

Mr. HILL of Arkansas. Madam Speaker, today I rise today to recognize Eric Johnson of the Central Arkansas National Wildlife Refuge Complex for being named the National Wildlife Refuge System Employee of the Year by the National Wildlife Refuge Association.
Eric is an administrative forester that is in charge of restoring and managing some 90,000 acres of forested habitat for waterfowl and migratory birds in the lower Mississippi Valley.

While protecting this extensive acreage, he developed the Nation’s first Spatial Habitat Management Plan. This plan will serve as a new national standard for refuge systems and protect all of Arkansas’ five refuges, including Bald Knob’s Wildlife Refuge in my district.

His service to the State of Arkansas and to wildlife conservation will not be forgotten, and I join all Arkansans in congratulating Eric on this recognition and wish him much continued success.

U.S. POLICY IN SYRIA

Mr. HILL of Arkansas. Madam Speaker, I rise today to speak out against the daily atrocities in Syria.

Few would have predicted that 8 years ago peaceful protests would turn into violent conflict that has left more than half a million men, women, and children dead, millions more displaced, and the entire region feeling like a lit fuse ready to explode into further conflict.

Shortly after coming to Congress, I met Mouaz Moustafa, a young Syrian American from Arkansas who has been leading a Syrian pro-democracy group here in Washington called the Syrian Emergency Task Force.

After meeting Mouaz, I studied his efforts and learned more and more about the horrific events happening in Syria over the past few years.

Mouaz led me through the Caesar file photos in a special exhibit at the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum. Earlier this year, he introduced me to Omar Alishore, who was arrested as a teenager and survived the torture, starvation, and other brutalities in Assad’s prisons for more than 3 years. Seeing those photos and hearing Omar’s personal testimony were powerful experiences.

I believe what is happening in Syria today is a modern-day holocaust, and our obligation to end Assad’s reign of terror is something that all Americans must confront.

I am grateful for The New York Times and its recent extensive front-page story in last Sunday’s newspaper, going inside Assad’s torture prisons.

Madam Speaker, I include in the RECORD a link to this article: www.nytimes.com/2019/05/11/world/middleeast/syria-torture-prisons.html

Madam Speaker, it is the experiences shared by former prisoners like Omar that remind us of the likes of Hitler, Mao, and Stalin. Bashar al-Assad can add his name to this list of barbarous thugs who rule with evil, torture, and mass murder.

We have known about these atrocities for years but have only expressed outrage while we twiddled our thumbs as these modern-day Hitlers annihilate the civilian population in Syria.

I commend Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, for passing S. 1, the Strengthening America’s Security in the Middle East Act.

Last week, many of us, including myself, signed the discharge petition for the companion legislation to S. 1 here in the House, H.R. 336 sponsored by Mike McCaul from Texas. This legislation includes the Caesar Syria Civilian Protection Act, which has critical provisions to hold Assad accountable for his atrocities.

As Speaker Pelosi well knows, this House, under Republican leadership, has passed the Caesar bill three times over the last three Congresses, only to have it bogged down in the Senate.

Now Leader McConnell has acted, and we, in the House, must now act with expedition and pass H.R. 336 to end this step back into darkness, to stop the torture and the murder of thousands, and to move to convict Assad and his henchmen for war crimes.

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

PUBLICATION OF BUDGETARY MATERIAL

REVISION TO THE AGGREGATES, ALLOCATIONS, AND OTHER BUDGETARY LEVELS FOR FISCAL YEAR 2020

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, COMMITTEE ON THE BUDGET, WASHINGTON, DC, MAY 21, 2019.

MADAM SPEAKER: Pursuant to the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 (CBA) and H. Res. 293 (116th Congress), I hereby submit for printing in the Congressional Record a revision to the aggregates and allocations set forth in the Statement of Aggregates, Allocations, and Other Budgetary Levels for Fiscal Year 2020 published in the Congressional Record on May 3, 2019, as adjusted.

This adjustment responds to House consideration of H.R. 1500, as amended, the Consumer Protection, Apartment Rent Stabilization, and Other Aggs Act of 2019, as amended, the Consumer First Act (H.R. 1500), as amended, the Consumer Credit Protection Act, and other budgetary measures that would affect these aggregates and allocations set forth in the Statement of Aggregates, Allocations, and Other Budgetary Levels for Fiscal Year 2020 published in the Congressional Record on May 3, 2019, as adjusted.

This adjustment responds to House consideration of H.R. 1500, as amended, which includes provisions to strengthen our financial services sector, the CBA, and other budgetary enforcement provisions, the revised aggregates and allocations are to be considered as aggregates and allocations included in the budget resolution.

As Speaker Pelosi well knows, this House, under Republican leadership, has passed the Caesar bill three times over the last three Congresses, only to have it bogged down in the Senate.

Now Leader McConnell has acted, and we, in the House, must now act with expedition and pass H.R. 336 to end this step back into darkness, to stop the torture and the murder of thousands, and to move to convict Assad and his henchmen for war crimes.

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

SENIOR BILL REFERRED

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

S. 163. An act to prevent catastrophic failure or shutdown of remote diesel power engines due to emission control devices, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

BILL PRESENTED TO THE PRESIDENT

Cheryl L. Johnson, Clerk of the House, reported that on May 20, 2019, she presented to the President of the United States, for his approval, the following bill:

H.R. 2379. To reauthorize the Bulletproof Vest Partnership Grant Program.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. HILL of Arkansas. Madam Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 7 o’clock and 16 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until tomorrow, Wednesday, May 22, 2019, at 10 a.m. for morning-hour debate.
EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

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

1060. A letter from the General Counsel, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule — Hydroelectric Licensing Regulations Under the America's Water Infrastructure Act of 2018 (Docket No.: RM19-6-000; Order No. 858) received May 20, 2019, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

1061. A letter from the Director, Office of Financial Management, United States Capitol Police, transmitting the Statement of Disbursements for the United States Capitol Police for the period of October 1, 2018 through March 31, 2019, pursuant to 2 U.S.C. 1910(a); Public Law 109-55, Sec. 1005; (110 Stat. 575) (H. Doc. No. 116-37); to the Committee on House Administration and ordered to be printed.

1062. A letter from the Deputy Assistant Administrator for Regulatory Programs, NMFS, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Magnuson-Stevens Act Provisions; Fisheries Off West Coast States; Pacific Coast Groundfish Fishery; Pacific Whiting; Pacific Coast Groundfish Fishery Management Plan; Amendment 21 [Docket No.: 170627602-7999-02] (RIN: 0648-BG38) received May 20, 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.

1063. A letter from the Deputy Assistant Administrator for Regulatory Programs, NMFS, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's interim final rule — Magnuson-Stevens Act Provisions; Fisheries of the Northeastern United States; Northeast Multispecies Fishery; Disapproval of Northeast Fishery Sector IX Operational Plan [Docket No.: 170624016-7999-03] (RIN: 0648-XF138) received May 20, 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.

1064. A letter from the Deputy Assistant Administrator for Regulatory Programs, NMFS, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Magnuson-Stevens Act Provisions; Fisheries Off West Coast States; Pacific Coast Groundfish Fishery; Widow Rockfish Reallocation in the Individual Fishing Quota Fishery [Docket No.: 150506255-7850-01] (RIN: 0648-BF67) received May 20, 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.

1065. A letter from the Deputy Assistant Administrator for Regulatory Programs, NMFS, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Revisions to Framework Adjustment 56 to the Northeast Multispecies Fishery Management Plan [Docket No.: 17099197-7999-02] received May 20, 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.

1066. A letter from the Deputy Assistant Administrator for Regulatory Programs, NMFS, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Fishery of the South Atlantic Region; Amendment 36 [Docket No.: 161020966-7552-02] (RIN: 0648-BG38) received May 20, 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.

1067. A letter from the Deputy Assistant Administrator for Regulatory Programs, NMFS, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Fishery of the Southeastern United States; Individual Bluefin Quota Program; Atlantic Swordfish Quotas, and 2017 Atlantic Bluefin Tuna Reserve Category Quota [Docket No.: 170825773-6999-02] (RIN: 0648-BG36) received May 20, 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.

1068. A letter from the Deputy Assistant Administrator for Regulatory Programs, NMFS, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Fisheries of the Caribbean, Gulf of Mexico, and South Atlantic; Snapper-Groupers; Horsefish; and Other Specified Species in the Gulf of Mexico and Atlantic Region; Framework Amendment 4 [Docket No.: 161020969-7146-01] (RIN: 0648-BG43) received May 20, 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.

1069. A letter from the Deputy Assistant Administrator for Regulatory Programs, NMFS, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Fishery of the South Atlantic Region; Change to Pacific Mackerel Management Cycle From Annual to Biennial [Docket No.: 160614524-7624-02] (RIN: 0648-BF96) received May 20, 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.

1070. A letter from the Deputy Assistant Administrator for Regulatory Programs, NMFS, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Fishery of the Southeastern United States; Mid-Atlantic Unmanaged Forage Omnibus Amendment [Docket No.: 161025999-7662-02] (RIN: 0648-BG42) received May 20, 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.

1071. A letter from the Deputy Assistant Administrator for Regulatory Programs, NMFS, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Fishery of the Northern United States; Atlantic Highly Migratory Species; Individual Bluefin Quota Program; Inseason Transfers; Correction [Docket No.: 150524773-6999-02] (RIN: 0648-BG09) received May 20, 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.

1072. A letter from the Deputy Assistant Administrator for Regulatory Programs, NMFS, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Fishery of the South Atlantic Region; America's Water Infrastructure Act of 2018 [Docket No.: 170627602-7999-02] (RIN: 0648-BG38) received May 20, 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.
REPORTS OF COMMITTEES ON PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XIII, reports of committees were delivered to the Clerk for printing and reference to the proper calendar, as follows:

By Mr. TAKANO: Committee on Veterans’ Affairs.

H.R. 2858. A bill to support endemic fungal disease research, incentivize fungal vaccine development, discover new antifungal therapies and diagnostics, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

H.R. 2861. A bill to improve transparency regarding transfers of the American Red Cross, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Mr. SCHRIER (for herself, Mr. BURGESS, Mr. ENGEL, Mr. GUTHRIE, Mr. SCHRADE, and Mr. BILIRAKIS):

H.R. 2862. A bill to amend the Public Health Service Act for a national system for surveillance of vaccine rates, to authorize research on vaccine hesitancy, to increase public understanding of the benefits of immunization of a minor qualify disty explicit conduct, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. GRIJALVA (for himself, Mr. SCHWEIKERT, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Mr. COHEN, Mr. CONNOLLY, Mr. DEFAZZI, Mr. ENGEL, Ms. JAYAPAL, Ms. LEE of California, Mr. LOWENSTAL, Mr. SEAN PATRICK MALONEY of New York, Mr. McGovern, Mr. ROUDENBURG of New Hampshire, Ms. NORTON, Miss RICE of New York, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, and Ms. MENG):

H.R. 2863. A bill to amend the Animal Welfare Act to restrict the use of exotic and wild animals in traveling performances; to the Committee on Agriculture.

By Mr. BLUMENAUER:

H.R. 2864. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to increase the excise tax on gasoline and diesel fuels; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. CARDENAS (for himself, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Ms. NORTON, Mrs. WATSON of Florida, Ms. COHEN, Ms. HORNE, Mrs. DEMINGS, Ms. MOORE, Mr. JOHN- son of Georgia, and Mr. TRONE):

H.R. 2865. A bill to establish a grant program to incentivize States to reduce prison populations, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. CUNNINGHAM (for himself and Mr. RUSH):

H.R. 2866. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to authorize the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to enter into grants or cooperative agreements with nonprofit corporations established under subchapter IV of chapter 73 of such title from certain provisions of the Economy Act (Rept. 116-76, Pt. II).

By Ms. DELAURO (for herself, Mr. COURTNEY, Mr. LARSON of Connecticut, Mr. HENNES of Illinois, Ms. LEE of California, Mr. RUSH, Ms. MENG, Mr. LIVIN of Michigan, Mrs. HAYES, Ms. DEAN, Mr. MURAKAMI of Hawaii, Ms. BRUCE, Mr. GROSSWALD of Maryland, Mr. LUGAR, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, and Mr. THOMPSON of California):

H.R. 2867. A bill to amend chapter 14 of title 10, United States Code, to require the safe storage of firearms, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. DEUTCH:

H.R. 2868. A bill to incentivize States and localities to improve access to justice, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. DUFFY (for himself and Ms. GABRIEL):

H.R. 2869. A bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to expand and rename the Troop-to-Teachers Program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. FOSTER:

H.R. 2870. A bill to repeal the debt ceiling, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. PULCHER:

H.R. 2871. A bill to provide flexibility to allow greater aquifer recharge, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Ms. GARCIA of Texas:

H.R. 2872. A bill to direct the Secretary of Labor to revise regulations concerning the recording and reporting of occupational injuries and illnesses under the Occupational Safety and Health Act of 1970; to the Committee on Education and Labor.

H.R. 2873. A bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to criminalize the knowing consent of the visual depiction, or live transmission of materials disty explicit conduct, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. KENNEDY (for himself, Mr. TUCKER, Mr. F. DOYLE of Pennsylvania, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Mr. ENGEL, Mr. SOTO, Ms. CARDENAS, Mrs. DINGELL, Ms. CASTOR of Florida, Ms. PRESS, Mr. CHOW, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, and Mr. DESAULNIER):

H.R. 2874. A bill to strengthen parity in mental health and substance use disorder benefits; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committees on Ways and Means, and Education and Labor, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. SEAN PATRICK MALONEY of New York:

H.R. 2875. A bill to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to provide for a national program for recording and reporting on crime and harm that occurs during student participation in programs of study abroad, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and Labor.

By Mr. SEAN PATRICK MALONEY of New York:

H.R. 2876. A bill to direct the Secretary of State to make available to the Director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention copies of consular reports of death of United States citizens, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, and in addition to the Committee on 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. NEAL:

H.R. 2877. A bill to add Ireland to the E-3 nonimmigrant visa program; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Ms. PORTER (for herself, Mr. SMITH of Nebraska, Mr. LARSON of Connecticut, and Mrs. WALORSKI):

H.R. 2878. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide further tax incentives for dependent care assistance; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Ms. SCHRIER (for herself, and Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania):

H.R. 2879. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide further tax incentives for dependent care assistance; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Ms. SHERRILL (for herself and Mr. COE):

H.R. 2880. A bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to provide degree granting authority for the United States Army Arma- ment Graduate School to other purposes; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Ms. SPANBERGER (for herself, Ms. STEFANIK, Ms. SLOTKIN, Mr. ROONEY of Florida, Mr. O’HALLERAN, and Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana):

H.R. 2881. A bill to require the President to develop a strategy to ensure the security of next generation mobile telecommunications systems and infrastructure in the United States and to assist allies and strategic partners in maximizing the security of next generation mobile telecommunications systems, infrastructure, and software, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.
Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on 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 Ms. VELAZQUEZ:
H.R. 2842. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 and the Small Business Act to reduce costs for certain businesses required to relocate from a Superfund site, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on Ways and Means, and in addition to the Committee on Small Business, 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. WALORSKI:
H.R. 2852. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to allow chiropractors to provide items and services through private contracts with Medicare beneficiaries; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. WITTMAN:
H.R. 2854. A bill to improve the provision of health care by the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. WITTMAN:
H.R. 2855. A bill to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to carry out a pilot program to promote and encourage collaboration between the Department of Veterans Affairs and nonprofit organizations and institutions of higher learning that provide administrative assistance to veterans; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. WITTMAN:
H.R. 2856. A bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to include nonprofit and for-profit hospitals, which are teaching hospitals, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. WITTMAN:
H.R. 2857. A bill to amend the Constitution, which recites that Congress has the power to regulate commerce among the several states, also allows Congress to prevent or prohibit federal interference with Americans' ability to slaughter and process meat. This act is enacted pursuant to the following: Article I, Section 8.

By Mr. WITTMAN:
H.R. 2858. A bill to amend the Constitution, which recites that Congress shall have the power to provide for the common defense and general welfare of the United States. This act is enacted pursuant to the following: Article I, Section 8.

By Mr. WITTMAN:
H.R. 2859. A bill to amend the Constitution, which recites that the United States Congress shall have 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 in any Department or Officer thereof. This act is enacted pursuant to the following: Article I, Sections 8 and 9.

By Mr. MCCARTHY:
H.R. 2860. A bill to provide the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following: Article I, Section 8 of the Constitution of the United States.

By Mr. MASSE:
H.R. 2861. A bill to provide the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following: Article I, Section 8.

By Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi:
H.R. 2862. A bill to provide the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following: Article I, Section 8.

By Ms. SCHRIER:
H.R. 2863. A bill to provide the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following: Article I, Section 8.

By Mr. BLUMENTHAL:
H.R. 2864. A bill to provide the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following: Article I, Section 8.

MEMORIALS
Under clause 3 of rule XII, 57. The SPEAKER presented a memorial of the General Assembly of the State of Colorado, relative to Senate Joint Resolution 19-003, recognizing the bravery and sacrifice of the crew of the U.S.S. Pueblo on the fifty-first anniversary of its capture, which was referred jointly to the Committees on Armed Services and Foreign Affairs.

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. HUDSON: H.R. 2865. Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following: Article I, Section 8.

By Mr. LIPINSKI: H.R. 2867. Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following: Article I, Section 8, Clause 18.

By Mr. DeSaulnier: H.R. 2868. Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following: Article I, Section 8 of the Constitution of the United States.

By Mr. BLUMENTHAL: H.R. 2864. Congress has the power to make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers.

By Ms. DeLAURO: H.R. 2867.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Section 1. Article 1

By Mr. DEUTCH:

H.R. 2969.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

 Clause 1 of Article I of the U.S. Constitution and Clause 18 of Section 8 of Article I of the U.S. Constitution.

By Mr. DUFFY:

H.R. 2969.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

The constitutional authority on which this bill rests is the power of Congress to make rules for the government and regulation of the land and naval forces, as enumerated in Article I, Section 8, Clause 14 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. FOSTER:

H.R. 2970.

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 and 18 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. FULCHER:

H.R. 2971.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 18 of the Constitution.

By Ms. GARCIA of Texas:

H.R. 2972.

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. JOHNSON of Louisiana:

H.R. 2973.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8—provide for the general welfare and to regulate commerce among the states.

By Mr. SEAN PATRICK MALONEY of New York:

H.R. 2975.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8

By Mr. NEAL:

H.R. 2976.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8

By Mr. SEAN PATRICK MALONEY of New York:

H.R. 2976.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8

By Mr. NEAL:

H.R. 2977.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8 of the U.S. Constitution.

By Mr. PORTER:

H.R. 2978.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 1. The Congress shall have Power to lay and collect Taxes, Duties, Imposts and Excises, to pay the Debts and provide for the common Defence and general Welfare of the United States; but all Duties, Imposts and Excises shall be uniform throughout the United States. 16th Amendment: 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 Ms. SANCHEZ:

H.R. 2979.
H.R. 1379: Mr. JOHNSON of Kansas, Mr. MEES, Mr. KING of New York, and Ms. NORTON.
H.R. 2153: Mr. GUTHRIE and Mr. TONKO.
H.R. 2156: Ms. DEAN.
H.R. 2141: Ms. CLARKE of New York.
H.R. 2178: Mr. KIM, Ms. MENG, Mr. RESCHENTHALER, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, and Mrs. MENG.

H.R. 2203: Mr. Johnson of South Dakota.
H.R. 2207: Mrs. TRAHAN.
H.R. 2208: Mr. STAUBER.
H.R. 2209: Mr. TONKO.
H.R. 2218: Ms. Davids of Kansas and Mr. Collins of New York.
H.R. 2249: Mr. NOMACK.
H.R. 2258: Mr. NEWTON.
H.R. 2261: Mr. Johnson of Georgia.
H.R. 2271: Mr. HASTINGS and Ms. ROYBAL-ALDAI.
H.R. 2283: Mr. Smith of New Jersey.
H.R. 2294: Mr. BERGMAN.
H.R. 2315: Ms. LURIA.
H.R. 2363: Mr. Johnson of New Hampshire.
H.R. 2384: Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois.
H.R. 2397: Mr. FITZPATRICK, Mr. RYAN, Mr. TONKO, Mr. COPE of Illinois, Mr. CHRYSTAL of Pennsylvania, Mr. SMITH of New Jersey, Mr. LYNCH, and Mr. Collins of New York.
H.R. 2397: Mr. FITZPATRICK, Mr. RYAN, Mr. TONKO, Mr. COPE of Illinois, Mr. CHRYSTAL of Pennsylvania, Mr. SMITH of New Jersey, Mr. LYNCH, and Mr. Collins of New York.
H.R. 2397: Mr. FITZPATRICK, Mr. RYAN, Mr. TONKO, Mr. COPE of Illinois, Mr. CHRYSTAL of Pennsylvania, Mr. SMITH of New Jersey, Mr. LYNCH, and Mr. Collins of New York.

H.R. 2448: Ms. BENJAMIN.
H.R. 2451: Ms. ROYBAL-CASTRO.
H.R. 2454: Ms. BYRON.
H.R. 2466: Mrs. AXNE, Mrs. CRAIG, Mr. FOSTER, Mr. LEMS, and Mr. LYNCH.

H.R. 2462: Mr. Gonzalez of Ohio, Mr. ESPAIIALT, Ms. BONAMICI, and Mr. MOULTON.
H.R. 2466: Mrs. AXNE, Mrs. CRAIG, Mr. FOSTER, Mr. HAGEDORN, Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHI, Mr. LAWSON of Florida, Mrs. LURIA, Mr. MORELLE, Mr. NORTON, Mr. RASKIN, Mr. RESCHENTHALER, Ms. STEVENS, Mrs. TRAHAN, Mr. WATKINS, and Ms. WILD.
H.R. 2474: Mr. BLUMENAUER, Mr. VAN DREW, Ms. MCGOVERN of California, and Mr. VARGAS.
H.R. 2481: Ms. STEVENS, Ms. PORTER, Ms. UNDERWOOD, Ms. SCHRIER, Mr. KIM, Mr. LARSON of Connecticut, Miss Rice of New York, Ms. MENG, Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts, Mr. RISS, Mrs. BEATTY, and Mr. DEFAZO.
H.R. 2483: Mr. SEAN PATRICK MALONEY of New York, Mr. ROUTA, and Ms. SHERRITT.
H.R. 2498: Mr. MCCINTOCK.
H.R. 2505: Mr. MOONEY of West Virginia.
H.R. 2506: Mr. TRICE.
H.R. 2517: Ms. SUOZZI.
H.R. 2542: Ms. DAVIDS of Kansas.
H.R. 2598: Mr. WALBERG.
H.R. 2681: Mr. E. MICHAEL F. DOYLE of Pennsylvania, Mr. KINZINGER, and Mr. GALLEGO.
H.R. 2694: Mr. JEFFRIES.

H.R. 2749: Mr. ROUZER.

H.R. 2808: Mr. KATKO.
H.R. 2814: Mr. الصحابة الإسبانيين.
H.R. 2820: Ms. BRISON.
H.R. 2834: Mr. TRONK and Mr. SEAN PATRICK MALONEY of New York.
H.R. 2849: Mr. ROCHESTER Felder and Mr. SHEERRIT.
H.R. 2850: Mr. REED.
H.R. 2852: Mr. KRISTOFSKY.
H.R. 2884: Ms. CLARKE of New York.
H.R. 2909: Mr. BOST, Mr. ABRAHAM, and Mr. MUTH.
H.R. 2915: Mr. BOST, Mr. ABRAHAM, and Mr. STAUBER.
H.R. 2923: Mr. FLORES, Mr. WALBERG, and Mr. WILSON of South Carolina.
H.R. 2933: Mr. SUEZ.
H.R. 2957: Ms. KUSTER of New Hampshire.
H.R. 2961: Mr. Wilson of South Carolina and Mr. BRYER.
H.R. 2963: Ms. SCHAKOWSKY.
H.R. 2967: Mr. OSMAN of Texas.
H.R. 2968: Mr. DEFAZO.
H.R. 2969: Ms. JACKSON LEE.
H.R. 2970: Ms. WILSON of Florida and Mr. WRIGHT.
H.R. 2973: Ms. HAALAND, Mr. BROWNING, and Mr. VELAZQUEZ.

H.R. 2977: Mr. HASTINGS.
H.R. 2996: Mrs. BROWN of California.
H.R. 3005: Mr. MCCLINTOCK.
H.R. 3015: Mr. McGovern.
H.R. 3026: Mr. PENCE, Mr. LOUDERMILK, Mr. ROY, and Mr. SMITH of New Jersey.
H.R. 3025: Mr. BALDERSON, Mr. PAPPAS, and Mr. AMODEI.
H.R. 3036: Ms. FITZGERALD.
H.R. 3036: Ms. FITZGERALD.
H.R. 3046: Mr. MILER, Mr. BASS, Mr. GONZALEZ of Texas, Mr. GALLAGHER, Mr. SWALWELL of California, Mr. COHEN, Ms. MENG, Mr. NEAL, Mr. MEADOWS, Mr. LEES, Mr. FITZPATRICK, Mr. RASKIN, Mr. SHEAR, Mr. McCOY, Mr. WILSON of South Carolina, and Mr. COLE.

H.R. 3036: Mr. HICKS, Mr. MURPHY, Mr. SCHOFIELD, Mr. CRENSHAW, and Mr. WEBER of Texas.

PETITIONS, ETC.
Under clause 3 of rule XII.
20. The SPEAKER presented a petition of the City Council of Prince George’s County,
MD, relative to Council Resolution-13-2019, expressing the Council's strong opposition to the federally proposed roll back of federal protections under the Clean Water Act; which was referred to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.
The Senate met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable Cindy Hyde-Smith, a Senator from the State of Mississippi.

PRAYER
The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.
Almighty God, we are grateful for life and all of its gifts. Thank You for the beauty of the Earth, for the majesty of the skies, and for the wonder of Your love and grace.

Draw near to our lawmakers as they seek to see You more clearly, love You more dearly, and follow You more nearly each day. Lord, let the light of Your understanding illuminate the path they travel. Teach them to trust Your precepts and to obey Your commands, permitting You to guide them with Your wisdom and might. When this day is done, may they look back with the realization that they have been loving and kind, generous and faithful, joyful and good.

We pray in Your strong Name. 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 from the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mr. Grassley).

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the following letter:


To the Senate:
Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable Cindy Hyde-Smith, a Senator from the State of Mississippi, to perform the duties of the Chair:

Chuck Grassley, President pro tempore.

Mrs. Hyde-Smith thereupon assumed the Chair as Acting President pro tempore.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER
The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader is recognized.

GOLD STAR FAMILY TAX RELIEF ACT

Mr. McConnell. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Finance be discharged from further consideration of S. 1370 and the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 1370) to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to treat certain military survivor benefits as earned income for purposes of the kiddie tax.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Is there objection to proceeding to the measure?

There being no objection, the committee was discharged, and the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. McConnell. I ask unanimous consent that the bill be read a third time and passed and the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The bill (S. 1370) was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, was read the third time, and passed, as follows:

S. 1370

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 “Gold Star Family Tax Relief Act.”

SEC. 2. CERTAIN MILITARY SURVIVOR BENEFITS TREATED AS EARNED INCOME FOR KIDDIE TAX
(a) In General.—Section 1(g)(4) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended by adding at the end the following new subparagraph:

“(d) TREATMENT OF CERTAIN MILITARY SURVIVOR BENEFITS.—For purposes of this subsection, any benefit under laws administered by the Secretary of Defense or the Secretary of Veterans Affairs which—

“(i) is received by a child by reason of the child being the survivor of a deceased member of the Armed Forces or of a deceased veteran, and

“(ii) is included in the gross income of such child, shall be considered earned income of such child.”

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by this section shall apply to taxable years beginning after December 31, 2017.

Mr. McConnell. I further ask that the papers be held at the desk; that if the House passes a bill identical to the text of S. 1370 just passed by the Senate, the bill be considered read a third time and passed and the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate; finally, that upon passage of the House bill, S. 1370 be indefinitely postponed.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

NOMINATIONS

Mr. McConnell. Madam President, this week presents us with more opportunities to make progress on the backlog of qualified nominees who are still awaiting Senate confirmation.

We began yesterday by voting to advance an exceptionally well-qualified nominee to the Federal judiciary. Daniel P. Collins of California was chosen by President Trump to be U.S. circuit court judge for the Ninth Circuit, and the reasons why are abundantly clear.

This “bullet” symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.
Mr. Collins is a graduate of Harvard and of Stanford Law School. He has held clerkships on both the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals and the U.S. Supreme Court for Justice Scalia. He served at the Department of Justice as Associate Deputy Attorney General and as Attorney-Advisor in the Office of Legal Counsel. He spent 4 years as an assistant U.S. attorney. He has complemented that experience with more than 20 years of well-regarded work in private practice.

Mr. Collins has developed a reputation for legal excellence. The American Bar Association rates him well qualified for this new post. Our colleagues on the Judiciary Committee reported him favorably here to the floor.

I hope my colleagues will join me as we vote later today to confirm this fine nominee.

Following the Collins nomination, we will consider four more nominations to district courts around our Nation: Howard Nielson of Utah, Stephen Clark of Missouri, Carl Nichols of the District of Columbia, and Kenneth Bell of North Carolina. Each has been tapped by the President to fill important vacancies. Collectively, they represent decades of experience in private practice and decades more in public service, and they come before us with the high esteem of their legal peers.

‘Take the case of Mr. Nielson, whose nomination we will consider first. Former Justice Mike Luttig, for whom he served as law clerk, said: “Howard Nielson may well be the single most qualified person to serve on the federal bench that I have ever had the privilege to know.”

It would be hard to come up with a more unequivocal endorsement, so I hope each of my colleagues will join me in support of Mr. Nielson, along with each of the nominees who will follow him today.

I have noticed that a few of my colleagues across the aisle have expressed some displeasure that the Senate has recently been spending some time on nominations. I would remind our friends on the other side that not so long ago, thoroughly qualified district judge nominees were the kinds of nominations that would sail through the Senate floor by voice vote and in big groups.

Since this particular President was inaugurated in 2017, this Democratic minority has largely taken a different view. They have chosen to deploy an across-the-board delaying tactics. The effect has been the need for cloture votes and individual consideration for all kinds of uncontroversial nominations, where it had been a tradition in the Senate in the past. So more than 2 years into this consideration, we are left with too many vacancies still unfilled and a backlog of qualified nominees who need consideration.

Confirming unobjectionable individuals continues to take more of the Senate’s time than it should, but this obstruction is not going to deter us. We will be here as long as it takes. We will keep confirming highly qualified nominees to the Federal bench. We will keep putting the President’s team in place and giving Americans the government they actually voted for.

DISASTER RELIEF

Mr. McCONNELL. Madam President, on another order of business today, as I have discussed many times on the floor, powerful natural disasters have devastated communities across America. Many are still in need of aid as they struggle to rebuild.

My colleagues know all too well the destruction that was brought to our States across the Southeast, the gulf coast, and Puerto Rico by a bad hurricane season: tens of billions of dollars in damage to buildings and infrastructure and thousands of people left without shelter or access to clean water and electricity.

We remember the record wildfires that swept across our western regions, the tornadoes that tore through the Deep South, and the rampant flooding that sank entire communities across the Midwest and affected many of my fellow Kentuckians as well.

We have seen the pain caused by nature’s worst. Now it is time for Congress to finally—finally—demonstrate our commitment to America’s best. It is time to deliver supplemental resources for the rebuilding efforts that, in many cases, have been inching—just inching—along for months. It is time to deliver those resources to the volunteers, the families and the families still picking up the pieces that we have their backs.

In recent days, important progress has been made to deliver on this overdue commitment. Chairman SHELBY, Ranking Member LEAHY, our colleagues on the Appropriations Committee, and their counterparts over in the House are continuing their hard work to reach a bipartisan solution that meets the most pressing needs of all of these affected communities. That includes promising steps toward bipartisan agreement to deliver critical resources to address the ongoing humanitarian crisis at our southern border.

The status quo is completely—completely—dysfunctional, so I am glad the agreement seems to be converging on more resources.

I expect to discuss our progress in greater detail as the week unfolds, but it is important to note that in both parties and in both Chambers we will finally—finally—be able to reach a meaningful consensus that can become law and deliver on the priorities of communities that are in need all across our country.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded with the call. The clerk called, and now one body with the power to overturn it.

Just last week, Republicans confirmed Wendy Vitter, who said Planned Parenthood could not deliver on this over-
Parenthood kills 150,000 a year and once pushed the idea that contraceptives cause cancer.

We have more coming down the pipeline. Soon the Senate may consider the nomination of Stephen Clark, who belonged to an organization called Law and Order for Life. If approved, Roe v. Wade to the Dred Scott case.

So Republicans are playing a cynical long game here. They refuse to comment on the anti-abortion bills but are content to install anti-choice judges across the Federal bench who will uphold many of these very same laws. It is hypocritical. It is sort of like that old routine. They are saying: No, no, no, I am not for these laws. Judges, approve them. I am supporting judges who approve them.

It is not fair, it is not right, it is cynical, and the American people are going to get wise to it. We are watching the endgame of a long and concerted campaign by the far right to erode the right to abortion through the courts. From the moment that Roe v. Wade was decided in 1973, the most extreme elements of the Republican Party have plotted its demise.

The Federalist Society was founded with the intent of cultivating a generation of judges loyal to conservative causes. Its founder, Leonard Leo, was, above all, an anti-choice advocate—some would say, even further, a fanatic. Now that they have a Republican President and a Republican Senate, the Federalist Society can push judges after judges onto the bench with barely a delay and with barely a discussion, where they will have the power to severely curtail a woman’s right to choose.

My Republican friends who profess opposition or indifference to these extreme anti-abortion bills while voting for hard-right, anti-Roe judges are engaging in subterfuge, if not hypocrisy.

CHINA

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, finally, there is a topic I have discussed before—the administration’s moves to block access to telecommunications equipment to China’s state-controlled and state-backed firms, like Huawei. I firmly back these measures. Our defense, law enforcement, and intelligence officials have publicly testified that Huawei and other Chinese telecom companies pose a national threat to the security of the United States. Their technology could allow China to spy on Americans, steal their data, and otherwise conduct espionage.

Also, there is another point. China has taken advantage of us. There is a huge consensus now in America that has happened. We didn’t have that consensus even 5 years ago, but whether it is business or labor, average American citizens, Democrats, or Republicans, everyone agrees that China is now the driver of this economy.

Democrats say: No, no, no, I am not for these laws. Judges, approve them. I am supporting judges who approve them.

It is not fair, it is not right, it is cynical, and the American people are going to get wise to it. We are watching the endgame of a long and concerted campaign by the far right to erode the right to abortion through the courts. From the moment that Roe v. Wade was decided in 1973, the most extreme elements of the Republican Party have plotted its demise.

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RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Morning business is closed.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. 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 Daniel P. Collins, of California, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Ninth Circuit.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority whip.

TARIFFS

Mr. THUNE. Madam President, Friday’s announcement that the administration had reached an agreement to remove steel and aluminum tariffs on Canada and Mexico was great news for American consumers, producers, and workers. Mexican and Canadian retaliatory tariffs on U.S. products have already been lifted. That is a big deal for American producers, especially for farmers and ranchers, who were hit the hardest by Mexico and Canada’s retaliatory tariffs.

Friday’s agreement is also important because it removes a significant roadblock to passage of the U.S.-Mexico-Canada trade agreement. With the aluminum and steel tariff settlement and labor reforms recently adopted by the Mexican Government, two major Democratic objections to passage of the U.S.-Mexico-Canada agreement have been addressed. Now it is time for the House Democratic leadership to indicate its willingness to take up the agreement in the near future.

The U.S.-Mexico-Canada agreement would boost almost every sector of the American economy, from automotive manufacturing, to digital services, to dairy farming. It would create 176,000 new jobs and increase wages for workers. It is time to take up this agreement. As I said, the U.S.-Mexico-Canada free-trade agreement would be a boon for U.S. producers and U.S. workers.

This is the kind of stuff we should be spending our time on in Washington—measures that grow our economy, increase opportunity’s right to a decent life for the American people. That is what Republicans have been working on. Our policies have helped produce the lowest unemployment rate in 50 years and more jobs and higher wages for workers.

Unfortunately, my colleagues across the aisle seem more interested in re-litigating the 2016 election and accelerating their party’s rapid move toward the radical fringe left.

I realize that Democrats are disappointed with the results of the 2016 Presidential election, it is time for them to accept the fact that they lost. It has been more than 2 years now, and Democrats are still more focused on opposing this President than on getting things done for the American people.

When Democrats do get around to talking about legislation, too often, it is proposals from the radical fringe left, which is rapidly swallowed up the Democratic mainstream. Take the Green New Deal, the Democrats’ plan for a government takeover of a large section of the economy in the name of clean energy. The estimated price tag for this government takeover is between $51 trillion and $93 trillion over 10 years. To put that number in perspective, $93 trillion is more money than the U.S. Government has spent in its entire history, and $93 trillion is more money than the 2017 gross domestic product of the entire world.

How do Democrats plan to pay for this? Well, they don’t actually have a plan. Their usual “tax the rich” solution won’t work since taxing every wealthy American at a 100 percent rate wouldn’t come anywhere close to paying for the Green New Deal. Should the Green New Deal ever come to pass, working Americans would face massive tax hikes for the privilege of having government dictate the design of their homes and the type of their cars.

Then, of course, there is the Democrats’ plan for a government takeover of the Nation’s healthcare. Under so-
called Medicare for All, the government would take away Americans’ insurance choices and force everyone into a single one-size-fits-all, government-run plan and then tax Americans to pay for it.

Thankfully, policies like tax reform, American families are doing better than they have been doing in a long time. They have been taking home more money. They have access to better jobs and more opportunities, and they are enjoying better wages and benefits. To most people, it would seem logical to continue to build on the policies that have gotten us here, but not to Democrats. Democrats want to overturn the policies that have gotten us to this point. Instead of tax cuts, they want tax hikes so they can implement their socialist fantasies. Instead of less government interference in Americans’ lives, they want more. They think the government should be directing your healthcare choices, your housing choices, your energy choices, and much more. It is unfortunate that the Democratic Party is being swallowed by its extreme left wing.

Republicans are going to do everything to protect Americans from Democrats’ socialist fantasies and to continue to expand the choices and the opportunities available to American families.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant bill 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. ROMNEY). Without objection, it is so ordered.

DISASTER RELIEF

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, next Saturday, June 1, marks the official start of the Atlantic hurricane season. It is a reminder for everyone—from individuals and families to businesses and local officials—to review preparedness efforts to ensure you are ready for anything that Mother Nature may throw at you.

There are simple steps, of course, that everybody can take, like reviewing evacuation routes, signing up for emergency alerts, and making a family communications plan. This is also a great time to look at your insurance policies to make sure you have the right coverage. This isn’t the most fun conversation or topic to talk about at the dinner table, but in the event of a disaster, these small steps can make a world of difference.

As we gear up for the 2019 Atlantic hurricane season, I can’t help but think back on the devastation my State saw in 2017 when Hurricane Harvey hit. This storm was the largest rain event in American history, and some areas of Texas are still in the recovery mode. Harvey brought more than 50 inches of rain to some parts of Houston. I am sure that many Americans can remember the TV footage of the devastating scenes and the heroism of people who rose to the challenge and helped. The roofs of homes were completely torn off and revealed knee-deep water and shattered furniture. Streets looked like rivers that were filled with small boats that led rescue operations. Folks linked arms and made human chains to help save people who were stranded in their vehicles.

It was the second costliest hurricane in history, only behind Hurricane Katrina, with an estimated total cost of $125 billion. While we can put a price tag on the damaged homes, businesses, and infrastructure, there is no way we could even begin to quantify the impact this storm had on our loved ones and how much it completely upended so many lives.

With that breakthrough fresh on our minds, it only underscores the importance of strengthening our preparedness efforts. Unlike many threats we face, either from our adversaries on the ground or in cyberspace, there is nothing we can do to stop Mother Nature in her tracks. Our only course of action is to be prepared and to build resilient communities that are resilient through the impact. We need to continue to do everything in our power to provide assistance to State and local governments so they can protect themselves in the event of severe weather.

One may recall, in the wake of Hurricane Harvey and other natural disasters, that Congress worked hard to provide disaster relief to Texas and other States that were adversely affected. While there is still a lot of work to be done, these dollars have helped my State to rebuild and to bring back some semblance of normalcy. I am grateful to all of our colleagues here for working with us, as well as with Florida, California, Puerto Rico, and all the other places that were affected at that same time. I am grateful for the assistance of a bipartisan group of Senators and Congressmen and for President Trump who worked together to provide disaster relief in the wake of this devastation. Yet here is the rub—much of the funding that has been approved for Texas still hasn’t been untangled from the red tape here in Washington, DC.

In February 2018—15 months ago—Congress appropriated more than $28 billion in community development block grants for disaster recovery, with roughly $12 billion intended specifically for mitigation purposes. About $4 billion of that was designated for Texas, and it could still be used to do things, like to repair wastewater treatment facilities that haven’t been fully restored, to carry out important economic revitalization in decimated areas, or to relocate or elevate damaged facilities in order to prepare for future storms. Unfortunately, we have not seen a cent of that $4 billion because it has been tied up at the Office of Management and Budget. Congress appropriated a disaster supplemental this week, I hope they will include a provision to ensure that States like Texas that have already suffered from a major disaster don’t become victims of government bureaucracy.

It has now been 467 days since the President signed a bill that would appropriate $48 billion to Texas, and it is tough to imagine what communities could have accomplished in that time and how much progress could have been made if simply Congress’s and the executive branch’s will had been carried out by the Federal bureaucracy.

With the 2019 hurricane season only a week and half away, it is critical we get this money out of Washington and into the hands of those who need it so we can begin to work on long-term projects to protect the Texas coast and protect against future storms.

Of course Hurricane Harvey was not the first storm to hit my State, and I guarantee it will not be the last. Texans have waited long enough for the funding that we were promised and that Congress appropriated over the signature of the President, and I hope we can pass something soon to improve the resilience in these communities and carry out congressional will.

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. MURRAY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to speak as in morning business.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, I want to start today by expressing my appreciation to all of my colleagues who will be out here today speaking out and to the women and men nationwide who are doing the same today in their own communities.

In the last few weeks, we have seen some of the most blatant and cruel efforts yet to deny women access to a safe, legal abortion. We have seen legislation so extreme that it would block a 12-year-old survivor of rape from getting an abortion and sentence healthcare providers to prison for providing safe, medically sound care to their patients, which is their responsibility.

The extreme politicians behind these cruel abortion bans are not stopping in Alabama or Missouri or anywhere else; they want to take these bans all the way to the Supreme Court. They want to allow Brett Kavanaugh to do what President Trump and Republicans chose him to do—roll back the decision in Roe v. Wade that established a woman’s constitutionally protected right to make her own decisions about her own body and her own healthcare.

They are pushing for this even though they know as well as we do that without the ability to exercise that right, women lose their lives; even though they know just as well as we do that without this right, doctors will be blocked from providing medically appropriate care. Let me be frank. Extreme conservatives will push these abortion bans all the way to the Supreme Court even though they know—or maybe even because they do know—that in a world where women cannot control what happens to their own bodies, they are less able to plan their future—because they know what is at stake with this coordinated attack on women’s rights.

First, it puts women’s lives in danger. Millions of women across the land are watching in anger and in fear as all of this is playing out. I have heard from many of them back home in Oregon. I heard it last weekend. I have heard from our friends in other parts of Oregon coming up; I am going to hear it again. Women are afraid for the future—their future and their family’s future—because they know what is at stake with this coordinated attack on their rights.

Second, it puts women’s lives in danger. The reality is, abortions will still happen in States that pass these laws, but those abortions will happen later, and they will be unsafe. Women are going to die. That is a fact. Women are going to die because of these restrictions. If you need proof, just look at the figures before and after the Roe case. In the decades before Roe, thousands of women died due to unsafe abortions. And those are only the ones people know about. That doesn’t even take into consideration the unnamed, the unknown victims of those misguided policies. After Roe was decided in 1973, women’s healthcare got safer. The other side in this debate paints a picture of women exercising their right to choose that is unfair and unrealizable. These are extreme, cruel and dangerous choices. Many women exercising the right to choose have just been hit with the most devastating medical news that prospective parents can face. It is not up to State lawmakers and government bureaucrats to step in and interfere with this intensely private and personal choice, but that is exactly what is at stake with the laws being passed in statehouses across the land. These laws bind and punish women with a level of government control that did not exist before Roe. This is right out of nightmarish fiction. It is a coordinated attack on women’s rights that is cruel and dangerous.

Abortion and other reproductive decisions are healthcare, and healthcare choices ought to be made by women with the help of doctors they trust, not by the Federal Government and not by State lawmakers—women and doctors. That is it. Full stop.

My Democratic colleagues and I want to thank Senator MURRAY and Senator SHAHEEN, who have been such advocates for women’s healthcare for many years in public service. They are here. We are all going to be part of this effort that I am proud to join in to fight for the Federal level with everything we have to stand up for women’s right to make intensely personal choices, and we are going to be joining those women across the land who are standing up and fighting with everything they have.

The government should not have control of women’s bodies—end of story.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from New Hampshire.

Mrs. SHAHEEN. Mr. President, I am here to join my colleagues. I was going to say I am pleased, but I am not pleased. I am disappointed that we are here on the floor today talking about something that should be an issue that is remote from our lives, our families and their physicians. Yet we are here to sound the alarm about the relentless assault State legislatures and
this administration have leveled against constitutionally protected reproductive rights and a woman's right to choose the healthcare she needs.

I certainly applaud Senator Murray, who has done such a great job of leading the push to this assault, and my colleague from Oregon, Senator Wyden, for his efforts.

This radical effort to limit women's freedom to a full range of reproductive care is part of a broader strategy by some in this country to take healthcare away from people who need it. Americans across the country, both women and men, are calling out these threats and fighting them head-on. Today, in hundreds of capitals across this country, in courthouses, at hundreds of rallies, a powerful message is being sent that we are not going back. As Members of Congress here in Washington, we need to join them and defend women's reproductive rights.

In just the past 2 weeks, Governors in Alabama and Georgia signed extreme and dangerous abortion restrictions into law. Yesterday, the Missouri Legislature passed another bill to place draconian restrictions on a woman's access to abortion. These actions are part of a broader effort across the country to overturn Roe v. Wade and to deny women access to reproductive care.

What is so ironic about this is that what is happening right now with fewer unintended pregnancies than at any time in our history because giving women access to family planning, to the range of reproductive healthcare that women need, means that there are fewer unintended pregnancies. What laws like this will mean is that there will be more abortions, more unintended pregnancies, more maternal health deaths. That is not the direction in which we should be going.

All of these State actions are concerning, especially the new Alabama law, which would outlaw abortion in virtually all instances with no exception for cases of rape or incest. The Alabama law also establishes prison sentences for providers who perform abortions in violation of the abortion ban. So think about that for a second. If a doctor performs an abortion for a rape victim, the Alabama law could put that doctor in prison for as long as or even longer than the rapist. That makes no sense. The Alabama abortion ban, and so many other State laws like it, will not only impede on a woman's freedom to make her own reproductive choices, but it will also push women into the shadows and increase the likelihood of unsafe abortions. We know that. We have data that shows that—not just in the United States but around the world.

Today, one in three women live in States where abortion would be outlawed if Roe v. Wade is overturned. The Alabama law and other State abortion bans are designed as a direct challenge to the protections provided by Roe in the hopes of forcing action from the Supreme Court and sowing chaos in those States where abortion would be outlawed. So rather than thinking about women and how they will be affected by this law, it is strictly designed to try to challenge the current Roe v. Wade law.

Unfortunately, even in the light of the extreme nature of these recent abortion bans, we have an administration that is compounding the issue through its own actions to interfere with the healthcare services. Now, whether it is creating new administrative obstacles to insurance coverage of abortion, preventing Title X family planning clinics from informing their patients about reproductive health protections that are relied on by women all across this country. At this critical time, we need to say loud and clear that we are ready to fight these extreme actions with everything we have.

Thank you, Mr. President. I yield the floor.

The Senator from Washington.

Ms. CANTWELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The Senator from Washington.

Ms. CANTWELL. Mr. President, I come to the floor to join my colleagues who have been speaking this morning about the right to healthcare for women in America. Today, as women take action across the Nation to bring focus to this issue, I would like to join my colleagues, particularly the senior Senator from Washington, and I thank her for her leadership on this important issue. She knows better than most how many times the Senate and the Congress in the last decade have fought over access to healthcare for women. It seems like every budget debate, every fiscal cliff, every budget negotiation, and every issue had to have a debate about whether we were going to defund Planned Parenthood. So it is not a surprise that we are out here today as States across the Nation try to roll back access to healthcare. I guarantee you, my colleagues, look at what these States are doing to access to healthcare should be and is protected under the Constitution as a right to privacy. We believe that and codified Roe v. Wade into statute by a right to privacy. We believe that access to healthcare should be and is protected under the Constitution as a right to privacy. We believe that and codified Roe v. Wade into statute by a right to privacy. We believe that and codified Roe v. Wade into statute by.
good thing. People who are personally opposed to abortion or people who are pro-choice can agree that that is a good thing. Why did that happen? Because contraception was available. Why did that happen? Because healthcare was available that allows women to have an abortion with more ease. Women to access contraception. So now what do we have? We have three things going on. These restrictive laws that literally put doctors in prison for 99 years is what I will talk about. We have an effort to defund Planned Parenthood and to reduce access to contraception as a result. Then we have an effort—a major effort—to repeal the entire Affordable Care Act, which would allow women to be kicked off of their healthcare insurance if they have a preexisting condition. Before that act came into law, in eight States, being a victim of domestic abuse was considered a preexisting condition. So do not see these laws that were just passed in these States and re-considered in these States as isolated. Look at it as a complete package, and it is not a package that the women of this country want to get in the mail.

I have always believed that a woman’s most personal and difficult medical decisions should be made with her doctor and her family and that those decisions should not be undermined or politicized by Government officials. But that is exactly what we are seeing today. And in the last few months, an alarming number of States have passed laws to limit a woman’s ability to seek reproductive health services. Kentucky, Ohio, Mississippi, and Georgia have all recently passed measures that basically amount to a ban on abortion. Just last week, Alabama passed a bill that effectively and in writing banned abortion completely. The bill which passed the Alabama State Senate—by the way, without a vote of a single woman—would allow a doctor who performed an abortion to be sent to jail for 99 years. The Alabama law’s only exception is if a woman’s life is at risk. It does not even include an exception for incidents of rape or incest. So what does this mean? Well, if your kid is in college and gets brutally raped, it means that she would not have a choice about whether or not she would carry a baby. That is what that law says in Alabama. And if a doctor intervened, if a doctor wanted to help in that situation, he would be sent to prison for 99 years—or up to 99 years. This is not something I am making up or exaggerating; this is what this bill that passed one of the States and is similar to bills in other States actually says.

What we are seeing, of course, is wrong and unconstitutional. These bills directly infringe on a woman’s right to make her own medical decisions and the precedent that the Supreme Court set in Roe v. Wade, which has been affirmed many times over the last 46 years.

You wonder where the public is on this? Seventy-three percent of Americans do not believe that Roe v. Wade should be reversed. In my State, I have people who are pro-choice, and I have people who are pro-life. I have people who personally believe they do not want to have an abortion; however, they believe that the reasoning should dictate what happens to their neighbors. That is the problem. That is the nub of the problem with what is going on in these States.

The precedent in Roe is clear, but these laws that have just passed decided that they want to take away a woman’s basic right to make a personal healthcare decision. In fact, they are passing these bills with the hope that it goes to the Supreme Court where there is a lot of hope, with the people who are passing these restrictive laws, that they are going to overturn Roe v. Wade.

After signing the new abortion ban into law, the Governor of Alabama released a statement in which he said the sponsors of this bill believe it is time, once again, for the U.S. Supreme Court to revisit this important matter, and they believe this act may bring about “the best opportunity for this to occur.”

So don’t tell me this is just one legislature deciding they are going to do something other people in this Chamber on the other side of the aisle don’t agree with. No. No. No. This has been an effort that has been going on for years. This is an effort that is going on during an administration with a President that, in a townhall meeting in March of 2016, said that he thought women should be punished for making that decision. A few hours later, his campaign tries to dial it back with the statement: No, he meant that doctors should be punished.

This is not just an isolated incident, which is why so many of my colleagues have taken to the floor today. We can have individual disagreements, and we can have our own personal beliefs, but an election cannot overturn the Constitution of the United States. Overturning Roe isn’t just unconstitutional. As I said, it is against the wishes of the vast majority of the people in this country.

In the last few years, as I have noted, we have seen an assault on women’s access to care. We have seen it with the attempt to defund Planned Parenthood, even though, during the Obama administration, we saw a historic decrease in abortions. According to a CDC study conducted between 2006 and 2015, abortion rates fell to historic lows near the end of the Obama administration.

What should we be doing? Well, we should be providing more access to healthcare services, comprehensive health education, and contraception, not less. We should ensure that women are equipped with the knowledge and resources they need to make informed healthcare decisions.

In the Senate, I have fought back against efforts to undermine the ability of a woman to make choices about her own health. I have cosponsored the Women’s Health Protection Act, important legislation led by Senator BLUMENTHAL, to prohibit laws intended to restrict women’s access to reproductive health services, and I look forward to cosponsoring this bill again when it is reintroduced.

I thank Senator MURRAY for her leadership over her many, many years in this area. It is our responsibility to support women in every State in this Union with respect and dignity, instead of using them as political pawns.

I join my colleagues in condemning these recent efforts to restrict women’s access to healthcare services, and I will continue working to protect the health and lives of women across the country. I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum, glass window, so that you could see everything inside. Above the door of the cell, it said, “capacity 35.” I looked inside and counted—took the time to slowly count—and I counted 150 men in that cell, standing shoulder to shoulder. Few of them could sit on the benches on the side of the walls—150.

There was one toilet in that cell. They were fed their meals to eat standing up. They slept taking turns lying down on the floor. Some of them would be there for 3 days and some as long as 6 weeks.

Next to that cell was another one with a plate glass window; you could see inside. Above the door, it read, “capacity 16.” This was a cell for women. There were 75 women in that cell—“capacity 16.” There were four or five of them with nursing babies.

I have since learned, in the few weeks since I saw this and witnessed it firsthand, things have gotten dramatically worse. The cell with 150 now has almost 200 men jammed into it. The cell with the women is even worse than what I saw when I visited.

If I described these conditions in a prison in some foreign country, you would say: For goodness sake, the United States of America should speak up for human rights. We cannot allow human beings to be treated that way.
This detention facility for these immigrants is in the United States of America. It has to come to an end, and it has to start with a commitment by the people of this country through their elected representatives in Congress and this President to stop the inhumane treatment of these individuals.

Today, I am sending a letter that I never thought I would send. I am joining other Senators in a letter to the International Red Cross. You see, we call on the International Red Cross to go to detention centers and find out their prison situations and decide whether they are humane.

I cannot believe that I am asking them to do this in the United States of America. Because I have seen it with my own eyes and I have been told that it is getting worse. I feel I have no choice.

I am also asking for the inspector general of the Department of Homeland Security to immediately, on an emergency basis, review the detention facilities for adults and children. Why do I raise that point? We know what this administration did last year in a project called zero tolerance.

Zero tolerance, announced by the Attorney General of the United States Jeff Sessions, said we will treat every child who comes to our border as a criminal. Understand that people can come to our border and present themselves, as many of these people do, and ask to be taken into custody. They have turned themselves in. They are not sneaking in.

They have turned themselves in for adjudication as to whether they are eligible to be in this country. Attorney General Sessions said last year that we will treat them as criminals, and therefore, because they are suspected criminals, we will remove their children from them.

How many kids under zero tolerance were brought by the Trump administration away from their parents? More than two thousand eight hundred—I know that number because a Federal judge in southern California took this administration to court and said: I want an accounting for every one of those children.

I saw those children—at least some of them—in Chicago. They go through a bureaucratic process and end up at agencies—at Health and Human Services agencies—to try to place them in foster care or connect them up with a member of their family.

I remember, in a room, they brought in some of the children who had been taken away from their parents. There were two little 4-year-old girls who I thought were sisters, and then as I looked more closely, I realized they weren’t. They just seemed like sisters, and they had become friends at that facility. They were 4 years old, holding hands. We gave them crayons and coloring books, what you would give to little kids.

Then I went to an immigration court proceeding in downtown Chicago in an office building. You would never know it from the street, but on the fourth floor of this high-rise, we have a U.S. immigration court. A very caring judge was there, and she was trying to get through a docket that was very heavy. She invited me to stay for the first case of the day that involved two clients. It was tough to get this proceeding underway because zero tolerance had resulted in more children coming into these immigration courts. At the immigration hearing, the first case of the day that involved two clients was that she said: Before we start, I want everyone to take their seats.

It was hard to get Marta to take her seat. Marta was 2 years old. She had to be lifted into the chair and handed a stuffed animal for her hearing. Luckily for the other client, Hamilton, he spotted one of those Matchbox cars on top of the table, and 4-year-old Hamilton scrambled up into the chair.

In the United States of America at an immigration hearing, the clients were 2 years old and 4 years old because of the conscious policy of this administration to separate children from their parents. That setting with detention cells jammed with people in inhumane circumstances and the separation of children from their parents.

I sent a letter to the inspector general of the Department of Health and Human Services asking about these children who had been separated. They came back to me a few months ago and said: We have discovered there were more.

Before they announced it, this administration had been separating infants, toddlers, and children from their parents as they presented themselves at the border. The judge who was involved in the case in southern California stepped in and asked: Well, how many?

It is now reported at least 1,712 more kids may have been separated. That is more than over 4,500 babies, toddlers, infants, and children separated from their parents by this administration. Sadly, some of these children will not be reunited. Their parents were sent back, usually to the Central American countries they came from, and now the kids are in the system and way too young to even remember who Mom or Dad was.

This circumstance has reached the point of a humanitarian crisis on our border. How many more children, the President who was elected promising that he would do something about immigration, have brought us to this terrible moment where we have more people presenting themselves at the border than we have ever seen before? How many of those with children? We have never had families in these numbers showing up. The tougher this President’s rhetoric is and the meaner his tweets are, the more people come to our borders. It is exactly the opposite of what he promised.

This circumstance here is absolutely intolerable, unacceptable, and embarrassing to our country. That we would have to call on an international organization to look at the way we are treating people in the United States—I am sorry it has come to this. But in good conscience, I can’t ignore it.

Second, the United States certainly cannot accept everyone in the world who wants to come here. It is understandable they want to live in this great country. That is what brought my grandmother and more to these shores as immigrants to this country.

You cannot accept everyone in the world.

Third, we don’t want anyone dangerous coming into this country, period. No exceptions. If you are dangerous and not legal in this country, you should be gone.

Having said that, now it is our burden to come up with a comprehensive immigration bill that makes sense for this Nation of immigrants in the 21st century.

Unfortunately, the U.S. Senate and this empty Chamber tell you how much work we do on legislation. We give speeches—we ran for the Senate to give speeches—and occasionally we vote on another nominee every few hours. That is it. You will not see a comprehensive immigration bill come to the floor of the Senate. It hasn’t—not this year and not for the previous 6 years. But the last time it did, I was part of a bipartisan effort that wrote one that passed the Senate with help of your votes—an overwhelming rollickal, bipartisan, in favor of immigration reform. That died in the Republican-controlled House, and there has never been another try since. Why were we elected to come here if we can’t face this problem squarely, dealing with what is going on at our border and making sense of our immigration system?

There is a humanitarian nightmare on our border, but I will tell you about one. This President decided to end the DACA Program. I know a little bit about that—maybe more than some of my colleagues—because it was 19 years ago that I introduced a bill. We do a lot of that. This bill was called the DREAM Act—19 years ago. It said: If you were brought to this country as a child, you lived here, went to school, and didn’t get in trouble with the law, you ought to have a chance to become legal in America. That was it. For 19 years, we have been trying to make it the law of the land and always been unable to get 60 votes in the Senate. We always got a majority but never the 60 votes we needed.
I appealed to my former Senate colleague and friend, President Obama, and said: Can you do something to help these young people who have never known another country and want to be part of the United States and its future? Many of these schoolchildren you visit every day, these kids, they are United States citizens. They are the children of undocumented parents. They signed up for it. They were ready to promise to give a year of service to their country, to give a year of service to promise to give a year of service to their country, to become doctors and serve in the United States for 2 years at a time, not to be deported but be able to work and go to school—more than 800,000 of them.

I really believe in them. And you know, you know them by nature—out of 800,000, there have to be some of them in there who are going to disappoint you. But I stand here today in the Senate and tell you that in all of these years since President Obama did that, I have never heard human stories. These are extraordinary young men and women. I have told their stories on the floor of the Senate—over 120 of them—of how these DACA-protected young people want to become part of America’s future.

Let me tell you about a group of them in Chicago. Loyola University in Chicago is a great school, and they have a great school of medicine. When they heard about the DACA Program, they said: We are going to open up competition to these DACA-protected young people to compete to go to medical school. And the news flashed across the country because many of these young people who dreamed of being doctors had no chance because of Loyola’s legal status, and because of Loyola University, they were able to apply. Over 30 of them were accepted to the medical school—some of the brightest kids living in our country who wanted to become doctors.

There was a catch: If you went to Loyola and you needed to borrow money—and most of them did—you had to pay back the loan in 5 years. If you couldn’t, you would have to return to the State of Illinois, which loaned you the money to go to school, for each year they loaned the money. They signed up for it. They were ready to go to neighborhoods where we needed doctors and to small towns in rural America where we desperately need doctors. These young people are some of the best and brightest I have ever met, every one of them an inspiration.

When President Trump eliminated the DACA Program, he eliminated their only opportunity to continue their medical education. You see, after 4 years of medical school, you go into a residency. A residency is a job, employment, and it is a lot more than 40 hours a week, I might add. But since President Trump eliminated DACA, they cannot legally take a job.

This case is going through the courts now as to whether the President had the authority to eliminate DACA. He didn’t. Last Friday, a second court said that he was wrong, that he had no reason, no basis to eliminate this program.

When you hear these stories about what is happening at the border and at these detention cells; when you hear about the conscious decision of this administration to separate infants and toddlers from their parents—4,500 of them having been separated; when you hear about this administration coming forward to eliminate the DACA Program and to stop these medical students from becoming doctors and serving in my State, where they are desperately needed, you have to ask: Mr. President, what is your immigration policy? What made such a mess of this situation that wasn’t very good to start with?

And what are we going to do about it? Anything? Not in this empty Chamber. Not today. We are just going to pick up our pens andsay: Isn’t it a shame? Well, it is more than a shame; it is an embarrassment to this country that this Nation of immigrants has reached this moment.

Mr. President, I continue to appeal to my colleagues on both sides of the aisle: Please, come forward, and let’s solve these problems together.

I have been part of bipartisan groups who have come up with comprehensive bills and all sorts of legislative responses. My door is always open to anyone who wants to sit down.

In the meantime, bringing humanity to our border. Let’s not do things with these people presenting themselves at our border that don’t speak well of our values and our reputation around the world. We can do better. We can provide humane treatment.

Even as Congress fails to do its job, those people at the border deserve to be treated like human beings as we work through our legal issues and our political issues. No more separation of children from their parents. How devastating it must be for that child. When some of these parents were reunited with their children—these little babies and these young kids—wouldn’t talk to their mothers. They turned away from them. With their body language, they said what we knew was going through their minds: You abandoned me. You left me. I don’t know who you are anymore. Over time, maybe they can reestablish that relationship. Child psychologists tell us there could be some damage that needs to be repaired there. Isn’t that a shame, that an innocent child would go through that experience?

Now that we know there may be 1.712 more of these children, we need to do everything we can to work with this Federal judge, who had the courage to step up, to reunite them with their parents as quickly as possible.

In the meantime, I want to call on this administration and the Acting Secretary of the Department of Homeland Security, Kevin McAleenan, to go down to the border, to the detention facilities, and do everything possible to make certain there is humane treatment there. These are desperate people risking their lives to come to this United States of America. Give them a chance for treatment while they are here, as our political and legal system works its way through it.

(Mr. CRUZ assumed the Chair.)

ABORTION

Mr. President, people are following what is happening in States like Alabama, Georgia, and Mississippi, where State legislatures are considering legislation on the issue of abortion.

I know this is a very inflammatory and divisive issue. I have seen it first-hand throughout my political career. I have good friends who are on one side of this issue, who smile and say hello but wouldn’t vote for me in 100 years because of this issue. I have others who passionately support me because they are on the other side of the issue. For some people, it really is the litmus test on how they will vote for a candidate.

For over 40 years, we have tried to reconcile this issue, this basic question: When does life begin? In Roe v. Wade, the U.S. Supreme Court said: We are going to base it on the concept of viability, survivability of the fetus, as to an individual’s right when it comes to making this decision as opposed to society’s right or responsibility.

Over the years, there has been a lot of debate as to whether that Roe v. Wade decision was right or wrong. We have seen a lot of efforts to change it—some successful and some not—and we have seen subsequent Supreme Court cases which redefined Roe v. Wade as well.

Now we have a group who believes they can move forward on this in the State of Georgia and in the State of Alabama. What they have proposed is much different from what we had accepted as the norm for decades. For example, they have eliminated any exceptions for rape and incest. Most people understand that victims of rape and incest should be viewed differently from others, but in the State of Alabama, they eliminated those exceptions in the law they have just passed.

Why are they doing that now when Federal courts in the past have—in the immediate past—decided they can’t go that far? It is because they believe that because of the actions of the U.S. Senate, it is going to change in the courts. This President has appointed two new Justices to the Supreme Court—Gorsuch and Kavanaugh. The belief is, even though they have told us over and over again that Roe v. Wade was settled law, if this new law in Alabama...
makes it across the street to the Supreme Court, they may use this Alabama law to overturn Roe v. Wade.

On a regular basis here, we continue to bring judges before us who have extreme views on this subject and, without much debate, give them lifetime appointments to the Federal bench—district and circuit court judges, several of whom are before us this week.

I have heard from them in the committee this week, we have Judge Vitter from Louisiana. She is a person who has blamed Planned Parenthood for deaths and has said at one point that she believes that contraception—the pill—was dangerous to women. That was her conclusion without scientific evidence to back it.

She just got a lifetime appointment to the Federal bench. Those are the kinds of nominees who are brought to us by this administration. So is it any wonder that it comes to gender representation and women in power. Meanwhile, here in the Senate, Republican Leader McConnnell has lined up even more extreme ideological judicial nominees who have records of restricting women’s reproductive rights and ultimately overturn Roe v. Wade.

What else do these State legislators have in common? They rank among the lowest among the heavy hitters to make that healthcare decision, and some would directly or virtually reverse Roe v. Wade. What we are facing is not a few far-right politicians making a state-out of mainstream. This is a systemic problem by Republican and State legislators to restrict women’s reproductive rights and ultimately overturn Roe v. Wade.

Also, this week, we are considering North Carolina district court nominee Kenneth Bell, who once wrote in an op-ed, and I quote, “There is no middle ground” on this issue of abortion.

Missouri district nominee Stephen Clark is before us as well. He spent much of his legal career litigating against reproductive rights and access to contraceptives.

These are the nominees to take lifetime appointments on the Federal bench. They are to go together. In the action of Alabama with the action on the floor of the U.S. Senate, Alabama is setting up the test case. The Republicans in the Senate are setting up the courts in the hopes that they will rule in their test case to put an end to Roe v. Wade and to say that despite the support of a majority of Americans, women do not have the last word when it comes to their own bodies, their own lives, and their own pregnancies.

That is what this is about today in America on the political scene. That is certainly what the next election is all about, as well—division of America, the rights of women, and the rights of individuals to make their own decisions about their own bodies.

I hope that this Republican leader, who has expressed his misgivings about the Alabama legislation, will do much more than that. I hope they will join us in trying to maintain some sort—if not a consensus, some sort of understanding—together to deal with this extremely divisive issue.

TRIBUTE TO ROBERT KING

Mr. President, in a sermon on the Good Samaritan, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., said that most people who come upon a stranger in need ask: “If I stop to help this man, what will happen to me?”

But the Good Samaritan reverses the question and asks: “If I do not stop to help this man, what will happen to him?”

The latter person is rare and special, Dr. King said. On the Saturday before Easter, that special person was another man named Robert King of Chicago.

Robert King was driving on heavily traveled Lake Shore Drive, which passes right in front of my apartment, when he saw a green and white van on the side of the road. Another vehicle had crashed into that van at a stoplight. The van was a wreck.

Many cars passed the accident and did nothing, but Robert King didn’t. Mr. King pulled over to stop and see if he could help. He noticed that the man in the van held a cooler and thought he might be delivering food. King was stunned to find out that the van was an organ transplant vehicle and the man in the van was an organ transplant surgeon, Dr. Kofi Atiemo. Inside the cooler were three precious human organs—a liver, a kidney, and a pancreas—that needed to be rushed to nearby Northwestern Memorial Hospital as soon as possible.

Robert King, a passerby, stopped to help one stranger in need. He ended up helping to save two lives. Those precious organs were the final magnificent gift of a young woman who died too soon and had the heart to donate her organs. One patient at Northwestern received her liver and kidney, while her pancreas went to another patient at a separate hospital.

The president and CEO of Gift of Hope Organ and Tissue Donor Network, Kevin Smunt, put it best: “Here was just a regular Chicagoman”—this Robert King—who, through the kindness of his heart, helped us here as a family who was kind enough to donate the most precious gift anyone can ever give.”

At the Chicago Organ Summit’s annual gathering, government officials, doctors, advocates, and families of donors gathered last month and honored Robert King for his act of kindness, which saved lives and told his story to the world. The two people who were helped by Robert King’s thoughtfulness are among an estimated 113,000 men and women and children in America who are living and waiting and hoping for organs to reach them. Every 10 minutes, another person is added to that list. Every day, sadly, 20 people die waiting for a transplant.

The human body contains eight organs that can be transplanted to save lives—the heart, two lungs, two kidneys, a pancreas, a liver, and intestines. And here is the hope: Each of us can choose to save up to eight lives by becoming an organ donor.

The world needs Good Samaritans. It needs more Robert Kings and more organ donors.

I yield the floor.

RECESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate stands in recess until 2:15 p.m.

Thereupon, the Senate at 12:30 p.m., recessed until 2:15 p.m. and reassembled when called to order by the Presiding Officer (Mrs. Capito).

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR—Continued

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the Collins nomination?

Mr. ISAKSON. Madam 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.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Colorado (Mr. BENNET) is necessarily absent.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Are any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The result was announced—yeas 53, nays 46, as follows:
XXII, the Senate recessed until 3:45 p.m. and that at 3:45 p.m., the Senate vote on the motion to invoke cloture on the Clark, Nichols, and Bell nominations; finally, that if cloture is invoked on the nominations, the confirmation votes on the Nielson, Clark, Nichols, and Bell nominations occur at a time to be determined by the majority leader, in consultation with the Democratic leader, on Wednesday, May 22.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Colorado (Mr. BENNET) is necessarily absent.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mrs. BLACKBURN). Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 52, nays 47, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 119 Ex.]

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NAYs—46

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| Blumenthal | Hiroto | Schatz |
| Booker | Jones | Schumer |
| Brown | Kaine | Shaheen |
| Cantwell | King | Sinema |
| Cardin | Klobuchar | Smith |
| Carpenter | Leahy | Stabenow |
| Casey | Manchin | Tester |
| Coons | Markay | Udall |
| Cortez Masto | Menendez | Van Hollen |
| Duckworth | Merkley | Warner |
| Durbin | Murphy | Warren |
| Feinstein | Murray | Whitehouse |
| Gillibrand | Peters | Wyden |
| Harris | Reed | Wyden |

NOT VOTING—1

Bennet

J. Alexander

The nomination was confirmed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the motion to reconsider is considered made and laid upon the table, and the President will be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

CLOTURE MOTION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Pursuant to rule XXII, the Chair lays before the Senate the pending cloture motion, which the clerk will state.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on nominations of Howard C. Nielson, Jr., of Utah, to be United States District Judge for the District of Utah.


The PRESIDING OFFICER. By unanimous consent, the mandatory quorum call has been waived.

The question is, Is it the sense of the Senate that debate on the nomination of Howard C. Nielson, Jr., of Utah, to be United States District Judge for the District of Utah, shall be brought to a close?

The majority leader.

ORDER OF PROCEDURE

Mr. McCONNELL. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that following this vote, notwithstanding rule
The PRESIDING OFFICER. On this vote, the yeas are 55 and the nays are 42. The motion is agreed to.

CLOTURE MOTION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Pursuant to rule XXII, the Chair lays before the Senate the pending cloture motion, which the clerk will state.

The 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 Carl J. Nichols, of the District of Columbia, to be United States District Judge for the District of Columbia, Mitch McConnell, Roy Blunt, Joni Ernst, Steve Daines, Roger F. Wicker, John Thune, Roy Blunt, Thom Tillis, John Kennedy, John Boozman, Pat Roberts, Mike Rounds, John Cornyn, Richard Burr, John Barrasso, Lindsey Graham, Cindy Hyde-Smith.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. By unanimous consent, the mandatory quorum call has been waived.

The question is, Is it the sense of the Senate that debate on the nomination Carl J. Nichols, of the District of Columbia, to be United States District Judge for the District of Columbia, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant bill clerk called the roll.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senator is necessarily absent: the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. Burr).

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Colorado (Mr. Bennet) and the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. Booker) are necessarily absent.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. Cassidy). Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

Yeas and nays resulted—yeas 55, nays 42, as follows: [Rollcall Vote No. 121 Ex.]

Alexander...MCCONNELL

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 56, nays 42, as follows: [Rollcall Vote No. 122 Ex.]

Alexander...McConkie

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Kenneth D. Bell, of North Carolina, to be United States District Judge for the Western District of North Carolina.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. McSally). The Senator from Louisiana.

Mental Health Awareness Month

Mr. Cassidy. Madam President, this month is Mental Health Awareness Month, and the goal of Mental Health Awareness Month is to recognize the importance for personal well-being, the need for research and education, dispelling the stigmas associated with mental illness, and to improve mental healthcare to ensure that care is available to ensure that the first episode of mental illness is the last.

A goal with Mental Health Awareness Month is the awareness that is necessary for the programs to be implemented so that that young person with their first episode is returned to wholeness, and, again, as I said earlier, the first episode is the last. It recognizes that mental health is a societal issue associated with homelessness, crime, suicide, physical health, and public health issues.

Now, when you speak of mental health, it is a little bit almost like: Oh, my gosh, this is going to be a futile issue. It is so difficult for someone who has serious mental illness to return them to wholeness. It is so difficult that sometimes the individual, their family, and society throws up their hands and says: There is nothing to do, so why try.

You see manifestations of that with the homeless people walking around this city and every city in the United States, many of whom are mentally ill; yet there can be hope.

I called a person back home from Baton Rouge, LA, and asked her for a
story, if you will, of how someone with mental illness issues can be returned to wholeness, so let me tell you about Mary. When you walk with Mary, you can’t help but feel happy, happy, happy. That is because Mary radiates the joy of how Capital Area Human Services helped change her life.

Mary says:
I go out and help the community every day. I became successful in my life because of my faith in God and because of the wonderful people at Capital Area Human Services. Today I give back to the community what Capital Area has given to me.

It wasn’t always this way. For nearly 20 years before being referred to Capital Area Human Services, Mary lived in group homes and was dependent upon others for basic needs.

I am now quoting Mary:

I weighed 340 pounds. I was sick all the time, was in and out of hospitals. I was barely able to function. I was on so many medicines I could not keep track.

When Mary came to Capital Area Human Services in 2006, she was first helped at the Margaret Dumas Center at the downtown Street location. She eventually entered the total health program, and even more dramatic changes began.

Now, let me point out as a physician—I am a doctor—I have learned from folks such as the people I am quoting now that mental health is often associated with physical health problems. So someone who is seriously mentally ill is more likely to die in their 50s than they are in their 80s with untreated depression, diabetes, or perhaps, because they are homeless, subject to violence on the streets.

So let me now go back to Mary’s story. When she entered the total health program, she lost nearly 100 pounds of the poor diet she had to take to blood pressure medicine, changed her diet, participated in fitness programs, and continued to attend mental health therapy sessions.

Today Mary is a different person. She lives independently in her own apartment, attends Sacred Heart of Jesus Catholic Church, walks 2 hours every day to volunteer for various duties at the St. Agnes Catholic Church soup kitchen, where she also sings for the attendees. Mary credits the nuns at St. Agnes for teaching her how to cook, prepare meals, and serve.

Also, Mary is a regular volunteer at the Society of St. Vincent de Paul and at the Baton Rouge General Hospital chapel, where she reads Scriptures for some of the services.

Mary said she loves Capital Area Human Services, tells everyone she knows about the people who helped her, particularly Kesha, John, the staff at Margaret Dumas, the staff at the Government Street location, and former total health employees Roy and Ricky.

She says:
I was motivated and didn’t give up. It made me happy to do this for myself. I proved that I could do it, and I’m doing it. It’s winter, but I’m out there anyway.

Now, I give that kind of personal story to give an example of someone with serious mental illness returned to wholeness. Now, I love that because I always tell folks when I speak that we in Washington, DC, can propose legislation, but it’s the local leadership, nothing good happens.

In 2016, I collaborated with Chris Murphy, as well as Eddie Bernice Johnson and Tim Murphy in the House, to pass the Mental Health Reform Act. It increased access to mental healthcare for adults and children, it strengthened leadership and accountability for Federal mental health and substance abuse programs, and it established new programs for early intervention. It was called by Senator Alexander the largest reform to our mental health system in decades. I continue to work with President Trump’s administration to implement these reforms.

Today, the world is more dangerous than any time in my lifetime. Today, the United States faces five threats across five domains. This is much more complicated than the world has ever seen. Today, we measure the threats in this manner: China, Russia, North Korea, Iran, and terrorism across five domains.

It used to be air, land, and sea. Unfortunately, today, it is air, land, sea, cyber, and now space. The tragedy, frankly, of our time is that we have treated space as a scientific endeavor over the last 30 years, and others who we now consider potential threats have treated it as a military domain.

I grew up in a military town. My father served in Germany during World War II. When World War II was ended, he joined the Reserve, and others who were called up again in the Korean war. He spent a couple of years in Korea during the Korean war. I have my dog tags today in my office. They serve as a constant reminder of his commitment to defending our ideals and upholding our way of life here in America.

Today, I am humbled to represent the men and women in uniform in the United States Armed Services Committee. I take that very seriously, as I know every member does. One of my greatest honors as a member of this committee and a former member of the Foreign Relations Committee, as I said, is to travel overseas. The highlight in every one of those trips is not meeting with the head of state or the head of the military or the foreign minister; it was having dinner with people from my home State who were in uniform around the world.

When President Obama was in office, the No. 1 request I heard from heads of state around the world was: We need America to reengage.

Now, that time America had withdrawn. We had created a vacuum. People weren’t asking us to be the world’s policeman. They were asking us to basically reengage and have a seat at the table and lead again. After a decade of withdrawal from the world stage under the prior administration, America is now leading again.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Georgia.

MILITARY APPRECIATION MONTH

Mr. PERDUE. Madam President, May is Military Appreciation Month. In light of the Senate floor discussion to remind us all just how important our military is to our way of life. One of the blessings of being a U.S. Senator and being on the Armed Services Committee and a part of the Foreign Relations Committee, I have had the privilege to travel, as you have, around the world, visiting with our men and women in uniform.

I have concluded that the best—and I mean the very best—of what we produce here in America is in uniform around the world, worn by our women and men, protecting our interests and defending freedom around the world. There are only six reasons in the Declaration of Independence, the common defense. One of those was to provide for the common defense.

Today, the world is more dangerous than any time in my lifetime. Today, the United States faces five threats across five domains. This is much more complicated than the world has ever seen. Today, we measure the threats in this manner: China, Russia, North Korea, Iran, and terrorism across five domains.

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President Trump is reengaged with the rest of the world. He has made it clear that America’s interest comes first. When we say America first, it doesn’t mean America alone. Today, our allies trust us again, and our adversaries fear us again. President Trump has also taken action to rebuild
our military after it was gutted during the prior administration. Under President Obama, spending on the military was cut 25 percent, and we saw the resulting drop in our readiness.

In the last 2 years, we have updated defense budgets by 187 billion over 2 years. As a result, in addition, we have avo

Of that, readiness is on the rise again in the military. Modernization efforts and rebuilding our military are underway, and our men and women in uniform are safer around the world. No. 1, and have the resources they need to carry out the mission. I am proud of the progress that we have made in just a very short period of time. Just in the last 2 years, our readiness has dramatically improved. However, Congress has made our progress on readiness and modernization hostage to our ability to pass a defense appropriations bill. That is the bottom line of this continuing resolution of any length for fiscal year 2020 will erode and undo a lot of progress we have made just in readiness over the last couple of years.

I am really very concerned that this is a primary responsibility of ours here in the Senate and, indeed, in Congress, and it is one we have not stood up to in the past. We have got to do better than that this year.

I believe that Secretary of the Navy, Richard Spencer, said it best when he described the impact of continuing resolutions. Since the 1974 Budget Act was put in place, Congress has used 187 continuing resolutions as a release valve to fund the government in a temporary manner.

Let me say that again, since 1974, 45 years, we have used 187 continuing resolutions. Each one of those continuing resolutions is devastating to our military. The Secretary of Defense, in the words of my staff, that I will get into in just a minute. Continuing resolutions are absolutely devastating to our military, both in readiness and the ability to rebuild our military. It is the most insidious thing Congress can do to our men and women in uniform. Many of us here don't even realize the damage that continuing resolutions do to our military.

I have questioned all three current service Secretaries and their chiefs of staff, both publicly and in private meetings, about the operational impacts of continuing resolutions and funding uncertainty.

Here are some of the responses:

A continuing resolution "would be like a punch in the gut," according to ADM John Richardson, Chief of Naval Operations.


Heather Wilson, Secretary of the Air Force, said that the defense budget se-

quester “did more damage to the United States Air Force and our ability to defend the nation than anything our adversaries have done in the last 10 years—and we did it to ourselves.”

Secretary of the Army Mark Esper said:

Fiscal uncertainty has done a great deal to erode our readiness and hamper our ability to modernize. . . . If we do not modernize the force right now, we risk losing a future conflict against Russia or China. It’s just that simple.

Finally, Secretary of the Navy Richard Spencer said, and this is classic:

Continuing resolutions have cost the Department of the Navy roughly $4 billion. . . . Since 2011, we have put $4 billion in a trash can, put lighter fluid on top of it and burned it.

I don’t know how to put it more clearly than that.

Continuing resolutions have cost the Department of Defense—from training to readiness, to maintenance, to personnel, and, yes, to contracting.

During a CR, training must be rescheduled, training or discontinued entirely, which means our warfighters are less prepared. And don’t have the resources to defend themselves properly when in the heat of battle.

Depot maintenance and weapons development are delayed, resulting in costly delays, less lethality, and higher costs.

Hiring and recruitment are put on pause, leaving critical gaps in workforce skill sets.

We have the development of cyber capabilities and space capabilities now. We are just tinning up those capabilities, and CRs absolutely devastate these young, developing capabilities.

Change-of-station moves for service members and their families are halted, creating unnecessary turmoil for families. Can you imagine that you have kids, and you are going to be deployed overseas. The timing has to be right to get your kids in schools over there. If you are a family of 4, and you have a CR at the end of September, you are going to be deployed overseas.

The Department of Defense, including the Department of the Navy, has committed to maintaining our readiness.

Until 2018, the Department of Defense started 13 of the last 17 years under a continuing resolution. Thirteen of the last 17 years, they started their fiscal year under a continuing resolution. Fortunately, for the last 2 years, despite other funding failures of Congress, we did not have to use a CR to fund the military. That has been a major factor in boosting readiness and overall investment in modernization.

Hate to say it, but I believe we are standing down the barrel of a potential CR on September 30 this year. As we sit here tonight, there are only 25 working days between now and July 31. Why is this important? Because in the month of August, this body, along with the House, goes back to their States, and it is a work period in those States. That means we will not be able to pass appropriation bills here because we will not be here.

If we don’t move this appropriations bill and get it passed by the end of the month, I believe, of July, when we come back in September, there will be only 10 working days, legislative working days, and there is no way we are going to get it all funded in that time.

Last year, on July 31, we had only appropriated about 12½ percent of the Federal discretionary budget. We stayed here in August, to the credit of this Congress, to pass the Department of Defense appropriation. I believe that because of that, we went from 12½ percent to almost 100 percent funding, including the Department of Defense, and therefore we were able to avoid a continuing resolution last year, as I have said.

Other people have said that the greatest threat to our national security is our own national debt—General Mattis, Admiral Mullen. There are various other people who have said that who are in a position where they should know. I would add one thing to that, that is devastating to our ability to defend this country, and that is the use of continuing resolutions.

When we look at the domain threats and the national threats that have evolved in the world right now—China, Russia, Iran, North Korea, and terrorism—I don’t think any of that damages the military, potentially, as much as our inability here to provide consistent funding for our military.

During Military Appreciation Month, I can think of no higher calling than for Congress to work diligently on passing a defense appropriations bill.
First, we have to pass the National Defense Authorization Act, which we are working on this week. All the subcommittees are passing their markups this week. We hope to move on that immediately. I believe that will get passed with much controversy. I know that leadership right now is talking about moving in a very intense manner, with a critical sense of urgency, to get this Defense appropriations bill done. I applaud those efforts. I want to support it in any way I can. I can certainly support everybody in this body to be supportive of making sure that we can have, for the third year in a row—this is not a partisan issue; this is about our men and women in uniform. Given that this month is Military Appreciation Month, what better time to face up to this potential and make sure that we don’t have a continuing resolution come September 30 of this year. That is the least we can do for our women and men in uniform. And we can fulfill the responders laid out in the Declaration of Independence when they outlined those six reasons why we were coming together, and the No. 1 reason we had at that time was to provide for the security of the United States of America.

Thank you.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Kansas.

Mr. ROBERTS. Madam President, first, before my colleague from Georgia leaves, I want to thank him for his strong statement on the fact that we have to do defense appropriations.

I know that the Presiding Officer certainly knows all about this, given her Active-Duty service on behalf of our Nation.

As he has pointed out, every service has been affected by this. Speaking for the U.S. Marine Corps, part of the Marine Corps are we have heard and talking with Bob Neller, who is our retiring Commandant—he has pointed out specifically that they don’t have enough to do—I mean, we are proud of the Marine Corps. I always say we do more with less, but this time, you can’t do more with less and then less and then less, and that is precisely where we are.

I thank the Senator for making an outstanding statement. I join him in this plea on a bipartisan basis to get these appropriations bills done.

Thank you.

NATIONAL MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS MONTH

Madam President, I rise today, along with many of my colleagues, in recognition of National Mental Health Awareness Month.

We on the Senate Agriculture Committee have worked extensively on mental health issues, fighting for improved mental health services and mental health parity, especially in our rural and smalltown areas. We have made great strides over the years in improving access to mental health services and eliminating the stigma of seeking treatment. However, as we continue to see violent tragedies around the country resulting from individuals with mental illness, or even solely looking at suicide rates, which continue to increase—let me point out that in Kansas, there were over 500 suicides in 2016 alone. If the figures were accurate, that number could be increased, especially with the problems we have in farm country, where we are going through a very rough patch—a fifth year of prices below the cost of production. There is a lot of stress out in farm country. All of this shows me that more can certainly be done to address the deficiencies in our current system.

Kansas has one suicide prevention lifeline crisis center, located in Lawrence, KS. That is to assist people experiencing mental health crises from the entire State. In many of our rural areas, we continue to struggle with providing adequate access to mental health services. Those facts apply just for those patients who seek out care. Too many times, people struggling with mental health are either unaware that they can seek help, or they are simply unwilling to do so because of the stigma that is often associated with mental illness. That is why we need to take the opportunity not just this month but every day going forward to improve awareness and understanding about mental health.

The same can be said for addiction. On the Agriculture Committee, we are all proud to have played a role in the passage of the SUPPORT for Patients and Communities Act last year to help address the opioid crisis. However, Kansas is still facing significant challenges with meth addiction. We fought the good fight to eliminate meth labs in many of our States, and now the cartels in Mexico have much more virulence—if I can use that term—with regard to meth.

I am currently working on legislation to help extend the reach of important, often lifesaving treatments for addiction to folks in our rural areas. We can improve mental and behavioral well-being while continuing to reduce the stigma associated with seeking out mental health and addiction treatment.

Additionally, having the privilege of being the chairman of the Agriculture Committee, I have been-retiring member, Senator Stabenow, as well, you have probably heard me say that we have been in a rough patch in farm country over the past several years. That is certainly true. However, those of us who represent farm country can be more reticent to discuss the toll these troubled times take on farmers, ranchers, growers, and their families, who work tirelessly each day to produce the food and fiber for the United States and a troubled and hungry world.

Farmers, ranchers, and growers face highly demanding working conditions on a good day but more especially during a time of lower prices. As I have indicated, it is the fifth year of prices being below the cost of production. So we see mitigation payments coming out of the Department of Agriculture. Historically, there have been efforts made by Congress to address these concerns, including the programs that took place during the 1980s farm crisis—I was in the House of Representatives at that particular time; those were very tough times—and recognition of this issue in the 2006 farm bill. Now we began the 2018 farm bill process, we looked for opportunities to address this pressing issue, and it led to renewal of the Farm and Ranch Stress Assistance Network. Members on both sides of the aisle in the Capitol recognize the importance of a nationwide Farm and Ranch Stress Assistance Network. It provides support for all producers, farmers, ranchers, and their families through partnerships with organizations in their local communities. Local communities are stepping up, but in terms of getting that network applied, that is another story.

This network recognizes the State and local organizations that have been addressing behavioral health concerns for farmers and ranchers and authorizes grants to support the programs that assist those who are in crisis, especially during this month when we are addressing this topic.

We have just heard from the distinguished Senator from Georgia about the rigors to avoid a continuing resolution of our national defense, and that is true, but in this particular case, it is authorized, but it is subject to appropriations.

On this particular issue, to prevent suicides and mental health illness from resulting in a tragedy, not only in our cities, not only in other States, but across our rural and smalltown areas, it is exceedingly important that we fund this so that we can get the Farm and Ranch Stress Assistance Network up and running and provide the help they really need.

Thank you.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

Mr. McCONNELL. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. McCONNELL. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to legislative session and begin a period of morning business, during which Senators are permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.
CONFIRMATION OF DANIEL COLLINS

Mrs. FEINSTEIN. Madam President, I rise today in opposition to the nomination of Daniel Collins to the United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit.

Mr. Collins had been nominated to a California seat on the Ninth Circuit over the objections of Senator HARRIS and myself. Neither Senator HARRIS nor I returned blue slips for Mr. Collins, yet the majority moved forward with his nomination, disregarding our concerns.

This vote on Mr. Collins follows on the heels of last week’s vote on Kenenth Lee, another Ninth Circuit nominee who lacked blue slips from me and Senator HARRIS.

So, once again, we see the majority violating Senate norms and traditions by ignoring home-State Senators, including the Judiciary Committee’s ranking member, and stacking the courts with ideologues.

The breakdown in Senate traditions is harmful to all of us, Democrats and Republicans. It is also unnecessary.

As I have highlighted before, Democratic Senators have been willing to work with the White House to find consensual picks for the circuit courts, but that willingness has been rebuffed by the Trump administration and disregarded by the majority.

The majority’s decision to once again ignore blue slips is short-sighted. After all, what comes around goes around, Senator HARRIS and I refused to return blue slips on Mr. Collins for several reasons.

I have used a bipartisan instate screening commission to vet potential nominees to California district and Ninth Circuit seats for my entire career. These are highly respected lawyers from throughout the State, and they have reviewed and recommended nominees from Democratic and Republican administrations.

My instate bipartisan commission raised concerns about Mr. Collins’s rigidity, temperament, and history of taking positions in litigation for the purposes of overturning precedent and challenging legal boundaries.

The role of a judge is to be an impartial arbiter, not an advocate and not someone with an agenda, particularly an agenda of overturning precedent.

Based on this, I am concerned that Mr. Collins does not embody the characteristics that we expect of all Federal judges.

I also believe that Mr. Collins’s record on women’s reproductive rights, executive power, civil liberties, and criminal justice matters puts him far outside the judicial mainstream.

For example, Mr. Collins was a strong advocate for the Bush administration’s use of military commissions to try enemy combatants held at Guantanamo. He even went so far as to argue that the President’s authority as Commander-in-Chief allowed him to bypass Congress and create these commissions without congressional approval.

Mr. Collins also wrote a law review piece in which he argued that Miranda v. Arizona, a longstanding Supreme Court precedent that protects the rights of individuals, should be overturned.

For the last decade, Mr. Collins has also defended numerous chemical and energy companies in lawsuits brought by local homeowners, Tribes, and local governments. The plaintiffs in these lawsuits have argued that these companies contributed to climate change and its effects, such as increasing the severity of storms and causing sea levels to rise.

In several of these lawsuits, Mr. Collins argued that climate change is not even real. For example, in a case representing Shell Oil Company, Mr. Collins wrote that “climate change allegedly results from the aggregate effects of greenhouse gas emissions from billions of sources around the world accumulating in the global atmosphere over the course of centuries, and thus it cannot be attributed to... energy companies.”

In addition, in questions for the record, he refused to acknowledge that climate change is real and that human activity contributes to it.

I understand that Mr. Collins was representing clients in these lawsuits, but he was the one who chose which arguments to make, including arguments that climate change is not real. We cannot have a judge on the Ninth Circuit who denies climate change and its impacts.

At his hearing, Mr. Collins was willing to answer questions from Republicans on his personal views, but not answer similar questions from Democrats.

For instance, when asked how he “feel[s] about the First Step Act,” Mr. Collins said: “I think that the First Step Act... appeared to me to be a balanced approach to reform some of the sentencing provisions which seemed unduly harsh.”

But when asked by Senator BLUMENTHAL whether he believed Brown v. Board of Education was correctly decided, Mr. Collins refused to answer.

Nominees should not answer Republican questions and evade Democratic ones, especially when it comes to answering questions about Brown v. Board of Education, a monumental case which cannot and should not be questioned and has been answered by previous Republican nominees, including Chief Justice Roberts.

Taken as a whole, I believe Mr. Collins is far outside the legal mainstream.

Given concerns about his temperament and commitment to upholding precedent and given the positions he has taken on executive power, criminal justice, and other matters that could come before the Ninth Circuit, I cannot support Mr. Collins.

I voted against Mr. Collins, and I urged my colleagues to do the same.
I am grateful that Mr. Lowe prevented the worst on May 17, 2019, and welcome his commitment to be a team member in reducing the chances of gun tragedies in every school in America.

Mr. MERKLEY. Madam President, today, I would like to honor Keenan Lowe’s heroism and bravery in tackling a gunman at Parkrose High School on May 17, 2019. Mr. Lowe is known for being a top wide receiver for University of Oregon’s football team and now as a popular coach of football and track and field at Parkrose High School. He also works as a security guard at the school.

On Friday, May 17, a distraught student entered a Parkrose classroom with a shotgun. Already this year, our Nation has watched children die at the hands of their armed classmates, including two young men who sacrificed their lives to stop gunmen and save their fellow students. To prevent such a tragedy, Mr. Lowe, in a tremendous act of courage, tackled the armed student and wrestled away the gun before anyone could be injured.

Mr. Lowe put his life on the line to protect our students. Mr. Lowe has not only guided students on the field, but now he has also protected them in the classroom. He will no doubt be remembered by those students for the rest of their lives as an example of selflessness and courage.

On behalf of all Oregonians, I express our deepest gratitude and admiration to Mr. Lowe, and thank him for his service to Parkrose students, every Parkrose family, and all Oregonians.

TRIBUTE TO WEST VIRGINIA’S HEROES AND RECOGNIZING THE ALWAYS FREE HONOR FLIGHT NETWORK

Mr. MANCHIN. Madam President, today I am incredibly honored to rise and recognize a group of 23 heroic military veterans who will travel from West Virginia to our Nation’s Capital as part of the 10th Always Free Honor Flight. On the occasion of their visit, in which they will see for the first time the monuments built in their honor, I want to express my utmost gratitude to these men and women for their extraordinary bravery and patriotism and for their noble sacrifice to help keep our country free.

I have said this time and time again: West Virginia is one of the most patriotic States in this great Nation. With one of our country’s highest percentages of military servicemembers and veterans, West Virginia is undoubtedly one of the Nation’s most patriotic States. According to the Department of Defense, West Virginia had the highest casualty rate in the Nation during the Vietnam war, and I am so proud that the Honor Flight will allow these West Virginians to pay homage to their brethren at the Vietnam Wall.

The 31 veterans participating in this week’s Always Free Honor Flight truly embody the Mountain State’s history and contributions to the safeguarding of our American freedoms. Our special West Virginians visiting this week represent warriors from 23 to 93 years old and have traveled from all parts of our great State, from Beckley to Bluefield, Princeton to Cottageville, and many places in between. In addition to our Mountain State veterans, six veterans from Virginia and one veteran from Florida will be accompanying their West Virginia neighbors on the day-long adventure. Of the patriotic West Virginian veterans, one served in World War II, two served in the Korean war, 10 served in the Vietnam war, one in Vietnam and Desert Storm, one served in the Cold war, one served in Desert Storm and the Gulf war, two served in the war in Afghanistan, and many others served between wars.

I would especially like to recognize our World War II veteran who will be on this honor flight—93-year-old Allen K. Walker who now lives in Beckley but is originally from the Mississippi Delta. He joined the Navy in Rosedale, MS, in 1944. He served as a seaman first class stationed in Pearl Harbor, HI. Allen is a member of our Nation’s Greatest Generation, and their sacrifices and valor embody American patriotism. They fought in such a pivotal war, in an era that threatened our existence as a Nation. Unfortunately, as the years go by, we are losing so many of our World War II veterans, and we must show them our utmost gratitude each and every day.

As I mentioned, we will also be joined by veterans of the Korean, Vietnam, Cold, and Gulf wars. They engaged in combat all over the world. They were Humvee mechanics, military police officers, and radio operators.

Two of our proud veterans here today served in the Korean war. One is 86-year-old Corporal Paul Clifford Lathney from Cottageville, WV, who served in the Army in 1953 in Ripley, WV. During his time in Korea, he served in the 15th Infantry, 3rd Division Fox Company, where he treated wounded soldiers in MASH units. Our other Korean war veteran is 90-year-old Sergeant David Shirley Knapp, who was in the Army from 1948-1954 and served as a combat engineer during the Korean war.

Another veteran is Charlie R. Lambert from Iaeger, WV, who served in a variety of roles during the Vietnam war. After he joined the Navy in 1970, he served in a “boots on the ground” role in Thailand, served on the flight deck of the USS Iwo Jima, and volunteered to be a member of the Brown Water Navy or the forces that patrolled shallow inland waterways seizing contraband and engaging with the enemy. Another brave West Virginian who served in Vietnam is Sergeant Robert Ortiz, from Premier, WV, who served as an infantryman in the 196th Light Infantry Brigade, 23rd Infantry Division Americal.

We also have two veterans who served in two wars, both from Virginia. Sergeant Jackie Thornton of Narrows, VA, who served in the Army during both Vietnam and Desert Storm wars, as the chaplain’s assistant, as well as, Sergeant Steven R. Mitchell of Bluefield, VA, who served in the Army in both Operation Desert Shield/Storm and the Gulf war. I would like to also specifically honor the youngest veteran we have with us today, Sergeant Austin Patrick Coleman of Bluefield, WV. He joined the Marines in Houston, TX, and served his country in Helmand Province Afghanistan as an infantryman, assisting the Afghanistan National Army. Another veteran of the war in Afghanistan here today is Michael “Doc” Atwell of Princeton, WV. Doc served in the Navy at Camp Dwyer in the Helmand Province. He was attached to the 1st Tank Battalion RC17 as a FMF corpsman.

Showing our appreciation to those who have served is something that we should do each and every day, but today, I want to pay tribute and thank those who have volunteered to put their lives on the line for our freedoms. The memorials our honor flight participants will visit today serve as an important reminder to us all that our freedoms and liberties come at a steep cost. However, I know our veterans will find special meaning and potentially long-lost emotions when they tour such touching sites.

This week’s honor flight and the continued support of WV state and federal leaders would not be possible without the dedication of so many volunteers and caregivers. I would like to thank Theresa Riggs, the JROTC Cadet from Montcalf High...
School, as well as the military spouses and other family members serving as the guardians on this year’s honor flight. These guardians have selflessly given their time to travel alongside our veterans all the way from Princeton, WV, to Washington, DC, to share this very special experience with them. I also commend those in the Always Free Honor Flight Network for their dedication to providing our veterans with such a unique and meaningful experience. Without the diligence and passion Dreama of Denver, president of Always Free Honor Flight Network and owner of Princeton, WV’s, Little Buddy Radio, as well as Pam Coulbourne, the coordinator of these flights, many of our veterans would never have the opportunity to travel to Washington and pay homage to the men and women they fought beside. Dreama and Pam launched the Always Free Honor Flight in 2012, and every year, they continue to make this dream a reality for many of our veterans. I would also like to recognize Sergeant First Class Paul Dorsey, vice president of Always Free Honor Flight and official photographer Steve Coleman, who have done a tremendous job of ensuring that our veterans receive the recognition they deserve. Dreama, Pam, and Steve have also dedicated themselves to the Denver Foundation, serving as incredible examples of how individuals can give back to their communities.

I am filled with pride every time I meet the patriots who have served our country, and I am so pleased to welcome West Virginia’s most courageous veterans, who are all heroes, to Washington, DC. I encourage all of my colleagues to join me in saluting them. They truly inspire us all as we are reminded of their selfless service. It is because of their bravery that all Americans enjoy the greatest liberties and freedoms in the world.

God bless all our servicemembers and veterans. God bless the great State of West Virginia, and God bless the United States of America.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

REMEMBERING JOEL COURREGES

Mrs. MURRAY. Madam President, I am honored to pay tribute to Joel Courreges, a Washingtonian, a marine, and commander of the Disabled American Veterans, Chapter 5, upon his passing.

Joel Courreges was a man who never stopped believing in his community, his State, and his country. Joel served our Nation as a marine in the Vietnam war, returning with disabilities both visible and invisible. Having seen firsthand how difficult the transition home can be, he made it his mission to smooth that path for his fellow veterans as they returned from service. Joel became the commander of the Disabled American Veterans, Chapter 5, in Bremerton, WA. In this role, he not only dedicated countless hours to helping veterans file claims with the VA and making sure they could make their appointments, he even drove them himself if they couldn’t get there on their own.

But that wasn’t all. As Joel saw what more and more veterans were going through, he realized the system wasn’t working. Too many veterans, especially those with PTSD and other wounds of war beneath the surface, were arriving at the VA that didn’t understand their unique needs and weren’t prepared or designed to help them get back on their feet. Because of Joel’s drive and vision, the Kitsap County Veterans Court was created, with the goal of helping the men and women who sacrificed to defend our freedoms get a hand up when they were most in need.

Having seen Joel’s efforts firsthand, I know without a doubt that his dedication to public service lifted countless others, especially veterans who have given our country so much, and helped them lead the fulfilling lives they deserve. I will always be grateful to Joel for his kindness, his generosity of spirit, and his dedication to make his difference. My thoughts are with his family and all those who loved him.

TRIBUTE TO DAVID FITZ-GERALD

Mr. SANDERS. Madam President, today I wish to recognize David Fitz-Gerald and congratulate him on his term as the chair of the ESOP Association. David has been committed to advancing the employee ownership model in Vermont and around the country. For the last 2 years, David served as chair of the association, working to promote the interests of employee stock ownership plan, ESOP, companies across the country.

In my State of Vermont, we have seen firsthand the many benefits that employee ownership can bring to businesses and employees. Study after study has shown that employee ownership has been proven to spur employment, increase productivity, grow sales, and raise wages. During the last two recessions, companies with ESOPs were twice as likely to survive the downturn.

David has been a vital ally in the efforts to expand broad-based employee ownership and bolster middle-class jobs in our communities. As chair, David advocated for the ESOP business model and the benefits of worker ownership all across the country. I know many in the employee ownership community are so appreciative of David’s energy, motivation, and empowerment. Over the last 2 years, David dedicated much of his time and energy to expanding broad-based employee ownership to help create a sustainable economy that benefits all of our communities.

In addition to his work as chair of the ESOP Association, David serves as a trustee for the Employee Ownership Foundation, working to promote employee ownership. He is a leader in the Vermont employee ownership community and has been a crucial ally in our fight to expand employee ownership in our state and throughout the country. As we continue to work together to help the employee ownership model realize its true potential, I know David will continue to be an invaluable partner.

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Ms. Ridgway, one of his secretaries.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

In executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages from the President of the United States submitting sundry nominations which were referred to the appropriate committees.

The messages received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

At 11:37 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. 615. An act to provide women and girls safe access to sanitation facilities in refugee camps.

H.R. 753. An act to promote international exchanges on best election practices, cultivate more secure democratic institutions around the world, and for other purposes.

H.R. 1359. An act to promote Internet access in developing countries and update foreign policy toward the Internet, and for other purposes.

H.R. 1952. An act to amend the Inter-country Adoption Act of 2002 to require the Secretary of State to report on intercountry adoptions from countries which have significantly reduced adoption rates involving migration to the United States, and for other purposes.

H.R. 2480. An act to provide women and girls safe access to sanitation facilities in refugee camps; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

H.R. 320. An act to reauthorize the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act, and for other purposes.

MESSURES REFERRED

The following bills were read the first and the second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

H.R. 516. An act to promote international exchanges on best election practices, cultivate more secure democratic institutions around the world, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

H.R. 753. An act to promote international exchanges on best election practices, cultivate more secure democratic institutions around the world, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

H.R. 1359. An act to promote Internet access in developing countries and update foreign policy toward the Internet, and for other purposes.
other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

H. R. 1952. An act to amend the Inter-

Country Adoption Act of 2000 to require the Secretary of State to report on intercountry adoptions from countries which have significantly reduced adoption rates involving im-

migration to the United States, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

H. R. 2116. An act to reauthorize the Child Abuse Protection and Treatment Act, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

MEASURE HELD AT THE DESK

The following measure was ordered held at the desk, by unanimous con-

sent:

S. 1370. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to treat certain military sur-

vivor benefits as earned income for pur-

poses of the kiddie tax.

EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were laid before the Senate, together with accompanying papers, reports, and doc-

uments, and were referred as indicated:

EC–1320. A communication from the Act-

ing Secretary of Defense, transmitting a report on the approved retirement of Vice Admiral Mathias W. Winter, United States Navy, and his addressee to the grade of vice admiral on the retired list; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC–1321. A communication from the Acting Secretary of Defense, transmitting a request relative to issuing a travel restriction on senior officials’ travel to Afghanistan effec-
tive May 15, 2019 through September 30, 2019; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC–1322. A communication from the Execu-
tive Director, Federal Energy Regulatory Com-
mission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Marketing Order Regulating the Handling of Spearmint Oil Produced in the Far West; Salable Quantities and Allotment Per-
centages for the 2019–2020 Marketing Year” ((7 CFR Part 965) (Docket No. AMS–SC–18–
0084)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 16, 2019; to the Com-
mittee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and For-
estry.

EC–1323. A communication from the Acting Secretary of Defense, transmitting a request relative to issuing a travel restriction on senior officials’ travel to Afghanistan effective May 15, 2019 through September 30, 2019; to the Committee on Armed Services.

Whereas, Trade with Canada and Mexico is critical to U.S. states. For 43 states, our trade agreement’s new market access and revenue Code of 1986 to treat certain military sur-

vivor benefits as earned income for pur-

poses of the kiddie tax.

EC–1324. A communication from the Sec-

etary of Defense, transmitting a request relative to issuing a travel restriction on senior officials’ travel to Afghanistan effective May 15, 2019 through September 30, 2019; to the Committee on Armed Services.

Whereas, NAFTA is significant for the relationship between the United States, Canada, and Mexico. For more than 25 years, NAFTA has been economically, culturally and strategically important for all parties; and

Whereas, NAFTA is significant for the American economy. Trade with Canada and Mexico supports nearly 12 million American jobs, and nearly 5 million of those jobs are supported by increased NAFTA trade. Since the agreement began in 1994, trade with Can-
da and Mexico has nearly quadrupled to $1.3 trillion, and the two countries buy more than one-third of U.S. merchandise exports. U.S. service exports to Canada and Mexico have tripled, with Mexico’s turnover in 1993 to $91.3 billion in 2017, thanks to the trade agreement’s new market access and clearer rules; and

Whereas, Trade with Canada and Mexico is significant to U.S. states. For 43 states, our contiguous international neighbors represent

P ETITIONS AND MEMORIALS

The following petitions and memorial-
s were laid before the Senate and were ordered to lie on the table as indicated:

H. R. 694. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to treat certain military sur-

vivor benefits as earned income for pur-

poses of the kiddie tax.

Whereas, The North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) is a close tri-lateral re-

lationship between the United States, Can-
da, and Mexico. For more than 25 years, NAFTA has been economically, culturally and strategically important for all parties; and

Whereas, NAFTA is significant for the American economy. Trade with Canada and Mexico supports nearly 12 million American jobs, and nearly 5 million of those jobs are supported by increased NAFTA trade. Since the agreement began in 1994, trade with Can-
da and Mexico has nearly quadrupled to $1.3 trillion, and the two countries buy more than one-third of U.S. merchandise exports. U.S. service exports to Canada and Mexico have tripled, with Mexico’s turnover in 1993 to $91.3 billion in 2017, thanks to the trade agreement’s new market access and clearer rules; and

Whereas, Trade with Canada and Mexico is significant to U.S. states. For 43 states, our contiguous international neighbors represent

H. R. 1952. An act to amend the Inter-

Country Adoption Act of 2000 to require the Secretary of State to report on intercountry adoptions from countries which have significantly reduced adoption rates involving im-

migration to the United States, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

H. R. 2116. An act to reauthorize the Child Abuse Protection and Treatment Act, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

MEASURE HELD AT THE DESK

The following measure was ordered held at the desk, by unanimous con-

sent:

S. 1370. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to treat certain military sur-

vivor benefits as earned income for pur-

poses of the kiddie tax.

EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were laid before the Senate, together with accompanying papers, reports, and doc-

uments, and were referred as indicated:

EC–1319. A communication from the Ad-

ministrator, Agricultural Marketing Serv-

ice, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Marketing Order Regulating the Handling of Spearmint Oil Produced in the Far West; Salable Quantities and Allotment Percentages for the 2019–2020 Marketing Year” ((7 CFR Part 965) (Docket No. AMS–SC–18–0084)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 16, 2019; to the Com-
mittee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and For-
estry.

EC–1320. A communication from the Acting Secretary of Defense, transmitting a report on the approved retirement of Vice Admiral Mathias W. Winter, United States Navy, and his addressee to the grade of vice admiral on the retired list; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC–1321. A communication from the Acting Secretary of Defense, transmitting a request relative to issuing a travel restriction on senior officials’ travel to Afghanistan effective May 15, 2019 through September 30, 2019; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC–1322. A communication from the Execu-
tive Director, Federal Energy Regulatory Com-
mission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Annual Update of Filing Fees” (RIN19062–AF63) (Docket No. RM19–14–000)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 20, 2019; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Re-
sources.

EC–1323. A communication from the Direc-
tor of Congressional Relations and Govern-
ment Affairs, Office of the Special Inspector General for Afghanistan Reconstruction, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the Office's April 2019 quarterly re-
port to Congress (OSIS–2019–063)) to the Com-
mittee on Homeland Security and Govern-
mental Affairs.

EC–1324. A communication from the Sec-
etary of Defense, transmitting a request relative to issuing a travel restriction on senior officials’ travel to Afghanistan effective May 15, 2019 through September 30, 2019; to the Committee on Armed Services.

Whereas, Trade with Canada and Mexico is critical to U.S. states. For 43 states, our trade agreement’s new market access and revenue Code of 1986 to treat certain military sur-

vivor benefits as earned income for pur-

poses of the kiddie tax.

Whereas, NAFTA is significant for the relationship between the United States, Canada, and Mexico. For more than 25 years, NAFTA has been economically, culturally and strategically important for all parties; and

Whereas, NAFTA is significant for the American economy. Trade with Canada and Mexico supports nearly 12 million American jobs, and nearly 5 million of those jobs are supported by increased NAFTA trade. Since the agreement began in 1994, trade with Can-
da and Mexico has nearly quadrupled to $1.3 trillion, and the two countries buy more than one-third of U.S. merchandise exports. U.S. service exports to Canada and Mexico have tripled, with Mexico’s turnover in 1993 to $91.3 billion in 2017, thanks to the trade agreement’s new market access and clearer rules; and

Whereas, Trade with Canada and Mexico is significant to U.S. states. For 43 states, our contiguous international neighbors represent
the first or second largest export market, and all but one state counts Canada or Mexico as their third largest export market. NAFTA has also contributed to a 300 percent increase in Michigan’s agricultural exports to Canada and Mexico; and
Whereas, Small and medium-sized enterprises in the United States rely on trade with Canada and Mexico to support and grow their business. Canada and Mexico are the top two export destinations for U.S. small and medium-sized enterprises, more than 123,000 of which sold their goods and services in Canada and Mexico in 2014; and
Whereas, Trade among our North American trading partners is made up predominantly of intellectual property (IP)-intensive goods and services that employ millions of Americans in high paying jobs and generate billions of dollars in economic output. However, many of the IP-intensive goods, services, and exchanges through which trade is facilitated did not exist when the agreement was drafted. This situation has resulted in uneven and weak IP enforcement. Stronger enforcement of IP rights will encourage more foreign direct investment and increase gross domestic product; and
Whereas, The United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement (USMCA) creates a 21st Century trade agreement for North America. The renegotiated USMCA has provisions favorable to U.S. workers that would help level the playing field between U.S. and Mexican automobiles. The updated agreement is also more beneficial to the agricultural sector than NAFTA and will offer a higher degree of certainty and stability to Michigan farmers. The new IP provisions are the most comprehensive of any multilateral U.S. trade agreement and are vastly superior to those included in NAFTA; and
Whereas, transition between NAFTA and the USMCA will ensure that none of the benefits in trade accomplished by the integration of the three North American economies will be lost: Now, therefore, be it
Resolved by the House of Representatives, That we urge the Congress of the United States to speedily approve the recently negotiated United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement; and be it further
Resolved, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to the President of the United States, the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, and the members of the Michigan congressional delegation.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:
By Mr. WICKER, from the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute:
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 (Rept. No. 116–41).

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. SCHATZ (for himself, Mr. BENNET, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mrs. MURRAY, and Mr. VAN HOLLREN):
S. 1554. A bill to amend the debt ceiling; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. BLUNT (for himself, Ms. HIRONO, Ms. COLLINS, and Ms. KLOUCHMACH):
S. 1554. A bill to provide for an automatic acquisition of United States citizenship for certain internationally adopted individuals, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. CRAPO (for himself, Ms. STABENOW, Mrs. SHAHEEN, and Mr. GARDNEER):
S. 1555. A bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to improve the Transition Assistance Program for members of the Armed Forces, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Ms. BALDWIN (for herself, Mr. JONES, Mr. BENNETT, MR. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. Brown, Ms. CANTWELL, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. CARPER, Mr. CASEY, Mr. COONS, Ms. CORTES MASTO, MS. DUCKWORTH, Mr. DURBIN, Mrs. FEDENIC, Ms. FIORELLI, Mr. HARRIS, Ms. HASSAN, Mr. HEINRICH, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. KAINE, Mr. KING, Ms. KLOUCHMA, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. MANCHIN, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. MURKLEY, Mr. MURPHY, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. PETERS, Mr. REED, Ms. ROSEN, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. SCHATZ, Mr. SCHUMER, Mr. SHAHINES, Ms. SISEMA, Ms. SMITH, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. TESTER, Mr. UDALL, Mr. VAN HOLLREN, Mr. WARNER, Ms. WARREN, Mr. WINTERS, and Mr. WYDEN):
S. 1556. A bill to provide that the rule entitled “Short-Term, Limited Duration Insurance” shall have no force or effect; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. BOOKER (for himself and Mr. BLUMENTHAL):
S. 1557. A bill to establish a grant program to incentivize States to reduce prison populations, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. HEINRICH (for himself, Mr. PORTMAN, and Mr. SCHATZ):
S. 1558. A bill to establish a coordinated Federal strategy to research and develop on artificial intelligence for the economic and national security of the United States, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. MERKLEY (for himself and Mr. KENNEDY):
S. 1559. A bill to provide standards relating to airline travel by Federal employees for official business; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. GARDNER (for himself and Mr. BENNET):
S. 1560. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide for a credit against the tax for improving the safety of fuel systems in emergency medical rotorcraft; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mrs. BLACKBURN (for herself, Mr. GRAHAM, Mr. HAWLEY, and Mr. COTTON):
S. 1561. A bill to require the Secretary of Health and Human Services to provide to the Secretary of Homeland Security certain information with respect to unaccompanied alien children, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. WYDEN:
S. 1562. A bill to amend the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971 to clarify the obligation to report acts of foreign election influence and require implementation of compliance and reporting systems by Federal campaigns to detect and report such acts; to the Committee on Rules and Administration.

By Mr. BURR (for himself, Mr. Tester, Mr. TILLIS, Mr. RUBIO, and Mr. CARDIN):
S. 1564. A bill to amend the Public Health Service Act with respect to the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry’s review and publication of illness and conditions relating to veterans stationed at Camp Lejeune, North Carolina, and their family members, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans’ Affairs.

By Mr. TILLIS (for himself, Mr. MORAN, Mr. Cramer, Mr. COTTON, Mr. PERDUE, and Mr. ROUNDS):
S. 1566. A bill to require the Securities and Exchange Commission and certain Federal agencies to carry out a study relating to accounting standards, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. HAWLEY (for himself and Mr. ROSS):
S. 1565. A bill to establish a Corps of Engineers Flood Control Civilian Advisory Council, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mr. CORNYN (for himself, Mr. King, Mr. TILLIS, and Ms. DUCKWORTH):
S. 1568. A bill to require information and opportunities for voting and absentee ballot requests for members of the Armed Forces who are undergoing deployment overseas, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Rules and Administration.

By Ms. MCSALLY (for herself and Ms. SINEO):
S. 1567. A bill to support endemic fungal disease research, incentivize fungicidal vaccine development, discover new antifungal therapies and diagnostics, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. GRASSLEY:
S. 1568. A bill to improve transparency regarding the activities of the American Red Cross, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. WYDEN:
S. 1569. A bill to amend the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971 to allow certain expenditures for cybersecurity-related services or assistance; to the Committee on Rules and Administration.

By Mr. RISCH:
S. 1570. A bill to provide flexibility to allow greater aquifer recharge, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. HAWLEY (for himself, Mr. BENT, and Mr. GRASSLEY):
S. 1571. A bill to remove fish and wildlife as an authorized purpose of the Missouri River Mainstem Reservoir System and to make flood control the highest priority of authorized purposes of the System, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mr. PORTMAN (for himself and Ms. SMITH):
S. 1572. A bill to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to add additional reporting on crime and harm that occurs during student participation in programs of study abroad, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Ms. DUCKWORTH (for herself and Mr. SMITH):
S. 1573. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to eliminate copayments by the Department of Veterans Affairs for medical services relating to primary care, mental health services, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans’ Affairs.
By Mr. ISAKSON (for himself and Mr. MURPHY):
S. 1574. A bill to amend the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 to require the disclosure of certain information to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. PORTMAN (for himself and Ms. SMITH):
S. 1575. A bill to direct the Secretary of State to make available to the Director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention copies of consular reports of death of United States citizens, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Ms. WARREN (for herself, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. BROWN, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Ms. Baldwin, Ms. SMITH, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. SANDERS, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. Kaine, Ms. HARRIS, Ms. HASSAN, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Ms. GILLIBRAND, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, and Mr. MURPHY):
S. 1576. A bill to strengthen parity in mental health and substance use disorder benefits; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. CASSIDY (for himself and Mr. BENNET):
S. 1577. A bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to prohibit certain contracts between health insurance plans or issuers and companies accountable for dubious marketing and distribution of opioid products and for their role in creating and exacerbating the opioid epidemic in the United States; 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. BOOKER (for himself, Mr. CASEY, Ms. HARRIS, Mr. PETERS, Mrs. Murray, and Ms. Stabenow):
S. Res. 214. A resolution recognizing the history and contributions of Muslims of the United States; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. BRAUN (for himself, Mr. COTTON, Mr. RUHIO, and Mr. CRUZ):
S. Res. 215. A resolution calling for greater religious and political freedoms in Cuba, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Ms. DUCWORTH (for herself, Ms. EMERSON, Mr. MERKLEY, and Ms. HARRIS):
S. Res. 216. A resolution recognizing the contributions made by the men and women of the Air Force who are responsible for operating and maintaining the Global Positioning System constellation and affirming the importance of continuous availability, accuracy, efficiency, robustness, reliability, and resiliency of the Global Positioning System constellation; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. DURBIN (for himself, Mr. DUCKWORTH, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Ms. FEINSTEIN, Ms. HARRIS, Ms. HIRONO, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. MURPHY, Mrs. MURRAY, and Mr. VAN HOLLEN):
S. Res. 217. A resolution expressing support for the designation of June 7 through June 9, 2019, as "National Gun Violence Awareness Week," and June 7 as "National Gun Violence Awareness Month"; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mrs. MURRAY (for herself, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. SCHUMER, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. BROWN, Ms. CANTWELL, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. HINCHI, Mr. BENNET, Mr. MENENDEZ, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. COHEN, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Ms. HARRIS, Mr. COONS, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. SCHATZ, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. LEAHY, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Ms. SMITH, Mr. TISCHER, Mr. MURPHY, Mr. SANDERS, Ms. WARNER, Mr. HIRONO, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. BOXER, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. MARKY, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, Ms. HASSAN, Mr. PETERS, Mr. CARPER, Mr. JAHN, Mr. REED, Mr. UDALL, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. KING, Mr. WARNER, and Ms. SINEMA):

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

At the request of Mr. RISCH, the name of the Senator from Indiana (Mr. YOUNG) was added as a cosponsor of S. 52, a bill to halt the wholesale slaughter of the Syrian people, encourage a negotiated political settlement, and hold Syrian human rights abusers accountable for their crimes.

At the request of Ms. MURKOWSKI, the name of the Senator from Maryland (Mr. VAN HOLLEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 133, a bill to award a Congressional Gold Medal, collectively, to the United States merchant mariners of World War II, in recognition of their dedicated and vital service during World War II.

At the request of Mr. THUNE, the names of the Senator from Alabama (Mr. SHELBY) and the Senator from Georgia (Mr. ISAKSON) 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.

At the request of Mr. GRAHAM, the name of the Senator from Florida (Mr. SCOTT) was added as a cosponsor of S. 160, a bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to protect pain-capable unborn children, and for other purposes.

At the request of Mr. RUBIO, the names of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. ISAKSON) and the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. CASEY) were added as cosponsors of S. 178, a bill to condemn gross human rights violations of ethnic Turkic Muslims in Xinjiang, and calling for an end to arbitrary detention, torture, and harassment of these communities inside and outside China.

At the request of Ms. KLOBUCHAR, the names of the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. BURREY) and the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. MANCHIN) were added as cosponsors of S. 189, a bill to protect the privacy of users of social media and other online platforms.

At the request of Mr. INHOFE, the names of the Senator from Florida (Mr. SCOTT) and the Senator from Indiana (Mr. YOUNG) were added as cosponsors of S. 249, a bill to direct the Secretary of State to develop a strategy to regain observer status for Taiwan in the World Health Organization, and for other purposes.

At the request of Mr. INHOFE, the names of the Senator from Virginia (Mr. Kaine) and the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. MENENDEZ) were added as cosponsors of S. 277, a bill to posthumously award a Congressional Gold Medal to Fred Korematsu, in recognition of his dedication to justice and equality.

At the request of Ms. HIRONO, the names of the Senator from Virginia (Mr. Kaine) and the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. Menendez) were added as cosponsors of S. 388, a bill to reduce the ability of the U.S. Immigration and
Customs Enforcement to engage in inappropriate civil immigration enforcement actions that harm unaccompanied alien children and to ensure the safety and welfare of unaccompanied alien children.

S. 336

At the request of Mr. Van Hollen, the name of the Senator from Vermont (Mr. Sanders) was added as a cosponsor of S. 336, a bill to amend title 49, United States Code, to require the development of public transportation operations safety risk reduction programs, and for other purposes.

S. 466

At the request of Mr. Warner, the names of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. Booker), the Senator from Montana (Mr. Tester), the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. Blumenthal), the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. Casey), the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. Smith), the Senator from Hawaii (Ms. Hirono), the Senator from Maryland (Mr. Van Hollen), the Senator from Delaware (Mr. Coons), the Senator from Oregon (Mr. Wyden), the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. Schatz), the Senator from New York (Mrs. Gillibrand), the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. Klobuchar) and the Senator from New Hampshire (Ms. Hassan) were added as cosponsors of S. 466, a bill to provide that certain guidance related to waivers for State innovation under the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act shall have no force or effect.

S. 504

At the request of Ms. Sinema, the names of the Senator from Wisconsin (Ms. Baldwin) and the Senator from Colorado (Mr. Gardner) were added as cosponsors of S. 504, a bill to amend title 16, United States Code, to authorize The American Legion to determine the requirements for membership in The American Legion, and for other purposes.

S. 513

At the request of Ms. Harris, the name of the Senator from California (Ms. Feinstein) was added as a cosponsor of S. 513, a bill to amend title 18, United States Code, with respect to civil forfeitures relating to certain seized animals, and for other purposes.

S. 514

At the request of Mr. Tester, the name of the Senator from Virginia (Mr. Kaine) was added as a cosponsor of S. 514, a bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to improve the benefits and services provided by the Department of Veterans Affairs to women veterans, and for other purposes.

S. 622

At the request of Mr. Jones, the names of the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. Graham), the Senator from Montana (Mr. Daines) and the Senator from Delaware (Mr. Carper) were added as cosponsors of S. 622, a bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to repeal the requirement for reduction of survivor annuities under the Survivor Benefit Plan by veterans’ dependency and indemnity compensation, and for other purposes.

S. 640

At the request of Mr. Kennedy, the name of the Senator from West Virginia (Mrs. Capito) was added as a cosponsor of S. 640, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to require pharmacy-negotiated price concessions to be included in negotiated prices at the point-of-sale under part D of the Medicare program, and for other purposes.

S. 651

At the request of Mr. Casey, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. Klobuchar) was added as a cosponsor of S. 651, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to increase the age requirement with respect to eligibility for qualified ABLE programs.

S. 726

At the request of Mrs. Feinstein, the name of the Senator from Nevada (Ms. Rosen) was added as a cosponsor of S. 726, a bill to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act to ensure the safety of cosmetics.

S. 741

At the request of Ms. Smith, the names of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. Merkley) and the Senator from Tennessee (Mrs. Blackburn) were added as cosponsors of S. 741, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to require group and individual health insurance coverage and group health plans to provide for cost sharing for oral anticancer drugs on terms no less favorable than the cost sharing provided for anticancer medications administered by a health care provider.

S. 758

At the request of Ms. Duckworth, the names of the Senator from Vermont (Mr. Sanders) and the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. Booker) were added as cosponsors of S. 758, a bill to ensure affordable abortion coverage and care for every woman, and for other purposes.

S. 814

At the request of Mrs. Shaheen, the name of the Senator from Arizona (Ms. Sinema) was added as a cosponsor of S. 814, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to improve access to diabetes outpatient self-management training services, and for other purposes.

S. 833

At the request of Mr. Portman, the name of the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. Burr) was added as a cosponsor of Mr. S. 833, a bill to amend the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 and the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 with respect to participant votes on the suspension of benefits under multiemployer plans in critical and declining status.

S. 839

At the request of Mr. Kaine, the name of the Senator from Arizona (Ms. Sinema) was added as a cosponsor of S. 839, a bill to extend Federal Pell Grant eligibility of certain short-term programs.

S. 841

At the request of Mr. Warner, the name of the Senator from Maryland (Mr. Cardin) was added as a cosponsor of S. 841, a bill to enhance the ability of Federal agencies to deliver relocation management services to the Federal Government, and for other purposes.

S. 846

At the request of Ms. Cornyn, the names of the Senator from Florida (Mr. Scott) and the Senator from Texas (Mr. Cruz) were added as cosponsors of S. 846, a bill to amend title 49, United States Code, to limit certain rolling stock procurements, and for other purposes.

S. 879

At the request of Ms. Stabenow, the name of the Senator from Florida (Mr. Rubio) was added as a cosponsor of S. 880, a bill to provide outreach and reporting on comprehensive Alzheimer’s disease care planning services furnished under the Medicare program.

S. 901

At the request of Ms. Collins, the name of the Senator from Nebraska (Mrs. Fischer) was added as a cosponsor of S. 901, a bill to amend the Older Americans Act of 1965 to support individuals with younger onset Alzheimer’s disease.

S. 972

At the request of Mr. Grassley, the names of the Senator from Idaho (Mr. Risch) and the Senator from Indiana (Mr. Braun) were added as cosponsors of S. 972, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to encourage retirement savings, and for other purposes.

S. 988

At the request of Mrs. Capito, the name of the Senator from Tennessee (Mrs. Blackburn) was added as a cosponsor of S. 988, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to prohibit prescription drug plan sponsors and MA-PD organizations under the Medicare program from retroactively reducing payment on clean claims submitted by pharmacies.

S. 1039

At the request of Mr. Udall, the names of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. Blumenthal) and the Senator from Oregon (Mr. Wyden) were added as cosponsors of S. 1039, a bill to limit the use of funds for kinetic military operations in or against Iran.

S. 1093

At the request of Mr. Young, the name of the Senator from Tennessee...
(Mrs. Blackburn) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1045, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to expand the authority of the Secretary of Health and Human Services to permit nurses to practice in health care facilities with critical shortages of nurses through programs for loan repayment and scholarships for nurses.

S. 1083

At the request of Mr. Booker, the names of the Senator from Vermont (Mr. Sanders) and the Senator from Illinois (Mr. Durbin) were added as cosponsors of S. 1083, a bill to address the fundamental injustice, cruelty, brutality, and inhumanity of slavery in the United States and the 13 American colonies between 1619 and 1865 and to establish a commission to study and consider a national apology and proposal for reparations for the institution of slavery, its subsequent de jure and de facto racial and economic discrimination against African-Americans, and the impact of those forces on living African-Americans, to make recommendations to the Congress on appropriate remedies, and for other purposes.

S. 1167

At the request of Mrs. Murray, the name of the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. Markey) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1167, a bill to require the Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Communications and Information to establish a State Digital Equity Capacity Grant Program, and for other purposes.

S. 1190

At the request of Mrs. Capito, the names of the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. Bookman) and the Senator from Michigan (Ms. Stabenow) were added as cosponsors of S. 1190, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act as coauthors of S. 1190, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to clarify presumption re-...

S. 1195

At the request of Ms. Baldwin, the names of the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. Burr), the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. Graham), the Senator from Missouri (Mr. Hawley), the Senator from Virginia (Mr. Kaine), the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. Kennedy), the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. Reed), the Senator from Alabama (Mr. Shelby), the Senator from Montana (Mr. Tester), the Senator from Idaho (Mr. Crapo), the Senator from Florida (Mr. Rubio), the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. Thune), the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. Rounds), the Senator from Oregon (Mr. Wyden) and the Senator from Vermont (Mr. Sanders) were added as cosponsors of S. 1235, a bill to require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint coins in commemoration of ratification of the 19th Amendment to the Constitution of the United States, giving women in the United States the right to vote.

S. 1273

At the request of Mr. Kennedy, the name of the Senator from Tennessee (Mrs. Blackburn) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1273, a bill to amend title 17, United States Code, to establish an alternative dispute resolution program for copyright small claims, and for other purposes.

S. 1370

At the request of Mr. Cassidy, the names of the Senator from Iowa (Ms. Ernst) and the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. Thune) were added as cosponsors of S. 1370, a bill to amend the International Revenue Code of 1986 to treat certain military survivor benefits as earned income for purposes of the kiddie tax.

S. 1394

At the request of Ms. Baldwin, the names of the Senator from Maine (Ms. Collins) and the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. Menendez) were added as cosponsors of S. 1394, a bill to provide collective bargaining rights for public safety officers employed by States or their political subdivisions.

S. 1405

At the request of Mr. Daines, the name of the Senator from Wyoming (Mr. Barrasso) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1405, a bill to amend the International Revenue Code of 1986 to extend the credit for production of refined coal.

S. 1498

At the request of Ms. Harris, the name of the Senator from Delaware (Mr. Coons) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1498, a bill to codify the Outdoor Recreation Legacy Partnership Program of the National Park Service, and for other purposes.

S. 1514

At the request of Mr. Perdue, the name of the Senator from Arizona (Ms. McSally) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1514, a bill to amend title IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965 to require institutions of higher education that participate in programs under such title to distribute voter registration forms to students enrolled at the institution, and for other purposes.

S. 1540

At the request of Ms. Klobuchar, the name of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. Murphy) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1540, a bill to protect elections for public office by providing financial support and enhancing security for the infrastructure used to carry out such elections, and for other purposes.

S. Res. 81

At the request of Mr. Rubio, the name of the Senator from Maryland (Mr. Cardin) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 81, a resolution calling for accountability and justice for the assassination of Boris Nemtsov.

S. Res. 120

At the request of Ms. Murkowski, her name 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. 184

At the request of Mr. Risch, the names of the Senator from Maryland (Mr. Cardin) and the Senator from Texas (Mr. Cruz) were added as cosponsors of S. Res. 184, a resolution condemning the Easter Sunday terrorist attacks in Sri Lanka, offering sincere condolences to the victims, to their families and friends, and to the people and nation of Sri Lanka, and expressing solidarity and support for Sri Lanka.

S. Res. 207

At the request of Ms. Baldwin, the name of the Senator from Nevada (Ms. Reno) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 207, a resolution congratulating the Senate GLASS Caucus staff association for lesbian, gay, bisexual, and...
transgender Senate staff on the 15-year anniversary of the association.

S. RES. 22

At the request of Ms. MURKOWSKI, the names of the Senator from Indiana (Mr. BRAUN), the Senator from Kansas (Mr. McCaskill), the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. BLUNT), the Senator from Alaska (Mr. SULLIVAN), the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. LANKFORD), the Senator from Utah (Mr. Lee), the Senator from Wyoming (Mr. BARRASSO), the Senator from Idaho (Mr. CRAPO), the Senator from Montana (Mr. DAINES), the Senator from Alabama (Mr. SHELEY), the Senator from Utah (Mr. ROMNEY), the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. BOOZMAN), the Senator from Arizona (Mr. COTTON), the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. THUNE), the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. CASIDY), the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. TOOMEY), the Senator from Texas (Mr. CORNYN), the Senator from Wisconsin (Mr. JOHNSON), the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. HOEVEN), the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. ROUNDS), the Senator from Texas (Mr. CRUZ), the Senator from Georgia (Mr. ISAKSON), the Senator from Georgia (Mr. PERDUE), the Senator from Florida (Mr. RUBIO), the Senator from Colorado (Mr. GARDNER) and the Senator from Tennessee (Mr. ALEXANDER) were added as cosponsors of S. Res. 212, a resolution celebrating the 100th anniversary of the passage and ratification of the 19th Amendment, providing for women’s suffrage, to the Constitution of the United States.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. WYDEN:

S. 1569. A bill to amend the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971 to allow certain expenditures for cybersecurity-related services or assistance; to the Committee on Rules and Administration.

Mr. WYDEN. Mr. President, today I am introducing the Federal Campaign Cybersecurity Assistance Act of 2019—a bulky name for a bill that attempts to do a simply stated thing: protect our democracy from foreign cyber attacks.

This bill allows the national campaign committees to provide much-needed cybersecurity assistance to State political parties, Federal campaign offices’ staffs, and Federal candidates’ personal accounts and devices.

In 2015 and 2016, hackers working for the Russian government penetrated the networks of the Democratic National Committee and the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee. The hackers also compromised the email account of Senator Hillary Clinton’s presidential campaign manager, John Podesta. The Russian government subsequently leaked and weaponized Democratic party and campaign emails in order to influence the outcome of several elections—most publicly, the presidential race between Donald Trump and Hillary Clinton, but also U.S. House of Representatives races in Illinois, New Hampshire, New Mexico, North Carolina, Ohio, and Pennsylvania. Hackers also targeted Republicans during the same period, but were less successful in their efforts.

The impact of hacking-enabled influence campaigns was a surprise to many. However, this was not the first time that a foreign government hacked into the campaign organization of someone running to be President of the United States. For officials from the 2008 Obama and McCain presidential campaigns have publicly confirmed that both organizations were compromised by hackers. In an interview with NBC News 2013, Dennis Blair, who served as President Obama’s Director of National Intelligence between 2009 and 2010 stated that “Based on everything I know, this was a case of political cyber-espionage by the Chinese government against the two American political parties. They were looking for positions on China, especially those that might be rolled out by campaigns against China.”

In recent years, the Republican National Committee, the National Republican Senatorial Committee, and the National Republican Political Committee have all been hacked, as well as the campaigns of Senators GRAHAM and MCCAIN. Both major political parties have suffered hacks, and will undoubtedly continue to be targeted by foreign governments, hackers, and other sophisticated attackers.

Over the past two years, Congress has turned its attention to several weaknesses in our democracy that were exploited by Russia including the role of social media companies and longstanding flaws in paperless voting machines used in several states. While these issues have yet to be meaningfully addressed, they have, at least, been the subject of oversight hearings and legislation in Congress. In contrast, Congress has yet to hold a single hearing on the vulnerability of political parties and campaigns to hacking by foreign governments, nor has anyone else in Congress introduced legislation to help defend these organizations from cyber attacks.

For the sake of the integrity of the American political process, I introduce this bill today to protect those running for office, and the organizations that support them. Independently, the Russian hacking and leaking of emails in 2016 is now well documented. Their efforts continue. If you think they aren’t working towards the 2020 federal elections as hard as any cub reporter in Iowa, you’d be badly mistaken. And they are likely not alone. Other hostile governments will undoubtedly seek to emulate and improve on Russia’s tactics.

Congress has acted in the past to protect those running for office from serious threats. After Senator Robert F. Kennedy was assassinated in 1968, Congress authorized the Secret Service to protect Presidential and Vice Presidential candidates. In extending Secret Service protection to candidates, Congress recognized that the threats to Presidential and Vice Presidential candidates required professional protection. Congress must now take action to protect candidates for Federal office—successively, the President and Vice President—from another serious threat: hacking by foreign governments.

The political parties are best of the available options to provide cybersecurity for campaigns. Politicians are already dependent upon the parties for fundraising, advertising, polling, messaging, and other forms of support. Giving parties the responsibility to provide cybersecurity does not make politicians dependent on help from a new entity. Parties are also responsible to politicians they protect, more so than any other government, corporate, or non-profit entity.

Quite simply, this bill gives the national campaign committees the role of providing cybersecurity on behalf of the parties, campaigns, and candidates. The committees will be able to provide these entities with securely configured laptops and cellphones, professionally administered email, encrypted messaging, and collaborating software, and if necessary, hire third-party cybersecurity experts to help in the event of a successful hack.

This bill also permits the national parties to provide this assistance with money raised through fees assessed on the other supplementary accounts created by Congress in 2014. I share these concerns, and have long supported bold reforms of our campaign finance system. However, the current Senate is extremely unlikely to pass legislation creating public financing of elections anytime soon, and so while we have the current system, permitting the use of money in the building fund for cybersecurity appears to be the least bad option. Most importantly, this bill allows the national parties to raise any new funds—it merely permits a new use of money raised through the building fund.

I am not the only one to recognize the severity of the cyber threat aimed at political parties. Earlier this year, the Canadian agency responsible for government cybersecurity, the Communications Security Establishment, issued a lengthy report on threats to elections, which noted that that “Globally, political parties, candidates, and election officials remain targets for cyber threat activity.” Likewise, the Maryland Board of Elections published guidance last week, recognizing
that “Campaigns are a potential cyber target,” and consequently permitted state political parties to provide additional cybersecurity assistance to campaigns.

November 2020 gets closer by the day. Congress cannot wait any longer to protect citizens and their candidates themselves from sophisticated cyber attacks. Accordingly, I urge my colleagues to promptly act on this legislation, and to secure our democracy from cyber threats before it is too late.

By Mr. DURBIN (for himself, Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. YOUNG, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. PORTMAN, Mr. KAIN, and Ms. SMITH):

S. 1583. A bill to amend the Lead-Based Paint Poisoning Prevention Act to provide for additional procedures for families with children under the age of 6, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the text of the bill be printed in the RECORD.

The text of the bill is as follows:

S. 1583

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 “Lead-Safe Housing for Kids Act of 2019”.

SEC. 2. AMENDMENTS TO THE LEAD-BASED PAINT POISONING PREVENTION ACT.

Section 302(a) of the Lead-Based Paint Poisoning Prevention Act (42 U.S.C. 4822a(a)) is amended—

(1) by redesignating paragraph (4) as paragraph (5); and

(2) by inserting after paragraph (3) the following:

“(4) ADDITIONAL PROCEDURES FOR FAMILIES WITH CHILDREN UNDER THE AGE OF 6.—

“(A) In general.—

“(i) DEFINITION.—In this subparagraph, the term ‘covered housing’—

“(I) means housing receiving Federal assistance described in paragraph (1) that was constructed prior to 1978; and

“(II) does not include—

“(aa) single-family housing covered by an application for mortgage insurance under the National Housing Act (12 U.S.C. 1701 et seq.); or

“(bb) multi-family housing that—

“(AA) for an application for mortgage insurance under the National Housing Act (12 U.S.C. 1701 et seq.); and

“(BB) does not receive any other Federal housing assistance.

“(ii) REGULATIONS.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of the Lead-Safe Housing for Kids Act of 2019, the Secretary shall promulgate regulations that—

“(I) require the owner of covered housing in which a family with a child of less than 6 years of age will reside or is expected to reside to conduct an initial risk assessment for lead-based paint hazards—

“(aa) in the case of covered housing receiving tenant-based rental assistance under section 8 of the United States Housing Act of 1937 (42 U.S.C. 1437f), not later than 15 days after the date on which the family and the owner submit a request for approval of a tenancy or lease renewal, whichever occurs first; and

“(bb) in the case of covered housing receiving public housing under the United States Housing Act of 1937 (42 U.S.C. 1437 et seq.) or project-based rental assistance under section 8 of the United States Housing Act of 1937 (42 U.S.C. 1437f), not later than 15 days after the date on which a physical condition inspection occurs; and

“(cc) in the case of covered housing not described in item (aa) or (bb), not later than a date established by the Secretary; and

“(III) provide that a visual assessment alone is not sufficient for purposes of complying with subclause (I); and

“(III) require that, if lead-based paint hazards are identified by an initial risk assessment conducted under subclause (I), the owner of the covered housing shall—

“(aa) not later than 30 days after the date on which the initial risk assessment is conducted, control the lead-based paint hazards, including achieving clearance in accordance with regulations promulgated under section 402 or 404 of the Toxic Substances Control Act (42 U.S.C. 6972(c)); and

“(bb) provide notice to all residents in the covered housing affected by the initial risk assessment, and provide notice in the community of the area or areas of the covered housing where lead-based paint hazards were identified and will be controlled with a period preceding the date on which the family is expected to reside in the covered housing; and

“(IV) provide that there shall be no extension of the 30-day period described in subparagraph (III)(aa).

“(III) EXCEPTIONS.—The regulations promulgated under clause (i) shall provide an exception to the requirement under subclause (I) of such clause for covered housing—

“(I) if the owner of the covered housing submits to the Secretary documentation—

“(aa) that the owner conducted a risk assessment of the covered housing for lead-based paint hazards during the 12-month period preceding the date on which the family is expected to reside in the covered housing; and

“(bb) of any clearance examinations of lead-based paint hazard control work resulting from the risk assessment described in item (aa);

“(II) from which all lead-based paint has been identified and removed and clearance has been achieved in accordance with regulations promulgated under section 402 or 404 of the Toxic Substances Control Act (15 U.S.C. 2602, 2604), as applicable;

“(III) assistance in identifying lead-based paint hazards are identified in the dwelling unit in the covered housing in which the family will reside or is expected to reside;

“(bb) the dwelling unit is unoccupied; and

“(cc) the owner of the covered housing, without any further delay in occupancy or increase in rent, provides the family with an occupancy plan that adequately addresses all risks associated with the lead-based paint hazards; and

“(dd) the common areas servicing the new dwelling unit have no lead-based paint hazards; and

“(IV) in accordance with any other standard or exception the Secretary deems appropriate based on health-based standards.

“(B) RETRANSMISSION.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of the Lead-Safe Housing for Kids Act of 2019, the Secretary shall promulgate regulations to provide that a family with a child of less than 6 years of age that occupies a dwelling unit in covered housing in which lead-based paint hazards were identified, but not controlled in accordance with the 30-day period preceding the date on which the family is expected to reside, (ii) may relocate on an emergency basis and without placement on any waitlist, penalty (including rent payments to be made for that dwelling unit), or lapse in assistance to—

“(v) a dwelling unit that was constructed in 1978 or later; or

“(vi) another dwelling unit in covered housing that has no lead-based paint hazards.

(2) AMENDMENTS TO THE UNITED STATES HOUSING ACT OF 1937.—

SEC. 3. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

There is authorized to be appropriated to carry out the amendments made by section 2 such sums as may be necessary for each of fiscal years 2020 through 2024.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 214—RECOGNIZING THE HISTORY AND CONTRIBUTIONS OF MUSLIMS OF THE UNITED STATES

Mr. BOOKER (for himself, Mr. CASEY, Ms. HARRIS, Mr. PETERS, Mrs. MURRAY, and Ms. STABENOW) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. Res. 214

Whereas the millions of Muslims of the United States, immigrant and native born—

(1) compose 2 percent of the total population of the United States; and

(2) have built a vibrant community of diverse races, ethnicities, viewpoints, and backgrounds;

Whereas many African slaves brought to the Americas, including the American colonies later known as the United States, were Muslim and made innumerable contributions to the founding of the United States;

Whereas Muslims of the United States—

(1) come from a myriad of diverse cultural backgrounds; and

(2) practice their faith according to a variety of different historical schools of thought and traditions within the Sunni and Shi’a interpretations of Islam;

Whereas Muslims of the United States have long served in the Armed Forces and have fought in all major United States conflicts, from the Revolutionary War onward, with more than 5,000 Muslims serving in the Armed Forces as of April 2019;

Whereas many Muslim members of the Armed Forces have made the ultimate sacrifice for the United States, including—

(1) Corporal Kareem Rashad Sultan Khan, who was born in 1987 and made the ultimate sacrifice for the United States in 2007; and

(2) Captain Humayun Saqib Muazzam Khan, who was born in 1976 and made the ultimate sacrifice for the United States in 2004;

Whereas countless Muslims of the United States contribute to the economy and well-being of the United States as—

(1) physicians;

(2) business owners;

(3) laborers;

(4) service workers;

(5) teachers engaging the next generation of people of the United States; and

(6) police officers, firefighters, and first responders saving lives every day; and

Whereas Muslims of the United States have made and continue to make important contributions to the advancement of the United States that are fundamental to the shared values, society, and culture of the United States, including—

(1) military veterans, such as—

(A) Corporal Bampett Muhamed of Virginia, who served in the Revolutionary War;

(B) Yusuf Ben Ali (also known as ‘‘Joseph Benhaley’’), who served in the Continental Army under George Washington and fought with General Thomas Sumter in South Carolina;
(C) Captain Moses Osman, who served in the Union Army during the Civil War and was the highest ranking Muslim in that war;
(D) Corporal Sheikh Nazim Abdul-Kareem, who served in the Army during World War II at the Battle of Normandy and the Battle of the Bulge; and
(E) First Class Mujahid Mohammed, who served in the Army and was held as a prisoner of war during the Korean War;
(F) retired Chief Master Sergeant of the Air Force Talib M. Shareef, who now serves as imam at the Nation’s Mosque in Washinton D.C.; and
(G) the countless other Muslims of the United States who served valiantly in World War I, World War II, the Korean War, the Vietnam War, and other conflicts;
(2) Yarrow Mamout, the freed African-American Muslim slave who later became one of the first shareholders of the Columbia Bank, the second chartered bank in the United States;
(3) Fazlur Rahman Khan, the famed architect and designer who designed the Sears Tower and the John Hancock Center;
(4) Mohammad Salman Hamdani, the New York City Police Department cadet and Emergency Medical Technician who heroically helped others in the aftermath of the attacks on the World Trade Center on September 11, 2001;
(5) Dr. Farouk El-Baz, a geologist and remote sensing scientist who, from 1967 to 1972, was instrumental in helping the National Aeronautics and Space Administration identify the landing sites on the Moon for the Apollo program, serving as—
(A) Secretary of the Landing Site Selection Committee for the Apollo missions;
(B) Principal Investigator of Visual Observations and Photography; and
(C) Chairman of the Astronaut Training Group of the Apollo Photo Team;
(6) noted academics and researchers, such as—
(A) Dr. Sulyman S. Nyang, professor and former chairman of the African Studies Department at Howard University;
(B) Dr. Intisar A. Rabb, professor of law at Harvard Law School and a director of the Islamic Legal Studies Program at Harvard Law School;
(C) Asifa Quraishi-Landes, comparative law expert at the University of Wisconsin-Madison; and
(D) Zareema Grewal, American studies and religious studies scholar at Yale University;
(7) health professionals, such as—
(A) Dr. Elias A. Zerhouni, Director of the National Institutes of Health;
(B) Dr. Heather Laird-Johnson, founder, president, and director of the Center for Mindful Healing and Islamic Psychology at the University of Southern California; and
(C) Dr. Zehra Siddiqui, who focuses on providing health care for underserved populations, including homeless individuals, immigrants, and individuals without health insurance;
(8) Olympic medalists, such as—
(A) boxer Muhammad Ali;
(B) track and field athlete Darilah Muhammad; and
(C) fencer Ibtihaj Muhammad;
(9) professional athletes, such as—
(A) basketball players Kareem Abdul-Jabbar, F. Hakem Olajuwon, and Shaquille O’Neal;
(B) football players Muhammad Wilkinson, Ameer Abdullah, and Husain Abdullah; and
(C) 2-time world heavyweight champion Hasim Rahman;
(10) religious leaders, such as Hajj Malik El Shabazz, also known as “Malcolm X”, who was—
(A) an African-American Muslim imam;
(B) a civil rights activist; and
(C) a reformer;
(11) Imam Warith Deen Mohammed (born Wallace D. Muhammad), an African-American Muslim leader and theologian who—
(A) in 1992, was the first Muslim of the United States to deliver the invocation for the Senate;
(B) worked tirelessly to unite diverse Muslim communities; and
(C) is commonly referred to as “America’s Imam”;
(12) public servants, such as—
(A) Dr. Ahmed Hassan Zewail, who won a Nobel Prize in Chemistry and was a member of the President’s Council of Advisors on Science and Technology;
(B) Dr. Robert (Farooq) D. Crane, former Deputy Director of the National Security Council and advisor to President Richard Nixon;
(C) Zalmay Khalilzad, who served as—
(i) the United States Ambassador to Afghanistan from 2003 to 2005;
(ii) the United States Ambassador to Iraq from 2005 to 2007; and
(iii) the United States Ambassador to the United Nations from 2007 to 2009; and
(D) Adam Shakoor, the first Muslim judge in the United States;
(E) Osman Siddique, the first Muslim United States ambassador and
(F) Sada Cumber, the first United States Ambassador to the Organization of the Islamic Conference;
(13) elected officials, such as—
(A) Representative André Carson of Indiana;
(B) Representative Ilhan Omar of Minnesota;
(C) Representative Rashida Tlaib of Michigan;
(D) Minnesota Attorney General Keith Ellison;
(E) Virginia State Representative Sam Rasoul; and
(F) Pennsylvania State Representative Movita Johnson-Harrell; and
(G) local council members, including—
(i) Aisha Wahab of Hayward, California;
(ii) Susan Babasa of Dearborn, Michigan;
(iii) Shahid Shafi of Southlake, Texas; and
(iv) Basheer Jones of Cleveland, Ohio;
(14) entrepreneurs and business leaders, such as—
(A) Farooq Kathwari, the chairman, chief executive officer, and president of Ethan Allen Interiors Inc.;
(B) businessman Hyman Shahid Khan, owner of the Jacksonville Jaguars football team in the National Football League;
(C) Islamic fashion designer Lisa Vogl, founder of Vogl Designs;
(D) philanthropist Zara Mohamed Abdulmajid, also known as “Imam”, founder of Imam Cosmetics;
(E) Hamdi Ulukaya, the founder, chairman, and chief executive officer of Chobani Greek Yogurt; and
(F) Dr. Mark Humayun, who co-invented the Argus series retina implants; and
(15) entertainers, such as—
(A) actor and comedian Hasan Minhaj;
(B) Mahershala Ali, the first Muslim actor to win an Oscar;
(C) Sam Esmail, the creator of Mr. Robot; and
(D) comedian and actor Maysoon Zayid: Now, therefore, be it
Resolved, That the Senate recognizes the historic and valuable contributions of the Muslim community of the United States to the United States.

SENATE RESOLUTION 215—CALLING FOR GREATER RELIGIOUS AND POLITICAL FREEDOMS IN CUBA, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Mr. BRAUN (for himself, Mr. COTTON, Mr. RUBIO, and Mr. CRUZ) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

Whereas the Castro regime has used arbitrary incarcerations, harassment, and intimidation to deny basic freedoms to thousands of Cubans since the Cuban Revolution;
Whereas, in April 2019, a family was sent to prison by authorities in Cuba for homeschooling their children;
Whereas the children were enrolled in a Christian distance school in Honduras;
Whereas the families involved, which includes parents, whose only purported religious reason for homeschooling their children;
Whereas the Government of Cuba has a history of arresting individuals who chose to homeschool their children and sentencing them to prison time and hard labor;
Whereas the Government of Cuba’s insistence on state-controlled education is a sign of authoritarianism, enabling them to indoctrinate youth with a communist ideology;
Whereas parents have the right to teach their children free from the state indoctrination of an autocratic regime;
Whereas the United States Commission on International Religious Freedom formerly condemned Cuba for actions pertaining to the April 2019 imprisonment of those who homeschool their children;
Whereas the United States has instituted an embargo on Cuba in 1960;
Whereas the Cuban Liberty and Democratic Solidarity (Liberat) Act of 1996 (22 U.S.C. 6921 et seq.) does not permit these sanctions to be lifted until the Castro regime has been deposed and Cuba has legalized political activity and made a commitment to free and fair elections; and
Whereas, despite the 2014 Executive branch decision to normalize relations with Cuba, it is still in the power of Congress to lift an embargo: Now, therefore, be it
Resolved, That the Senate—
(1) expresses solidarity with the people of Cuba in their pursuit of religious freedom;
Whereas the Government of Cuba to release all political prisoners, including those who have been imprisoned for homeschooling their children;
(3) calls on the OAS Inter-American Commission on Human Rights to grant the Precautionary Measures requested on April 25, 2019;
(4) calls on the Government of Cuba to recognize the right of parents to teach their own children free from state communist indoctrination;
(5) calls on the Government of Cuba to institute democratic reforms, including reforms that guarantee freedom of religion; and
(6) calls for the continued implementation of the Cuban Liberty and Democratic Solidarity Act of 1996.

CONGRESSIONAL RECORD — SENATE
May 21, 2019
Whereas GPS is also essential for enabling aviation safety and efficiency, including by (1) in 2013, GPS provided economic benefits with a mid-range estimated value of approximately $68,700,000,000 or 0.4 percent of the gross domestic product of the United States; (2) Department of Homeland Security identifies GPS as essential to 14 of the 16 industries that are classified as part of the nation’s critical infrastructure; (3) In 2013, GPS provided precision agriculture was estimated to save grain farmers 10 to 15 percent in operating costs and purchased inputs and the broad economic benefit of precision agriculture in grain farming was estimated to provide a mid-range benefit of $13,700,000,000; (4) In 2013, GPS-enabled surveying was estimated to produce a mid-range economic benefit of $11,600,000,000; (5) Globally, 3,600,000,000 Global Navigation Satellite System devices were in use in 2014, 450,000,000 of which were in North America. (6) In 2012, the Boston Consulting Group estimated that the geospatial services ecosystem, which is supported by GPS, drove $1,600,000,000,000 in revenues and $1,400,000,000,000 in cost savings throughout the United States economy. (7) GPS-enabled location-based services that will enhance the over $568,270,000,000 app economy, supporting an estimated 5,744,481 jobs across the United States in 2018. (8) GPS has proven to be essential to the foundation of the ridesharing industry accessed on smartphones, valued by one estimate to be over $61,000,000,000. Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate recognizes— (1) the contributions made by the men and women of the Air Force who are responsible for operating and maintaining the Global Positioning System constellation; (2) the valuable contributions made by the Department of Transportation in coordinating interactions with the civil users of the Global Positioning System; and (3) the importance of continuous availability, accuracy, robustness, reliability, and resiliency of the Global Positioning System constellation.

SENATE RESOLUTION 217—EXRESSING SUPPORT FOR THE DESIGNATION OF JUNE 7 THROUGH JUNE 9, 2019, AS “NATIONAL GUN VIOLENCE AWARENESS WEEKEND” AND JUNE 2019 AS “NATIONAL GUN VIOLENCE AWARENESS MONTH”

Mr. DURBIN (for himself, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Ms. HARRIS, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. MURPHY, Mrs. MURRAY, and Mr. VAN HOLLEN) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. Res. 217

Whereas, each year in the United States, more than—

(1) 36,000 individuals are killed and 100,000 individuals are injured by gunfire; (2) 12,000 individuals are killed in homicides involving firearms; (3) 22,000 individuals commit suicide by using firearms; and

(4) 500 individuals are killed in unintentional shootings;

Whereas, since 1988, more individuals have died from guns in the United States than have died on the battlefields of all the wars in the history of the United States; Whereas, by 1 count, in 2018 in the United States, there were— (1) 103 incidents in which a gun was fired in a school or college; Whereas gun violence typically escalates during the summer months; Whereas nearly 2,000 children and teens are killed by gun violence every year; Whereas more than 6,300 people in the United States under the age of 25 die because of gun violence annually, including Hadiya Pendleton, who, in 2013, was killed at 15 years of age in Chicago while standing in a park; Whereas, on the first weekend of June 2019, to recognize the 22nd birthday of Hadiya Pendleton, people across the United States will recognize National Gun Violence Awareness Weekend and wear orange in tribute to— (1) Hadiya Pendleton and other victims of gun violence; and (2) the loved ones of those victims; and Whereas June 2019 is an appropriate month to designate as “National Gun Violence Awareness Month”; Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate— (A) the designation of June 2019 as “National Gun Violence Awareness Month” and the goals and ideals of that month; and (B) the designation of June 7 through June 9, 2019, as “National Gun Violence Awareness Weekend”, in remembrance of the victims of gun violence; and (2) calls on the people of the United States to— (A) promote greater awareness of gun violence and gun safety; (B) wear orange, the color that hunters wear to show that they are not targets, on June 7 through June 9, 2019; (C) concentrate heightened attention on gun violence during the summer months, when gun violence typically increases; and (D) bring community members and leaders together to discuss ways to make communities safer.

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION S3011—SUPPORTING REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH CARE IN THE UNITED STATES

Mrs. MURRAY (for herself, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. SCHUMER, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. BROWN, Ms. CANTWELL, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. HEINRICH, Mr. BENNET, Mr. MENENDEZ, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Ms. ROSEN, Mr. CARDEN, Mr. WATSON, Mr. WITTENSTEIN, Mr. HARRIS, Mr. COONS, Mr. MURKLEY, Mr. SCHATZ, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. LEAHY, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. VON HOLLEN, Ms. SMITH, Mr. TESTER, Mr. MURPHY, Mr. SANDERS, Ms. WARNEN, Ms. HIRONO, Ms. GILLIBRAND, Mr. BOOKER, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. MARKEY, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, Ms. HASSAN, Mr. PETERS, Mr. CARPER, Mr. KAIN, Mr. REED, Mr. UDALL, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. KING, Mr. WARNER, and Ms. SINA) submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pens.
Whereas Roe v. Wade, 410 U.S. 113 (1973), upholds the constitutional right to privacy, including in health care decisions and the right to access abortion care; and

Whereas Roe v. Wade demonstrates quality legal reasoning and is consistent with related precedent since it was based on sound legal principles first established in Griswold v. Connecticut and Eisenstadt v. Baird (1972), and repeatedly reaffirmed by the Supreme Court, including in Obergefell v. Hodges (2015);

Whereas the facts that have developed since Roe v. Wade was decided reaffirm that people of the United States support the right to choose, that abortion is a medically safe procedure, and that access to reproductive health care provides women with greater economic opportunities; and

Whereas the rights established in Roe v. Wade have been relied upon in this country for almost 50 years;

Whereas a majority of people of the United States support access to abortion care; and

Whereas, while the State of Alabama, the State of Georgia, and other States passed laws in 2019 that clearly seek to overturn Roe v. Wade and are unconstitutional; meanwhile, other States over 60 bills introduced in more than 21 States to protect and expand access to reproductive care;

Where low-income individuals and women of color are disproportionately impacted by restricting access to abortion care; and

Whereas when States have enacted laws in violation of Roe v. Wade, health clinics close and health care services disappear: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring), That Congress supports efforts to—

(1) ensure that all women can access comprehensive, affordable health care that includes pregnancy-related care, including prenatal care, miscarriage management, family planning services, abortion care, labor and delivery services, and postnatal care; and

(2) promote preventive health care services for women;

(3) ensure that all women have access to comprehensive, affordable health care that includes pregnancy-related care, including prenatal care, miscarriage management, family planning services, abortion care, labor and delivery services, and postnatal care; and

(4) improve women’s access to reproductive health care, regardless of the State in which they reside.

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I have 12 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 Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry
The Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, May 21, 2019, at 9:30 a.m., to conduct a hearing.

Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs
The Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, May 21, 2019, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing.

Committee on Energy and Natural Resources
The Committee on Energy and Natural Resources is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, May 21, 2019, at 10:15 a.m., to conduct a hearing.

Committee on Foreign Relations
The Committee on Foreign Relations is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, May 21, 2019, at 11 a.m., to conduct a hearing on the following nominations: Pamela Bates, of Virginia, to be Representative of the United States of America to the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, with the rank of Ambassador; and Christopher Landau, of Maryland, to be Ambassador to the United Mexican States, both of the Department of State, Jennifer D. Nordquist, of Virginia, to be United States Executive Director of the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development, of Florida, to be United States Executive Director of the Inter-American Development Bank, and other pending nominations.

Committee on the Judiciary
The Committee on the Judiciary is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, May 21, 2019, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing.

Select Committee on Intelligence
The Select Committee on Intelligence is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, May 21, 2019, at 11 a.m., to conduct a closed business meeting.

Subcommittee on Cybersecurity
The Subcommittee on Cybersecurity of the Committee on Armed Services is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Monday, May 20, 2019, at 9:30 a.m., to conduct a hearing.

Subcommittee on Emerging Threats and Capabilities
The Subcommittee on Emerging Threats and Capabilities of the Committee on Armed Services is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, May 21, 2019, at 4:30 p.m., to conduct a hearing.

Subcommittee on Personnel
The Subcommittee on Personnel of the Committee on Armed Services is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, May 21, 2019, at 2:15 p.m., to conduct a hearing.

Subcommittee on Seapower
The Subcommittee on Seapower of the Committee on Armed Services is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, May 21, 2019, at 11 a.m., to conduct a hearing.

APPOINTMENTS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Chair announces, on behalf of the Majority Leader, pursuant to Public Law 101–509, the reappointment of the following individual to serve as a member of the Advisory Committee on the Records of Congress: Deborah Skaggs Speth of Kentucky.

The Chair announces, on behalf of the Secretary of the Senate, pursuant to Public Law 101–509, the reappointment of the following individual to serve as a member of the Advisory Committee on the Records of Congress: Sheryl B. Vogt of Georgia.

RECOGNIZING THE CONTRIBUTIONS MADE BY THE MEN AND WOMEN OF THE AIR FORCE

Mr. MCCONNELL. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of S. Res. 212, submitted earlier today.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 212) recognizing the contributions made by the men and women of the Air Force who are responsible for operating and maintaining the Global Positioning System constellation and affirming the importance of continuous availability, accuracy, efficiency, robustness, reliability, and resiliency of the Global Positioning System constellation.

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 PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolution (S. Res. 212) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

(The resolution, with its preamble, is printed in today’s RECORD under “Submitted Resolutions.”)

ORDERS FOR WEDNESDAY, MAY 22, 2019

Mr. MCCONNELL. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it
adjourn until 9:30 a.m., Wednesday, May 22; 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 Nielsen nomination.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

ORDER OF PROCEDURE
Mr. MCCONNELL, Madam President, for the information of all Senators, we will vote on the confirmation of the Nielsen, Clark, Nichols, and Bell nominations, in the order listed, at 4:30 p.m. tomorrow.

ORDER FOR ADJOURNMENT
Mr. MCCONNELL, Madam President, if there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask unanimous consent that it stand adjourned under the provisions of the remarks of Senator Brown.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The Senator from Ohio.

NATIONAL FOSTER CARE MONTH
Mr. BROWN, Madam President, this month I join Senator GRASSLEY of Iowa and a bipartisan group of my colleagues to recognize May as National Foster Care Month. It is an opportunity to acknowledge the millions of foster parents and children in foster care around the country. More importantly, it is a call to action. We simply leave too many children behind.

Poverty should never be the reason children are separated from their parents. There is no dignity in removing children from their mothers or fathers because they don’t have adequate housing or affordable childcare or jobs that allow them to take time off when their children get sick.

Right now, child welfare agencies are overwhelmed by the number of children who enter the system, and the addiction crisis just makes it worse. In Ohio, parents’ substance abuse is listed as one of the causes for one-third of all children who enter the system. Children who are already in the system stay there longer, especially teenagers. We have to do better than that.

Last year, we passed and the President signed the bipartisan Family First Prevention Services Act, which is an important first step. It has the potential to change our child welfare system over time. Yet the changes the Family First Prevention Services Act requires ultimately have to be made at the State level. We have to make sure that States have the support they need and that they actually do what the law requires.

That is why, this month, I introduced the Family First Transition and Support Act—to help all States transition to the family first era. It would provide funding for States to recruit and retain quality foster parents who meet the needs of children. Our bill would expand other family support services, which would help family members who raise children pay for essential needs and services, like childcare, transportation, and other things.

This is especially important with the rise in高度重视 family members raise children because of the addiction crisis. In Ohio, Arizona, and all over this country, we have seen a big increase in there being grandparents who raise grandchildren, in large part, because the children’s parents have had addiction issues or have actually died of overdoses.

The grandparents with the grandchildren face unique challenges and don’t often qualify for the same support and services. It means that they are going back to work. It may mean that a 68-year-old grandmother who lives on a pension and thought she was retired has to go back to work in order to raise this child to make enough money or has to take money out of her retirement savings.

Relatives’ care is vital to keeping kids safe at home and in their communities. Our bill would provide real funding to get these grandparents and other family members more support. There is no formula here, but most of the time, it is better if grandparents can raise these children rather than send them to foster parents, who are strangers. The grandparents, obviously, know and love the children. It doesn’t mean foster parents can’t, or course, but so often the grandparents are financially challenged.

I get letters all the time from Ohioans who tell their stories and ask us to support these family members. A man from Richland County, where I grew up, wrote to me saying:

I ask that family members be given the same financial aid as foster parents. Most of the family members are grandparents or great-grandparents on fixed income with little or no money.

Another woman from the county just south, Knox County, south of Mansfield wrote:

I am a grandmother raising my grandson. He is 15 years older but he is great kid, and has been living with me almost all his life. I lost my beautiful daughter to an overdose. She was raised in a good home, but was affected by this disease for the past 9 years. We loved her and miss her every day.

This letter goes on:

Grandparents that lovingly accept their grandchildren, under sometimes awful conditions.

Just think of that. She is raising a grandson when her daughter died of an overdose.

Grandparents that lovingly accept their grandchildren, under sometimes awful circumstances, on what to do.

Thank you so much for getting this program and money to support it on board.

Grandparents do so much, without much help.

Last year we were able to break through the partisanship and get the Family First Act signed into law. This bill is the commonsense next step.

This Foster Care Month, I hope that my colleagues will live up to their talking points about supporting children and families. We hear every day here how much we support children and families. Well, do something about it. Work with us to pass this bill.

I yield the floor.

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 9:30 A.M. TOMORROW
The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate stands adjourned until 9:30 a.m. tomorrow.

Thereupon, the Senate, at 6:41 p.m., adjourned until Wednesday, May 22, 2019, at 9:30 a.m.

NOMINATIONS
Executive nominations received by the Senate:

THE JUDICIARY
GARY RICHARD BROWN, OF NEW YORK, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK, VICE SANDRA J. FeINSteIN, RETIRED.
STEPHANIE A. GALLAGHER, OF MARYLAND, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE DISTRICT OF MARYLAND, VICE WILLIAM D. QuARLES, JR., RETIRED.
DIANE GUTARATTI, OF NEW YORK, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK, VICE JOHN GleESON, RESIGNED, TO BE CONFIRMED.
JAMES L. JIMAN, OF NEW YORK, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK, VICE PAUL A. COTTON, RETIRED.
MARY S. McHILL, OF RHODE ISLAND, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE DISTRICT OF RHODE ISLAND, VICE MARY M. LEBAN, RETIRED.
MARSHA MARIA FACOLD, OF ILLINOIS, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF ILLINOIS, VICE JOHN W. DarBAAR, RETIRED.
MARIAN M. ROWLAND, OF ILLINOIS, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF ILLINOIS, VICE JOHN W. DarBAAR, RETIRED.
STEVEN C. SHIBER, OF ILLINOIS, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF ILLINOIS, VICE JAMES B. zACCHetti, JR., RETIRED.
JOHN L. SINATHRA, JR., OF new YORK, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE DISTRICT OF NEW YORK, VICE WILLIAM M. SCRETTY, RETIRED.
KEVIN K. YOUNG, OF new YORK, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF new YORK, VICE LORIETTA A. FRESKA, RETIRED.

FOREIGN SERVICE
The following—named career members of the senior foreign service of the United States Department of State, for promotion within the senior foreign service of the United States of America:

Carl J. lEE, OF MARYLAND
BobbY G. RicheY, JR., OF TEXAS

The following—named members of the foreign service of the Department of State, to be a foreign service officer. a consular officer. and a secretary in the diplomatic service of the United States of America:

MELISSA McNINN, OF COLORADO
ROBERT B. BANTA, OF Florida
CAROLINE CHEUNG, OF VIRGINIA
SUZANNE FELDMAN, OF new YORK
CARLA MENENDEZ McMANUS, OF THE DISTRICT OF CO- LUMBIA
STEPHANIE A. GALLAGHER, OF MARYLAND
LEWIS J. LIMAN, OF new YORK

The following—named career members of the foreign service of the United States Department of State, to be a foreign service officer, a consular officer, and a secretary in the diplomatic service of the United States of America:

TAMARA MURRISHTTA, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
MATT B. POOL, OF ILLINOIS
GREGORY PARRY, OF TEXAS
GARY RAN D II., OF MARYLAND
JAMES SEVERVILLE, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
KAREN BALLARD, OF new YORK
MARCI KOGON, OF new YORK

The following—named members of the foreign service of the Department of State, to be a consul officer and a secretary in the diplomatic service of the United States of America:
MARDIKA M. ORTEZ, OF TEXAS
EROL OZGAY, OF CALIFORNIA
JESSICA P. PAVELK, OF THE DISTRICT OF CO-
LUMBA
KERRY L. LOKH, OF VERMONT
SCOTT A. HIGGERS, OF IDAHO
CRAIG R. BROWN, OF NEW YORK
DAVID B. ROSENBLUM, OF FLORIDA
SHARON A. HYAN, OF CALIFORNIA
DANA H. LINCOLN, OF VIRGINIA
JENNIFER MARIE SCHUETT, OF FLORIDA
CATHRYN K. SCOTT, OF PITTSBURGH
ELIZABETH M. SMITH, OF NEW JERSEY
JAMES C. BOYD, OF FLORIDA
SHEILA SPPELLMAN, OF VIRGINIA
ADAM M. STONG, OF FLORIDA
FREDRICK S. STOKES, OF CONNECTICUT
JAMES M. STahlzburger, OF PENNSYLVANIA
JEFFREY TANG, OF VERMONT
JESSICA R. ADAMS, OF VIRGINIA
PHILLIP J. VALDIVIA, OF CALIFORNIA
DION W. LOPES, OF MARYLAND
JIM M. VRAGA, OF TEXAS
ERIC T. VOUGHELET, OF MARYLAND
BERECA WALL, OF PENNSYLVANIA
RAYMOND A. WILKINS, OF NEW YORK
KELLY R. WOOD, OF TEXAS
WALID ZAFAR, OF VIRGINIA
"The following-named career members of the Foreign
Service for promotion into the Senior Foreign
Service, as a career member of the Senior
Foreign Service, class of counselor:
SUSAN PARKER-BURNS, OF MARYLAND
"The following-named career members of the Foreign
Service for promotion into the Senior Foreign
Service, class of counselor, and a consul officer and a
secretary in the diplomatic service of the United States of America:
JAY F. WILLIAMS, OF FLORIDA
JAMES R. SNODDY, OF FLORIDA
MIKHAIL L. MARONIC, OF WASHINGTON
THE FOLLOWING-NAMED MEMBERS OF THE FOREIGN
SERVICE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE TO BE A CON-
SULAR OFFICER AND A SECRETARY IN THE DIPLO-
MATIC SERVICE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA:
ALLISON MARGARET BARTLETT, OF VIRGINIA
SARAH ALLISON BENTLEY, OF VIRGINIA
SARAH N. BRIDGWATER, OF CALIFORNIA
ANDREW HIYAN KRESSLER, OF VIRGINIA
KURT D. STETTNER, OF COLORADO
PAUL MICHAEL, BIEAu, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
STEVEN EDWARD BOURGIOU, OF VIRGINIA
MONICA BRANDEDETTI, OF NEW YORK
SPENCER ALLAN CAIN, OF VIRGINIA
TEVIS CRAIG CALDWELL, OF MARYLAND
TIMOTHY D. BELL, OF WASHINGTON
MARGA DARCY KARL, OF VERMONT
ADRIANNE L. DAVIES, OF THE DISTRICT OF CO-
LUMBIA
YUTTAKORN CHAIOENGKUL, OF ILLINOIS
SUMIKO NOELLE CHAMBERS, OF VIRGINIA
ALI RASHAD DAVIS, OF MARYLAND
ANN KARI CLARE, OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
GRACE B. OLSNG, OF VIRGINIA
KATHERINE A. COULTER, OF CALIFORNIA
JESSE LEE DAVEY, OF WASHINGTON
SACHIN GUDKAR, OF NEW YORK
EDWARD W. DENVY, OF TEXAS
HANNEKE DEKIJK, OF GEORGIA
CAMILELLE D. DOCKORE, OF VIRGINIA
WILLIAM ALEXANDER DOCKORE, OF MARYLAND
RAYMOND L. DOWLING, OF MARYLAND
JOHN W. DROPPLET, OF MONTANA
CHRISTOPHER W. ELMAN, OF SOUTH CAROLINA
ZACHARY AUTIN DUNN, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
MELISSA KAY DURHAM, OF VIRGINIA
CHRISTOPHER GEORGE FOAKURY, OF MISSOURI
VINCENT R. FELLOWS, OF CALIFORNIA
JOSEPH HENDRON FERGUSON, JR., OF VIRGINIA
MATTHEW LEIGH FISCH, OF VIRGINIA
BRAD P. FRAZIER, OF TEXAS
NATALIA PASTORA GHENT-RODRIGUEZ, OF THE
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
ENKELDJA D. GJN, OF MICHIGAN
COLIN ANDREW GLENN, OF MARYLAND
JONATHAN RYAN GRIFFIN, OF VIRGINIA
PARK MANUEL, OF ILLINOIS
JOSEPH DOHYUN HAN, OF VIRGINIA
GEORGE S. HARRISON, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
BANNA L. HUGHES, OF VIRGINIA
LYNN G. HUFF, OF NEW MEXICO
GERALD M. HURST, OF ARIZONA
JOHN JOSEPH CHATties III, OF VIRGINIA
LAURA KENNEDY HUGHES, OF THE DISTRICT OF CO-
LUMBIA
ANTHONY VITO ITRANJAVIA, OF MARYLAND
MIRANDA J. FOLSE, OF LOUISIANA
DAVID M. MEHER, OF NEBRASKA
ERIK MALDONADO, OF VIRGINIA
GREGORY ALLEN MALY, OF VIRGINIA
STANLEY MACDONALD, OF CALIFORNIA
ELIZABETH A. MAYNARD, OF TEXAS
LAURA M. MCGRATH, OF FLORIDA
JON C. MCCABBE, OF FLORIDA
JACOBY A. McCLELLAND, OF MISSOURI
MIRIAM F. McKEAN, OF VIRGINIA
DANIEL K. MCINTOSH, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
MACAYE CLAIRE McLEOD, OF RHODE ISLAND
WALTER ISMAEL MORRISON, OF TENNESSEE
JONATHAN A. NICHOLS, OF MARYLAND
MARCUS S. O'BRIEN, OF AMERICA
JEAN M. RODRIGUEZ, OF TEXAS
ROBERT STEPHEN RICKS, OF THE DISTRICT OF CO-
LUMBIA
MARCILLE S. O'VALLORAN, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
ANDREW ROBERT OGA, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
JAMES L. PARKER, OF MARYLAND
KATINA C. PILOT, OF TEXAS
DIDGIO ISIDORO, OF MONTANA
KATHERINE L. PLEMMONS, OF TENNESSEE
MARGARET A. POLKITZER, OF MICHIGAN
DANIEL MARRELLI, OF NEW JERSEY
JUAN M. ROCHE, OF MEXICO
JOSEPH HERNDON FERGUSON, JR., OF VIRGINIA
BRIAN R. ROFF, OF MARYLAND
JONATHAN A. RODRIGUEZ, OF THE DISTRICT OF CO-
LUMBIA
LAUREN MICHELLES RYAN, OF ILLINOIS
DAVID V. RYAN, OF IOWA
ANN JEFFREY SAVAGE, OF VIRGINIA
RAMP H. SAYE, OF CLEVELAND
KATHERINE B. SCHNEIDER, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
ANDREW RUSSELL SHAW, OF FLORIDA
WILLIAM HAROLD SHASTRID, OF MICHIGAN
SYDNEY A. SKOV, OF CALIFORNIA
ANDREA B. SMITH, OF WASHINGTON
BRANDON ADAM SOLARANA, OF VIRGINIA
PATRICK R. SPENCER, OF MONTANA
ANDREA M. TAPPIERMUL, OF MISSOURI
NICOLA LISA THIBOD, OF LOUISIANA
JACOB W. TINLING, OF MARYLAND
JEREMY K. TIDWELL, OF TENNESSEE
MONICA KELLY VANDEGRAFF, OF NEW JERSEY
SALE D. TUCKETT, OF NEW YORK
STEVEN B. TUCKER, OF TEXAS
EMMET T. TUDOR, OF NEW JERSEY
DAMIEN A. VINO, OF VIRGINIA
DAVID MONSOIR WHITEART, OF MARYLAND
NICHOLAS COLEMAN WALLER, OF VIRGINIA
BENJAMIN K. WAXLE, OF NEW MEXICO
KILEN M. WELLS, OF VIRGINIA
SAYYAD YARMOUZI, OF MONTANA
BENJAMIN LOGAN WOODARD, OF VIRGINIA
YANG M. WONG, OF MARYLAND
THE FOLLOWING-NAMED MEMBERS OF THE FOREIGN
SERVICE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE TO BE A FOR-
EIGN SERVICE OFFICER, A CONSULAR OFFICER, AND A
SECRETARY IN THE DIPLOMATIC SERVICE OF THE UNITE-
TED STATES OF AMERICA:
VANESSA L. ADAMS, OF CALIFORNIA
LISA N. ANAGONOSKA, OF VIRGINIA
MICHELE BURKHART, OF CALIFORNIA
CHRISTOPHER N. ASHCRAFT, OF WASHINGTON
LISA N. ANDONOVSKA, OF VIRGINIA
JACKIE H. MEEKER, OF WYOMING
NADIA J. MARK, OF NEVADA
SARAH A. ROHN, OF VIRGINIA
JONATHAN STEWART NICHOLS, OF THE DISTRICT OF CO-
LUMBIA
WALTER ISMAEL MORENO, OF TENNESSEE
MACKENZIE LEIGH MILLER-GREEN, OF NEW YORK
STANLEY R. MARQUEZ, OF NEW YORK
GREGORY ALLEN MALY, OF VIRGINIA
ERIC MALDONADO, OF FLORIDA
DAVID W. MAHER, OF NEBRASKA
CLIFORD MALDONADO, OF VIRGINIA
JANICE MARIE MANKUS, OF MICHIGAN
SHARON A. RYAN, OF CALIFORNIA
SCOTT A. RISNER, OF IDAHO
MARIDELA M. ORTIZ, OF TEXAS
BIA
Mr. CONAWAY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to remember the brave men and women who gave their lives in the defense of freedom and to preserve the liberties that we hold dear in this nation.

Every Memorial Day, our nation unites to remember our military heroes who have paid the ultimate sacrifice to defend the values and freedoms we all cherish. This day of remembrance represents why so many people in our country are grateful to be Americans. No other nation has sacrificed so much to secure not only its own freedom, but that of other nations as well.

As we reflect on the remarkable lives of our nation’s fallen soldiers and their families, we must continue to honor them each and every day, as a single day of commemoration is far short of what they deserve. I know that back home in my district, our community will do their part in carrying on the legacy of these selfless individuals.

This year, the Granbury community will host their annual “Field of Flags,” which is a memorial of over a thousand flags flying along Highway 377. These flags are dedicated to the lives of those that were killed in action or that are still missing in action.

Attending Memorial Day events like the “Field of Flags” this weekend is imperative to teaching younger generations about the sacrifices that our military and first-responders make so that we may continue to live by the values that founded this nation.

May God bless our men and women serving today and in days past, may He comfort those who endure the pain of loss, and may He never cease to shed his grace on Texas and this great nation.

CONGRATULATING GIRL SCOUT GOLD AWARD RECIPIENTS

HON. BLAINE LUTKEMEYER
OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, May 21, 2019

Mr. LUTKEMEYER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating several extraordinary young women from Missouri’s Third Congressional District, for their achievement in earning the prestigious Girl Scout Gold Award.

The Girl Scout Gold Award is not an achievement easily obtained. It requires a significant amount of time, initiative, commitment, and leadership. The lessons learned in each of the seven steps that must be completed to achieve the Gold Award can be used beyond the Girl Scouts and applied in their educational choices, career paths, and everyday lives. With each of their Gold Projects, the young women have identified issues in their communities important to them, created plans for solving these concerns, and tackled the problems head-on. Because of their determination and drive, they have helped make their community a better place. Each of these young ladies should be proud of their accomplishments and I am honored to recognize each of them on this momentous occasion.

Congratulations to the following outstanding young women: Allison Bright, Emily Kurtz, Lindsay Picha, Kimberly Coulon, Maddi McGuire, Jillian Marie Rodgers, Madelynn Dickson, Anne Katherine Meister, Victoria Suerig, Nicolette Kolenc, Alyssa Miller, Madison Stumpf, Josephine Schmaltz, Sarah Burke, Shannon Wyss, and Sarah Wylle for their hard work and dedication as they join a selective group of young women.

Madam Speaker, please join me in recognizing these exceptional young women for a job well done.

RECOGNIZING NOAH CONNER

HON. MIKE BOST
OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, May 21, 2019

Mr. BOST. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Noah Conner in honor of his presentation of the Golden Apple Award. Out of 150,000 high schoolers, this distinction is given to 26 students across the state of Illinois who not only exhibit an exceptional work ethic within the classroom, but in athletics as well.

As a senior at Pinckneyville High School, Conner has shown his excellence in track and cross-country running while maintaining a perfect 4.0 Grade Point Average. This balance of academics and athletics is a difficult task, and I can’t think of a more fitting individual to be merited this tremendous award.

Madam Speaker, please join me in honoring Noah Conner and commend him for his hard work in and out of the classroom.
CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF KATHLEEN PIERCE-RYAN

HON. LEE M. ZELDIN
OF NEW YORK
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, May 21, 2019

Mr. ZELDIN. Madam Speaker, today I rise to honor the life and legacy of my constituent Kathleen Pierce-Ryan, who as an active member of her community, passionate about giving back through her gift of song.

Kathleen Pierce-Ryan was born on April 7, 1931, to Irish immigrants in the Bronx. Her talent for singing became evident early in life, and she developed her voice with her music teacher Sister Gabriel at St. Gabriel’s Parish School. Going on to win local singing competitions and receive awards for her performances, Kathleen auditioned at the Metropolitan Opera where she was awarded a scholarship and even performed at a concert in Manhattan Town Hall.

It was her brother who invited Kathleen to perform at the inaugural ceremony at Calverton National Cemetery, and she volunteered there, singing the National Anthem and God Bless America every Memorial Day and Veterans Day ceremony, for the next 39 years. Having had the honor of attending many of these services, I can attest that her songs touched the hearts of everyone who had the pleasure of listening and provided solace to those who grieved.

It was during some of the hardest moments in the lives of these veteran families that Kathleen’s voice comforted them, her patriotic melodies evoking an everlasting sense of pride. There is no doubt her passing pains the hearts of each and every family she touched throughout her 39 years singing at Calverton. Her voice is now sorely missed across Calverton National Cemetery and our entire community.

This Memorial Day, as we honor the service and sacrifice of the brave men and women who have fought for the freedoms and liberties that make this country the greatest in the world and the families that have stood by their side, let us also remember the so many Americans like Kathleen who have done their part to serve and inspire throughout our great nation.

HONORING THE LEGACY OF BETTY LIGGINS

HON. RAÚL M. GRIJALVA
OF ARIZONA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, May 21, 2019

Mr. GRIJALVA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Ms. Betty Liggins, a nurse and community civil rights activist, whose work tackling rampant crime and drugs in her neighborhood helped create a safe environment for families to thrive and grow.

Although she lost her final battle on May 8, 2019, her legacy as a nurse working out of her mobile health clinic and helping those in need lives on. Ms. Liggins’ service was inspired by her meetings with Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. at a civil rights march in Chicago, where Dr. King encouraged her to go back to school, finish her education, and help others. Inspired by his words, she attended the University of Arizona where she received her degree and became a Licensed Practical Nurse (LPN) and vowed to use her talents to champion the causes of the voiceless.

Ms. Liggins received many awards for her service to our community. She received the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. “Drum Major Award” and the National Jefferson Award in 1993 which was awarded in our nation’s capital. Her activism and leadership helped lift our community beyond what we could ever imagine, and she was recognized as one of the 25 Most Influential African Americans in Southern Arizona.

Ms. Liggins also took pride in her political activism and worked tirelessly to register voters and use the ballot box for change. An active member of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), she continually advocated for criminal justice reform to give incarcerated young African Americans a chance at a better life. Bearing witness to the blatant racism and prejudice of her youth endowed her with the grit and determination to ensure that those damages and trauma of the past were not inflicted on future generations.

In that vein, she took on the education system and advocated for better policies to improve the graduation rates of African American students. Instead of being discouraged by a just system that sometimes turned a critical eye to the poor, and a health system that put corporate interests over the health of her community, she remained motivated to create positive change.

Betty Liggins didn’t hold back. Her life is an example of how ordinary citizens with ordinary means can always stand up against the evils of injustice and poverty and accomplish extraordinary things.

IN SUPPORT OF THE 2020 CENSUS

HON. RICK LARSEN
OF WASHINGTON
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, May 21, 2019

Mr. LARSEN. Madam Speaker, I regret that I had a scheduling conflict which caused me to miss the following vote. I would have voted “No” on roll call vote 166.

oppose adding a citizenship question to the Census. By enabling informed decisions, accurate Census data can create jobs, stimulate economic growth and increase employment opportunities for people in Washington’s Second District. Adding an un-tested citizenship question will sow fear and lead people to not respond to the Census survey, negatively impacting local communities.

Madam Speaker, I continue to support a well-researched and just 2020 Census to foster innovation, growth and prosperity for Washington state communities.

CONGRATULATING THE BRADLEY UNIVERSITY SPEECH TEAM ON THEIR WIN AT THE AMERICAN FORENSICS ASSOCIATION’S NATIONAL TOURNAMENT

HON. CHERI BUSTOS
OF ILLINOIS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, May 21, 2019

Mrs. BUSTOS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Bradley University Speech Team on their victories at the American Forensics Association and National Forensic Association national tournaments. Bradley University is the only team to win a national championship every decade since 1980 and is one of the most winning teams in the country. Bradley’s Speech Team is an extremely accomplished program and impressively have now added two more national titles to their long list of championships. The program has also claimed more than 150 individual national champions and has served as a special place on campus for students to come together, tell stories and improve their communication skills along the way. The speech community unites students across the country and provides them with a community to share their passions and discuss topics important to them. I understand the amount of hard work and commitment to have a team as special as this. They are an example of how a strong work ethic and dedication can lead to victory. I am proud there is such young talent in our community, and to see them represent Peoria throughout the state and country, I look forward to following them as they continue their work and build skills that will last a lifetime.

It is because of dedicated leaders such as the Bradley University Speech Team that I am especially proud to serve Illinois’ 17th Congressional District. Madam Speaker, I would like to again formally congratulate the Bradley University Speech Team on their victories at the American Forensics Association and National Forensic Association national tournaments.
NEW FETAL HEARTBEAT ABORTION LAWS

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE
OF TEXAS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, May 21, 2019

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Madam Speaker, I rise to express my strong opposition to the so-called “fetal heartbeat” laws recently enacted in Georgia, Alabama, Missouri, Texas, and other states.

The Missouri House passed H.R. 126 in a 110-to-44 vote after hours of heated debate, including impassioned speeches by both Democratic and Republican legislators and angry shouts of “when you lie, people die” from the floor of the House. The bill, which bans abortions after a fetal heartbeat is detected by 6 weeks of pregnancy, may be before a woman even knows she is pregnant, included no exceptions for rape or incest.

Gov. Kay Ivey of Alabama on Wednesday signed into law a bill banning almost all abortions in the state, with no exceptions for cases of rape or incest. Under the law, which is scheduled to take effect in June, an abortion could be performed only in cases of rape or incest.

The Texas Senate approved a bill Thursday that would impose criminal penalties on doctors who fail to treat babies born alive after failed abortion attempts—extremely rare cases—a month after the House approved the same measure. If the bill becomes law, House Speaker Dade Phelan, who signed the bill, would mean that doctors could face a third-degree felony punishable by up to 10 years in prison.

GOV. MIKE PARSON of Missouri signed a bill into law on Wednesday amid protests from abortion rights advocates. The bill would ban abortions after a fetal heartbeat is detected by 6 weeks of pregnancy, which can be before a woman even knows she is pregnant. The “fetal heartbeat” bill passed the GOP-controlled Legislature on Wednesday amid protests from advocates of abortion access. DeWine signed the bill, making Ohio the sixth state to enact the ban. Those who violate the ban could have their medical licenses revoked.

ALABAMA

HON. JASON RUSSELL of Alabama on Tuesday, May 21, 2019

Mr. RUSSELL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the retirement of Superintendent Thomas E. Hoegerman, who will retire from Apple Valley Unified School District on May 22, 2019.

Mr. RUSSELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the retirement of Superintendent Thomas E. Hoegerman, who will retire from Apple Valley Unified School District on May 22, 2019.

Mrs. CASTOR of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the retirement of Superintendent Thomas E. Hoegerman, who will retire from Apple Valley Unified School District on May 22, 2019.

HON. W. GREGORY STEUBE of FLORIDA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, May 21, 2019

Mr. STEUBE. Madam Speaker, I unfortunately missed the last vote on H.R. 5. I would have voted NAY on Roll Call No. 217—Passage of H.R. 5.

APPLE VALLEY SUPERINTENDENT THOMAS HOEGERMAN RETIRES
HON. PAUL COOK of CALIFORNIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, May 21, 2019

Mr. COOK. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the retirement of Superintendent Thomas E. Hoegerman, who will retire from Apple Valley Unified School District on May 22, 2019.

HON. SANDY D’ALEMBERTE of FLORIDA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, May 21, 2019

Ms. CASTOR of Florida. Madam Speaker, I am saddened to hear of the passing of a truly
great Floridian, Sandy D’Alemberte. As it does for so many, this passing pains me both personally and for our state and country. Sandy was a voice for reason, the rule of law, decency and kindness—a “necessary man” for all his time and certainty for these times. It is enough to remember him as a brilliant legislator, former American Bar Association (ABA) president and Florida Constitutional scholar. And, much loved dean while I was at FSU College of Law. However, Sandy was indispensable in so many instances in Florida’s history, both the big moments and some moments that most of his fellow Floridians might never know about but which were just as grand. One of the latter was his embrace of Jose Manuel Godinez-Samperio and his fight to be admitted to the Florida Bar. Jose graduated valedictorian of his class at Armwood High School in Hillsborough County, Fla. and went on to attend FSU College of Law. Jose made history when he graduated from FSU College of Law and passed the Florida Bar exam, but when he sought admittance to the Florida Bar as an undocumented immigrant, this great story almost came to an end. Sandy’s belief in the law, fair play and young people caused him to take on this injustice. He brought together a team, including me, past presidents of the ABA, bipartisan members of the Florida Legislature and others, to successfully confront this quiet individual inequity just as he had taken on more large and public challenges for all of Florida. Like so many public officials, I can say that Sandy has helped make me a better representative for my neighbors in Tampa and throughout Florida. I sought his counsel for Florida’s future as recently as last fall. The gracious efforts by Sandy on behalf of the small and the grand, and the foundation he has laid for the legal community, higher education, his state and his country will hopefully be of some solace to Patsy and his family.

COMMENDING 2019 HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES ENLISTED IN THE UNITED STATES ARMED FORCES

HON. ABIGAIL DAVIS SPANBERGER OF VIRGINIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, May 21, 2019

Ms. SPANBERGER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 119 greater Richmond area high school seniors enlisting in the United States Armed Services after graduation. These students have demonstrated an extraordinary commitment to academic excellence and public service. I am honored to offer my sincerest congratulations on this achievement and offer my best wishes for the years to come.


These students will be honored at the 4th Annual Greater Richmond area Our Community Salutes Service at Hermitage High School in Henrico, Virginia. Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in thanking these young women and men for courageously deciding to serve their country. We are safer and stronger because of their choice to protect the values that make us uniquely American.

STANDING UP TO DIPG

HON. JOE WILSON OF SOUTH CAROLINA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, May 21, 2019

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, Diffuse Intrinsic Pontine Glioma or DIPG is a common form of pediatric brain cancer responsible for the majority of deaths in children with brain tumors annually. In honor of Olivia Mazzell, whose life was taken far too young by DIPG, I am proud to cosponsor House Resolution 114, which supports the designation of May 17th as ‘DIPG Awareness Day’ to raise awareness and encourage research into cures for DIPG and pediatric cancers in general.

I would also like to recognize her grandparents Angelo and Kathy Basile and parents Jonathan Mazzell and Heather Hiett of Lexington, South Carolina, for their efforts to create greater access to helpful medications. Working together we can have a meaningful conversation about strengthening medical research to address the needs of children with cancer.

We honor the life of Olivia Mazzell, commend the tireless work of her family to raise awareness of DIPG, and gratefully encourage fellow Members of Congress to continue prioritizing medical research for childhood cancer.

INTRODUCTION OF THE REBUILD AMERICA ACT OF 2019

HON. EARL BLUMENAUER OF OREGON
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, May 21, 2019

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Madam Speaker, today I introduced the Rebuild America Act of 2019. This legislation makes much-needed investments in America’s roads, bridges, and transit systems by raising the federal gasoline excise tax by five cents a year for the next five years, indexing it to inflation, and expressing Congress’ intention to repeal and replace the gas tax with a more sustainable funding source.

The United States faces the largest infrastructure funding gap in its history. The sector with the greatest shortfall is surface transportation, which the American Society of Civil Engineers estimates needs more than $1.1 trillion of investment by 2025. Worse, we are paying for 2019 infrastructure with 1993 dollars. Inflation and fuel efficiency improvements have reduced the gas tax’s purchasing power by more than 40 percent since it was last raised in 1993.

Today, one in five miles of highway pavement is in poor condition, and damage due to rough roads costs the average motorist $599 a year. Americans waste nearly 100 hours a year stuck in traffic and congestion, costing the U.S. economy $305 billion annually—an average of $1,445 per driver. These costs fall especially hard on low-income individuals, who can’t afford the unexpected burden of a blown tire, hourly wages lost to congestion, or the steadily increasing cost of transportation.

Since 2010, 35 states with legislatures controlled by both parties have voted to raise the gas tax. American families pay far more from continued neglect than a gas tax increase. Inaction will cost families $3,400 in annual disposable income by 2025, whereas a 25-cent gas tax increase costs the average driver less than $3.00 a week and contributes nearly $400 billion toward upgrading roads, bridges, and transit systems. Investment in American infrastructure is the jobs bill that our economy needs and the middle class deserves. Every $1.3 billion in infrastructure investment adds 29,000 construction jobs, yields $2 billion in economic growth, and reduces the federal deficit by $200 million.

This legislation is expected to invest nearly $400 billion in the next decade for surface transportation projects and deserves inclusion in a comprehensive infrastructure package that rebuilds and renews America.

HONORING THE LIFE OF MR. ARNIE WISHNICK

HON. TED LIEU OF CALIFORNIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, May 21, 2019

Mr. LIEU of California. Madam Speaker, I rise to celebrate the life of Mr. Arnie
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Chief Warrant Officer Curry reported to NAVSUPPFAC at Paxtunt River, Maryland, where he served as Command Duty Officer. His most rewarding and satisfying tour, however, was with Helicopter Sea Combat Squadron 23, the “Wildcards”, where he served as Aviation Division Officer and Ammunition Division Officer.

ChieWarrant Officer Curry has honorably served our nation for the last three decades, and it’s thanks to people like him that our country remains free and secure. I congratulate him on an exemplary career, and wish him a happy retirement with his wife Tracy and his five children.

THE SECOND STAGE OF AOG HISTORY (1901–45)

HON. JAMES R. CURRY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 21, 2019

Mr. CURRY. Madam Speaker, I was unable to be present during roll call vote number 197, 198, 199, 200, 201, and 202 on May 10, 2019. Had I been present, I would have voted: on roll call vote number 197, I would have voted “yes”; on roll call vote number 198, I would have voted “yes”; on roll call vote number 199, I would have voted “yes”; on roll call vote number 200, I would have voted “yes”; on roll call vote number 201, I would have voted “no”; and on roll call vote number 202, I would have voted “yes.”
typical level of attendance in 1903, with only 20 graduates attending the annual meeting. Lack of participation became one of two main concerns of the Association in the new century. In 1895, Alexander Webb, Class of 1855, proposed a resolution to form a committee to study the attendance issue and to offer a solution. Webb was a member of Larned's appointed chairman. He reportedly addressed the matter at the 1906 meeting, but no records of his report exist. A few years later, however, Robert Howze, Class of 1888, who was a member of Larned's "Committee on Entertainment," suggested that interest could be heightened by the attendance of the Superintendents. The Superintendent would designate one day during the graduating week as "Graduates' Day," and that "some specially interesting feature would be a part of the day's events and this day's activities." Howze's idea was enthusiastically received and unanimously adopted, but it took 15 years before it came to fruition under a new name.

The second major concern of the Association centered on a gift that graduates could present to the Academy. In 1907, John Carlen, Class of 1875, who was elected President of the Class of 1875, presented the Association with a check of $8,000, was ultimately awarded to the Willett Stained Glass and Decorating Company of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. Soon after, Bertram Goodhue, the architect of the Cadet Chapel, offered his services pro bono to purchase bronze doors for Thayer Hall. This project garnered $1,564 for the "Memorial Window Fund." The contract for the memorial window, at an amount of $16,000, was ultimately awarded to the Willett Stained Glass and Decorating Company of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. Soon after, Bertram Goodhue, the architect of the Cadet Chapel, offered his services pro bono to purchase bronze doors for Thayer Hall. This project garnered $1,564 for the "Memorial Window Fund." 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Saginaw, Michigan. AOG was able to revive the Bulletin thanks to the support it received from the June 1929 establishment of an Association office at the Academy, manned by a full-time office who served “in the capacity of Secretary and Treasurer of the Association of Graduates and as the Officer in Charge of Cullum’s Register.” AOG published its first bulletin in 1930 and continued to publish between 1930 and 1934. As before, the reason why publication stopped remains a mystery, although its design seemed to influence the annual report, which started publishing reunion summaries in 1935.

The Bulletin reappeared one more time in 1941, to inform Association members of matters of current West Point interest, particularly since the Military Academy curriculum, always in step with the times, dealt the demand of the present national emergency.” The format of this last issue had radically changed from its predecessors. Instead of long treatises regarding “The Inadequacy of the United States to the Military Academy” or “Arthur Sherburne Hardy’s Opinion of the West Point Educational System,” Bulletin No. 9 was written in news sheet style and contained brief reports about current happenings at the Academy (e.g., “First Class Attends Manoeuvres,” “Sherburne’s Opinion,” “Second Class Manoeuvres...”). A year later in 1942, AOG’s Bulletin and the annual report, which had existed for 72 years, merged, issue of Assembly magazine, the periodical publication that would inform graduates for the next 70 years. Innovations to keep AOG relevant to graduates were not only confined to its communication efforts. The final part of the Association’s re-birth involved changes to its governance, which were done to manage the organization transparent and accountable to its membership. After accepting Dykman’s proposed changes in the early 1920s, AOG elected a President and Vice-President at each annual meeting. The President then appointed an Executive Committee of 30 members, as well as an additional member to serve as Chairman. The Executive Committee made all preparations for the annual meeting, including nominating candidates for the President and Vice President positions, and audited the accounts of the organization. Starting in 1929, the number of Vice Presidents of AOG was increased to five and the Executive Committee became known as the Board of Trustees. Furthermore, the Trustees appointed for that year were equally divided into three classes: one appointed for one year, one appointed for two years, and one appointed for three years. In each successive year, another group of 10 graduates were appointed to the Board of Trustees to serve for a term of three years. Then, in 1935, Piper, President at that time, proposed the formation of another body labeled the “Executive Committee.” This committee, which consisted of the President, the Vice Presidents (chosen by a ballot of the Board), would “possess and exercise by a majority of its members all the powers and duties of the Board of Trustees, when it was not in session. Unfortunately, a year later, learned that the election of this Executive Committee was illegitimate, as it was voted on by proxy, which was a practice prohibited by New York State and contrary to the Association’s certificate of incorporation. In correcting this oversight, the Board agreed to sweeping changes in AOG’s Constitution and By-Laws. Finally, the By-Laws were amended to eliminate ex-Trustees (i.e., the President, the five Vice Presidents, and the USMA Superintendent) and prescribe the duties of the Board, Treasurer, and Secretary. This governance model continued, with some minor tweaks (e.g., increase the size of the Board in 1956 and adding an Executive Vice President in 1972), for the next six decades. After addressing its governance issues, AOG turned its attention to the recurring question of how to fund its operations. While the Endowment Fund started out strong—Bulletin No. 5 (1930) reported cash and pledge contributions totaling nearly $5,000 of its $100,000 goal—the Great Depression obviously took its toll. By the mid-1930s, the Association was still approximately $25,000 short of the goal, and the fund’s $2,700 yearly interest was not enough to cover AOG’s annual expenses ($5,600–$6,000). Although roughly 70 graduates a year were being dropped from the Association’s membership roll during the height of the Depression for non-payment of annual dues, the Army Athletic Association, which also accepted support from the Association, was still issuing $5,000 of annual financial aid. Piper dismissed by this situation, and other AOG leaders called on their friends to contribute. Contributions generally came from classes prior to 1930. It took a few more years, but in 1941, Frank McCoy, Class of 1897, and AOG President, reported, “Our financial outlook is very healthy proportions,” with income exceeding expenditures the preceding year by nearly $8,000. The Association of Graduates entered the World War II era beginning to look like the organization with which many are familiar today. It had started to financially support the Cadet Chapel (1946) and the Cadet Chapel and then in 1939 with furniture and fixtures for Quarters 100 (the “Superintendent’s quarters Fund”); it had an effective governance model in which all operational decisions were made by the President and the Executive Committee, who were accountable to the membership, and then carried out by a small staff, and it had replaced the 350-plus-page annual report with the more engaging, less than 50-page ASSEMBLY magazine, published quarterly. The state of the Association was strong enough that in 1947, the Board debated the idea of lowering or eliminating dues. The proposal failed, but it signaled AOG leadership’s desire to remove the burden of support coming primarily from membership dues. Looking to find a new income stream, the West Point Alumni Foundation was established on December 26, 1945, to solicit adver- tising for ASSEMBLY and an annual (instead of decennial) Register of Graduates. The foundation’s incorporation marks the transition from AOG’s second stage of history to its third phase of “Foundation and Fundraising” (1946–94), where the Association’s fundraising efforts for the Academy increased in importance, and its growth culminated with the opening of its new home, the Herbert Alumni Center. This phase in AOG history will be covered in the summer issue of ASSEMBLY, beginning this summer. Women have always played an instrumental role in shaping this country, yet lacked one of the most fundamental rights. It wasn’t until 1919 that our nation righted this wrong and women earned the right to vote, thereby gaining full citizenship. A women’s suffrage amendment was first introduced in Congress in 1878. It wasn’t until 41 years later that both the U.S. House of Representatives and the Senate finally voted to approve the 19th Amendment. The effort then went on to the states, requiring the approval of three-quarters of state legislatures. I am proud to say that the great state of Wisconsin led the way. Wisconsin made history by becoming the first state to ratify the 19th amendment, granting national suffrage to women. This early and important vote paved the way for other states to follow suit. Today is a day to celebrate the achievements of the women who made great sacrifices for suffrage. I especially want to thank Speaker PELOSI, and Rebecca Kleefisch who served as Executive Director of the Centennial Commission, and all of the other members of Commission for their tireless efforts to make this day possible.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION
HON. GREG WALDEN
OF OREGON
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, May 21, 2019
Mr. WALDEN. Madam Speaker, an unavoidable travel delay caused me to miss votes on Monday, May 20th. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 218; and YEA on Roll Call No. 219.

CONGRESSIONAL BLACK CAUCUS: HONORING JUDGE DALON J. KEITH, DISCUSING ROLLBACK OF SAFETY NET PROGRAMS

SPEECH OF
HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE
OF TEXAS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Monday, May 20, 2019
Mr. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise during this Special Order to pay tribute to the Honorable Judge Damon J. Keith, a pivotal
civil rights leader and legal trailblazer that our country lost on April 28, 2019 at the age of 96.

When Judge Damon J. Keith was nominated by President Lyndon B. Johnson in 1949 to serve on the U.S. District Court, the same year that Thurgood Marshall was nominated and confirmed to the Supreme Court Bench, he was the sixth African American to serve on a U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals.

The sixth.

Judge Keith made a series of landmark decisions that changed the social and legal landscape of this country throughout his 52 years of service on the bench, including:


- Judge Keith stood up to the KKK with this ruling that became the first case to extend federal court-ordered integration to the North.

- Then, Judge Keith ruled that President Nixon and U.S. Attorney General John Mitchell did not have the right to wiretap in domestic security cases without a court order in United States v. United States District Court for the Eastern District of Michigan, 407 U.S. 297 (1972).

That same year Judge Keith ruled in Garrett v. City of Hamtramck, 335 F. Supp. 16 (E.D. Mich. 1971), that Hamtramck practiced so-called “Negro removal” under the guise of urban renewal and ordered the city to build new public housing.


- Furthering integration of public spaces and jobs, in Baker v. City of Detroit, 483 F. Supp. 312 (E.D. Mich. 1979), Judge Keith ordered the Detroit Police Department to carry out Detroit Mayor, Coleman Young’s plan to integrate.

- And in Detroit Free Press v. Ashcroft, 195 F. Supp. 2d 937 (E.D. 2002), he upheld a lower court’s decision prohibiting the Justice Department from barring the public and press from deportation hearings involving people suspected of supporting terrorism.

Judge Keith did his job amid death threats and the obstacles of racial bigotry.

- Judge Keith’s dedication to civil rights and civil liberties came from a life dealing with racial inequality as a solider and a young man.

Judge Damon J. Keith was born July 4, 1922.

- Judge Keith was the grandson of slaves and the son of a Ford factory worker who made 5 dollars a day.

- Judge Keith was youngest of seven children and he was the first member of his family to earn a college degree.

- Once Judge Keith graduated from college during World War II in 1943, he enlisted in a segregated U.S. Army.

Judge Keith recalled the three years he spent in the Quartermaster Corps during World War II in Europe as “absolutely degrading,” partly because the “all-colored” unit did not have a single black officer.

After Judge Keith was discharged in 1946 as a sergeant, he returned home to experience White German soldiers riding in the front seats of buses and dining in restaurants where he was not welcome.

Judge Keith’s experience seeing African American soldiers being treated with less respect than White German prisoners of war, made him vow to fight for civil rights here at home.

So, Judge Keith attended and graduated from Howard University Law School with his JD in 1949.

While in law school, Judge Keith helped research civil rights cases, participated in mock trials and watched rising legal stars, like Thurgood Marshall, the NAACP’s chief legal counsel, practice his legal arguments and argue cases before the U.S. Supreme Court.

After Judge Keith graduated law school in 1949, he went on to not only pass the bar but found one of the first Black law firms in Detroit city.

Judge Keith was a man dedicated to change and as he climbed the legal ranks, Judge Keith brought women and minorities up with him, not just African-Americans but also Hispanics and Asians.

Judge Keith hired more minorities law clerks than any other federal judge and encouraged those he helped to do the same for other young minorities.

But, not only should Judge Keith be rewarded for what he has done as judge, but for what he has done as a man.

Judge Keith became the surrogate father and guardian for Willie Horton, guiding the young athlete from a troubled neighborhood into manhood and to stardom with the Detroit Tigers.

It was also Judge Keith who came to Rosa Park’s rescue in 1994 when the Civil Rights icon had been attacked by a burlgar in her Detroit home.

Judge Keith helped her find a safe place to live in the aftermath.

Judge Keith’s eldest daughter, Cecile Keith, said Saturdays was spent with their father, who would take them to dance classes, music lessons, and choir rehearsals, and afterward they would go out for hamburger and French fries.

Judge Keith took his children to the movies, Tiger games, played ball in their backyard, and taught them how to ride bikes.

Judge Keith was more than a civil rights activist and he was more than a trailblazer.

Judge Keith was also a father and husband.

Judge Keith was a man dedicated to his wife, family, and to his community.

Judge Keith has always been a beacon of justice and we are a better country because of his work and are forever in his debt.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JARED HUFFMAN
OF CALIFORNIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, May 21, 2019

Mr. HUFFMAN. Madam Speaker, I regret that I was unavoidably detained with district matters and missed the following votes. I would have voted “Yes” on roll call vote 218, and “Yes” on roll call vote 219.

CONGRATULATING MICHAEL ALLEN ON HIS NEW POSITION AS NATIONAL CHAIR OF THE HEALTHCARE FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT ASSOCIATION

HON. CHERI BUSTOS
OF ILLINOIS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, May 21, 2019

Mrs. BUSTOS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Michael Allen for his promotion to National Chair of the Healthcare Financial Management Association (HFMA). Mr. Allen will rise from the position of Chief Financial Officer at OSF Health Care in Peoria, Illinois.

Mr. Allen began his career after earning an accounting degree from Illinois State University and a master’s degree in healthcare administration from the University of Minnesota. Mr. Allen then went on to gain more than 25 years of experience in business and the healthcare industry—making him well qualified to take on this new role with the nation’s largest membership organization for healthcare financial management executives and leaders.

Leadership experience is something Mr. Allen gained in his 19 years as Chief Financial Officer for health systems and eight years in public accounting. Mr. Allen is no stranger to HFMA—he has been a member since 1993, and has chaired the Board of Examiners and served on the National Advisory Council. Mr. Allen will bring a new set of eyes to HFMA, having selected “Dare You to Move” as this year’s theme to encourage members to get out of their comfort zone. I want to thank Mr. Allen for his work in healthcare and for his service to the Peoria community.

It is because of dedicated leaders like Michael Allen that I am especially proud to serve Illinois’ 17th Congressional District. Madam Speaker, I would like to again formally congratulate Michael Allen on his promotion to National Chair of the Healthcare Financial Management Association.

DOCTOR DAMORDARA RAJASEKHAR RETIRES AS PRESIDENT OF THE SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY MEDICAL SOCIETY

HON. PAUL COOK
OF CALIFORNIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, May 21, 2019

Mr. COOK. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the retirement of the President of the San Bernardino County Medical Society, Dr. Damordara Rajasekhar, who will be completing his term on June 20, 2019.

Dr. Rajasekhar earned his medical degree in 1976 from Madras Medical College in India. Afterwards, he went on to serve his pediatric internship and residency at the University of Connecticut John Dempsey Hospital, and completed a fellowship in neonatal perinatal medicine at the University of Massachusetts Memorial Health Care. Dr. Rajasekhar began
his term as President on June 20, 2018, serving the 2,800 member physicians with distinguished leadership over the past year. Dr. Rajasekhar also served as the chief of medical staff at Victor Valley Community Hospital and has a solo practice in Apple Valley. He believes that the physician-patient relationship is a key factor in providing quality health care, and he has always worked to promote the betterment of the medical profession.

Dr. Rajasekhar's leadership and commitment are greatly appreciated by his colleagues and the public he serves. On behalf of the United States House of Representatives, I would like to thank Dr. Damodara Rajasekhar for his years of public service and wish him the happiest of retirements.

RECOGNIZING FRAME FACTORY OWNER SALVADOR MOYA

HON. JACKIE WALORSKI
OF INDIANA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, May 21, 2019

Mrs. WALORSKI. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Salvador Moya, owner of the Frame Factory in South Bend, Indiana.

For years, Salvador has been a pillar of the northern Indiana arts community. He has an unparalleled passion for creative expression and for helping Hoosier artists discover, celebrate, and share their talent with the world.

I am grateful for the steadfast support Salvador offers young artists across our state. He has contributed so much to our community, and his continued leadership and philanthropy are true testaments to his compassion. He can always be found helping others and lifting spirits. Throughout his distinguished career, he has made a difference in the lives of countless aspiring artists by giving them opportunities to succeed that they would not otherwise have had.

Since 2003, Salvador’s business, the Frame Factory, has delivered high-quality products and services to its customers. Small businesses like this are the backbone of our economy, and entrepreneurs like Salvador exemplify the American Dream. Driven by his enthusiasm for cultural enrichment and sense of community, Salvador’s selflessness and hard work do not go unnoticed.

Madam Speaker, it is an honor to recognize Salvador for his invaluable service to the northern Indiana community and to the State of Indiana.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. SCOTT PERRY
OF PENNSYLVANIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, May 21, 2019

Mr. PERRY. Madam Speaker, had I been present, I would have voted “yea” on Roll Call No. 218 and “yea” on Roll Call No. 219.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. TIM BURCHETT
OF TENNESSEE
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, May 21, 2019

Mr. BURCHETT. Madam Speaker, on March 5th, I missed all called votes because my flight from Knoxville, Tennessee, to Washington, D.C., was cancelled and I was unable to arrive until after conclusion of the day's votes.

On Friday, May 17, I was being treated in the Emergency Department at George Washington University Hospital and was unable to vote on H.R. 5. Had I been able to vote, I would have voted against the bill.

HONORING E. RICHARD JONES AND THE E. RICHARD JONES FAMILY FOUNDATION

HON. MIKE THOMPSON
OF CALIFORNIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, May 21, 2019

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Rick Jones and the E. Richard Jones Family Foundation for their contribution to our Napa Valley community, and Community Health Initiative.

Mr. Jones received a Bachelor of Arts from Princeton University and a Master in Business Administration from the Stanford Graduate School of Business. For as long as he has resided in the Napa Valley, Mr. Jones has been deeply involved in and committed to our community.

Mr. Jones has worked to better the health and well-being of Napa residents through his foundation, The E. Richard Jones Family Foundation. The Foundation has been critical to the success of Community Health Initiative. The Foundation provided seed funding to Community Health Initiative to become the first non-profit health insurance broker in California that is motivated by the need to assist vulnerable populations and provide access to health care services in the public and private markets. Additionally, The E. Richard Jones Family Foundation was instrumental in registering over 18,000 people for health insurance and providing them with access to care.

Mr. Jones is active in our community in addition to his work with his foundation. He is a current Board Member and former Board President of the Napa Valley Vintners Association, the Board Chair of OLE Health and Raising a Reader, and a Board Member of NapaLearns, St. Helena Hospital, and the St. Helena Hospital Foundation. Through his work on these boards and through Community Health Initiative, Mr. Jones is admirably working to improve the health of the residents of Napa County.

Madam Speaker, Rick Jones is a friend of mine, a kind and generous person and his organization, the E. Richard Jones Family Foundation, is essential to the continual improvement of our community. It is therefore fitting and proper that we honor him both here today.

DENOUNCING FEMALE GENITAL MUTILATION/CUTTING AS VIOLENT HUMAN RIGHTS OF WOMEN AND GIRLS

SPEECH OF
HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE
OF TEXAS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Monday, May 20, 2019

Ms. JACKSON LEE of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Res. 106 denouncing female genital mutilation/cutting (FGM/C) and urging the international community and the Federal Government to increase efforts to eliminate this harmful practice.

Female genital mutilation is a clear human rights violation and must be ended immediately.

In many parts of the world, female genital mutilation is still performed by a religious leader, town elder, or a medical professional with limited training using crude instruments which can include broken glass, kitchen knives, and razor blades, however, antiseptics and anesthesia are rarely used.

Leaving these young women, many of which are between the ages of 4 and 13, susceptible to elevated risk of HIV transmission, hemorrhaging, chronic pelvic inflammation, septicaemia, and delayed menarche.

In about 15 percent of cases, infibulation, the most severe form of FGM/C, involves the removal of the labia and the suturing together of the vulva.

This practice may place the victim’s life at risk and victims of infibulation must be cut open to have intercourse and may be repeatedly opened and closed at the husband’s will to ensure fidelity.

The practice of FGM/C abroad has persisted due to strong sociocultural influences which ensure that it is secretly done and underreported.

And despite many international efforts, anti-FGM/C legislation has not ended the practice in many countries.

FGM/C is still embraced by practitioners of all the major faiths—Christianity, Islam and traditional worship on the contents of Africa, the Middle East, and Asia.

In the past, the U.S., largely through the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), and the World Health Organization...
have made several recommendations designed to end the practice of FGM/C.

However, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, an estimated 513,000 women and girls in the United States were at risk of, or had been subjected to, female genital mutilation, the United States must be a beacon against this type of immoral practice.

That is why I, along with former Representative Joe Crowley, introduced the Zero Tolerance for Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) Act, supported by international human rights group Equality Now, that required the federal government to undertake a national study to provide data on and insight into the prevalence of FGM/C in the U.S. and establish a multi-agency strategy to bring the practice to an end.

Following the introduction of the Zero Tolerance for Female Genital Mutilation Act, I partnered with 58 other members of Congress to pen a bipartisan letter to the State, Health & Human Services, and Education agencies, the U.S. Agency for International Development, the White House Office of Management and Budget, calling for a cross-agency plan to further fight FGM/C.

This letter included requests for resources to help law enforcement, health workers, and educators detect the practice here the United States, plus a hotline for girls who may be in danger of mutilation.

Given the abhorrent nature of this practice, states should have in place laws that require healthcare professionals, school employees, and other professionals who work with children to report any suspected practice of female genital mutilation to the appropriate law enforcement entity.

FGM/C is currently a crime in 26 States, including Michigan and Texas; it is also a Federal crime.

Around the world, at least five girls are mutilated, cut, every hour, and an estimated 100 million girls and 140 million women worldwide are living with the consequences of FGM/C.

Even though, FGM/C has been banned in the United States, since 1996, people continue to engage in this abusive practice.

It is with great concern that I stand before my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to support this clearly bipartisan resolution.

Put aside partisanship and protect our women and girls from this painful and archaic practice.

Because this intolerable practice has no medical benefits, it has no place in our society, and those who commit these horrendous crimes should be held accountable for their actions.

I urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to support this clearly bipartisan resolution.

CONGRATULATING GAYE DUNN FOR WINNING MIDDLE/JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL COUNSELOR OF THE YEAR AWARD GIVEN BY THE ILLINOIS SCHOOL COUNSELORS ASSOCIATION

HON. CHERI BUSTOS
OF ILLINOIS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 21, 2019

Mrs. BUSTOS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Gaye Dunn for winning the Middle/Junior High School Counselor of the Year Award given by the Illinois School Counselors Association. Ms. Dunn will be retiring after 42 years in the education system and has been a school counselor in the East Moline School District for more than 25 years.

Ms. Dunn got her start at the University of Illinois and University of Kansas before going on to earn a master’s degree in School Counseling from Eastern Illinois University. During the course of her career, Ms. Dunn has earned a reputation among her peers as a team player who will do anything to improve her community. Ms. Dunn dedicated herself to being a positive resource for the students of Glenview Middle School and someone they can turn to. The “Builders Club” was established by Ms. Dunn to fundraise and provide gifts to other students and families in the area.

Additionally, she initiated GBAY, which operates in a similar concept to EBAY, where students donate and then bid for holiday presents for community members. Annual Career Fairs are also a tradition jumpstarted by Ms. Dunn and have even included visits by students to local nursing homes. Ms. Dunn is an asset to the East Moline community and her students, and I thank her for all of her tremendous work.

It is because of dedicated leaders like Ms. Dunn that I am especially proud to serve Illinois’ 17th Congressional District. Madam Speaker, I would like to again formally congratulate Gaye Dunn for winning the Counselor of the Year Award.

RECOGNIZING MEGAN BRESLIN
HON. MIKE BOST
OF ILLINOIS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 21, 2019

Mr. BOST. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Megan Breslin in honor of her presentation of the Golden Apple Award. Out of 150,000 high schoolers, this distinction is given to 26 students across the state of Illinois who not only exhibit an exceptional work ethic within the classroom, but in athletics as well.

As a senior at Pinckneyville High School, Megan has shown her excellence on the basketball court and golf links while maintaining a perfect 4.0 Grade Point Average. This balance of academics and athletics is a difficult task, and I can’t think of a more fitting individual to be merited this tremendous award.

Madam Speaker, please join me in honoring Megan Breslin and commend her for her hard work in and out of the classroom.

IN MEMORY OF DEBBY HAY SPRADELY

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON
OF TEXAS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 21, 2019

Ms. JOHNSON of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise today along with my colleague, Congressman COLIN ALLRED, to recognize and pay tribute to the life and legacy of Debbay Hay Spradley, who passed away on Sunday, May 19, 2019.

A native Texan, Debbay graduated from Southern Methodist University and spent the entirety of her professional career in the Dallas area, first as President of the Hay Agency, Inc., and then as the Director of Development and External Affairs at the Hockaday School. She was respected in the Dallas community for her wisdom as a mentor, her generosity as a volunteer, and her leadership as an administrator.

She began her work with the school in the early 1980s as a parent volunteer before eventually joining the administrative team. During her tenure, Debbay served as both a Member and the Chair of the Board of Trustees; was a Member of the Leadership Team for the Hockaday Tomorrow Capital Campaign and the Campaign Executive Committee for the Centennial Campaign; Co-Chaired the 2004 HP A Benefit; Chaired the Annual Fund Campaign; and was rightfully named an Honorary Alum in 2000. We admire and honor Debbay’s selfless dedication to the Hockaday School.

Debbay is survived by her husband Webb; daughter, Jessica Werner Epperson and her husband Doug Epperson; daughter Rachel Hay Spradley and her fiancé Jonathan Ben-Horin; and three wonderful granddaughters Kathryn, Virginia, and Margaret.

I ask my colleagues to join us in remembering Debbay and her contributions to her family, her community, and the Hockaday School. The Dallas community is better off because of her. We will miss her dearly.

KNOXVILLE NEWS SENTINEL EDITORIAL URGING TENNESSEE VALLEY AUTHORITY’S CEO TO FIX COAL ASH PROBLEM

HON. TIM BURCHETT
OF TENNESSEE
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 21, 2019

Mr. BURCHETT. Madam Speaker, I would like to include in the Record an editorial submitted to the Knoxville News Sentinel addressing the Tennessee Valley Authority’s new CEO, Jeff Lyash, urging him to fix the current coal ash problem. I am also including a resolution introduced by Tennessee State Senator...
We challenge you to begin a full, open, and transparent investigation of those events, because it is critical to the wellbeing of the people of the Tennessee Valley.

This is what has brought you to Knoxville. While we have challenged you to be the leader your predecessor was not.

We challenge you to launch a fully independent and transparent investigation of safety and workplace practices that thrived in the aftermath of the massive Kingston coal ash spill and cleanup—not just the TVA’s own practices, but those of every one of the more than 100 subcontractors it employs. We’ve reported extensively about the workers who have died, and the hundreds of others who are sick, after their exposure to the toxic ash. Learn from the mistakes of the past and demand accountability.

We challenge you to commit to a top-to-bottom review and overhaul of workplace safety at every power plant you operate. Last week we reported about workers on an asbestos carrying job. Tennessee plants who are exposed to fly ash dust and flue gas without masks or respirators.

We challenge you to review your relationship with Jacobs Engineering. Although the case goes on, a federal jury already found Jacobs breached its contract with the TVA and its duties to protect the health of its workers. Yet you’re still doing hundreds of millions of dollars of business with the company.

We challenge you to hire an independent consultant to radically remake your internal reporting and whistle-blowing procedures and make sure they are accessible to your contractors as well. Your people are admirable but they should fear workplace retaliation, yet your workers are coming to us because they don’t trust TVA.

We challenge you to act to the agency of double-speaker distraction—where it’s culturally acceptable to mislead the public, as Bill Johnson did when he said that the EPA, the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation and OSHA were on site daily during the Kingston cleanup. Today at the TVA it’s acceptable for your official spokesman to recraft this as more hyperbole.

Finally, we challenge you to visit your employees in the field. Talk to them. Not with an entourage, not with a phalanx of handlers who will hand-select the ones who’ll say the “right” things to you. You need to hear the truth. You need to visit sick men in hospitals and listen to their stories. You need to sit down in the lunchroom with truck drivers who are up all day. You need to walk through the plant, see things yourself. And then you need to do the right thing.

A Resolution to express support for the enactment of legislation that requires all board committee meetings of the Tennessee Valley Authority Board of Directors to be open to the public.

Whereas, established in 1933, the Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) is a corporate agency of the United States that provides electricity for business customers and local power companies, serving ten million people in parts of seven southeastern states; and

Whereas, TVA also provides flood control, navigation, and land management for the Tennessee River system and assists local power companies and state and local governments with economic development and job creation; and

Whereas, Tennessee Congressman Tim Burchett has introduced the Tennessee Valley Authority Transparency Act of 2019, legislation to require that committee meetings and subcommittee meetings of the Tennessee Valley Authority Board of Directors be transparent and open to the public; and

Whereas, the bill would amend the Tennessee Valley Authority Act of 1933 Section 2(g)(2) to include a provision on transparency that would require meetings of the TVA Board to be held in public, properly noticed, and with minutes and summaries of each meeting made available; and

Whereas, it is vitally important to the citizens of Tennessee that TVA, as an entity created and protected by Congress, should conduct their business in the open and be as transparent as possible: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate of the One Hundred Eleventh General Assembly of the State of Tennessee, The General Assembly concurring, That we strongly support the passage of the Tennessee Valley Authority Transparency Act of 2019; and be it further

Resolved, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared and transmitted to the Speaker and the Clerk of the United States House of Representatives, the President and the Secretary of the United States Senate, and each member of Tennessee’s delegation to the United States Congress.

HONORING VICE ADMIRAL ALBERT CALLAND, III

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

TUESDAY, MAY 21, 2019

Mr. BALDERSON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor the professional achievements of a fellow Zanesville High School graduate, Vice Admiral Albert (Bert) Calland, III.

Vice Admiral Calland is being commemorated in our hometown for his tremendous career, which has spanned many decades, and forms the model life of a selfless calling to public service in defense of this country. From the United States Navy to SEAL Team ONE, from the Central Intelligence Agency and the National Counterterrorism Center to CACI International, Inc., Admiral Calland has always displayed the dedication of a consummate man of service.

After graduating from the United States Naval Academy in 1974, Admiral Calland distinguished himself in the ranks of the U.S. Navy and Special Operations Command, gaining the respect of juniors, peers, and superior officers alike. His impressive qualities of hard work and strategic problem-solving helped Admiral Calland advance in his field. By the time of the terrorist attacks that devastated our nation on September 11, 2001, Admiral Calland was a key guiding force in the United States’ fight against those who seek to do us harm.

Our hometown gathers to recognize this ardent patriot, I salute him for his ongoing service above self. Admiral Calland can take great pride in all he has accomplished and in the impact his legacy will leave. I thank Vice Admiral Calland for bringing honor to Zanesville, Ohio, and in turn, I salute him for his incredible record of achievement.

HONORING PETE RICHMOND

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

TUESDAY, MAY 21, 2019

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Pete Richmond as the Napa Valley Grower of the Year for 2019.

Mr. Richmond’s career in agriculture began in 1986 after earning a degree in Agricultural Business from California State University, Fresno. He gained valuable experience as a viticulturist while working at Bien Nacido Vineyards. Mr. Richmond went on to work for many prestigious wineries. In 1992 he was at Stag’s Leap Winery; he worked at Atlas Peak Winery from 1993 to 1995; from 1995 to 2001 he was at Kendall Jackson. Mr. Richmond founded the Silverado Farming Company, a vineyard management company, in 2001. Many of the finest wineries and vineyards in the Napa Valley contract with Silverado Farming Company to manage their vineyards. The company oversees vineyard management for over 650 acres of grapes.

Mr. Richmond’s passion for agriculture is not confined to the vineyard. He is involved in our community—through his contributions and the Boards on which he sits. In 2006, Mr. Richmond established the One Percent for the Community Fund, a foundation that receives one percent of gross revenue profits made by the Silverado Farming Company. The foundation uses the money to support at-risk youth in our community and helps find a solution for a variety of issues that impact farm workers. Mr. Richmond is on the Farmworker Foundation Board of Directors, OLE Health Operating Board, and the OLE Health Foundation Board. He is also an Advisory Board Member for Teens Connect, a member of the Marketing Committee for the Napa Valley Community Foundation, and a past member of the Napa Valley Grapegrower’s Board of Directors. He is active in the housing community as a member of Napa Valley Community Housing and the Atlas Napa County Housing Commission. Mr. Richmond is also involved with Ag for Youth and is a former Babe Ruth Baseball League Coach.

Madam Speaker, Mr. Richmond is the community member we should all strive to be. He is a person of integrity, is generous and caring, and well-deserving of the Title Napa Valley 2019 Grower of the Year. It is therefore fitting and proper that we honor Pete Richmond here today.
IN RECOGNITION OF ROSEMARIE MYRDAL
HON. KELLY ARMSTRONG
OF NORTH DAKOTA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, May 21, 2019

Mr. ARMSTRONG. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor an outstanding constituent and public servant, Rosemarie Myrdal.

Rosemarie’s tremendous career and life is a testament to her strong spirit, hard work, and determination.

Rosemarie was born in Minot in 1929, graduated from Fargo Central High School, and earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Education from North Dakota Agricultural College. She married John Myrdal in 1952 and the couple began farming near Edinburg and raising five children.

Rosemarie’s public service to the state began in 1984, when she was elected to the North Dakota House of Representatives. In 1992, Rosemarie was elected as the first Republican woman to serve as Lieutenant Governor in North Dakota history. She served alongside Governor Ed Schafer from 1992 to 2000.

Rosemarie continued her service to her community after her terms as Lieutenant Governor, staying active in the Edinburg School Board, the Icanadian Communities Association, the National Trust for Historic Preservation, the North Dakota Diabetes Association, the North Dakota Library Coordinating Council, Preservation North Dakota, and Red River Resource Conservation and Development.

May 13 was Rosemarie’s 90th birthday. On this special occasion, I send her warmest greetings on behalf of the U.S. House of Representatives and blessings to her and her family.

COMMEMORATING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE 19TH AMENDMENT
HON. ROSA L. DELAURDO
OF CONNECTICUT
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, May 21, 2019

Ms. DELAURDO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the centennial of the 19th amendment.

Such an achievement as women’s suffrage, long overdue, was not the result of one grand swoop of action. It took a million little steps from women across the country. A million little steps from women who wore the sash or carried the torch in their own way, a million little steps from those who marched in the streets or stood up for their place in the direction of our country.

Let us follow their example today. I am reminded of my mother. In 1933, at the age of 20, she wrote a charge for women. It was just over a decade after the 19th amendment. She wrote, and I quote:

“It is not my intention to be critical, rather my motive in writing this article is to encourage the female members of this organization to take an active part in its affairs. We are not living in the middle ages when a woman’s part in life was merely to serve her master in her home, but we have gradually taken our place in every phase of human endeavor, and even in the here-to-fore stronghold of the male sex: politics.

“I have noticed that the girls, unlike the men, are timid in asserting themselves, and many a good idea is lost, having been suppressed by its creator. Come on girls, let’s make our voices heard.

It will take another million little steps to move this coven—nitty forward in all the ways it must. On health care, on reproductive rights, on equal pay, on education, and more. So, come on girls, let us make ourselves heard.

COMMEMORATING THE ONE HUNDREDTH ANNIVERSARY OF THE WOMEN’S RIGHT TO VOTE
HON. TOM REED
OF NEW YORK
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, May 21, 2019

Mr. REED. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the one hundredth anniversary of women’s right to vote.

Madam Speaker, I am the youngest of 12, raised by a single mother on a Social Security check. To say I understand the power of women is an understatement.

That is why today, on the centennial anniversary, I rise to applaud and celebrate the passage of the 19th amendment which gave women in this country the right to vote.

Representing Seneca Falls, NY, I understand all that generations of brave and intelligent women went through to bring us to the 100th anniversary of women’s right to vote.

The Seneca Falls Convention, right in New York 23, was the first women’s rights convention in the United States. Held in July 1848, the meeting launched the women’s suffrage movement, which more than seven decades later ensured women the right to vote.

Despite scarce publicity, 300 people—mostly area residents—showed up. There was a group of strong women demanded the right to vote sparking a 70-year push for this essential right.

But the fight is not over. This is why I have been a strong advocate of the equal rights amendment. We are so close to ratification with just 1 more state needed to ratify.

So as I stand here with this yellow rose on my lapel signaling my support for women’s right to vote, I want everyone to know this rose means much more to me.

It means my support of equal rights to women.

IN CELEBRATION OF THE LIFE OF MR. JOHN SUTTON
HON. EMANUEL CLEAVER
OF MISSOURI
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, May 21, 2019

Mr. CLEAVER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to salute a veteran of the U.S. Army and a dedicated service member, Mr. Sutton.

Mr. Sutton eventually returned to the U.S. and furthered his education by receiving a Master’s in Business Administration with an emphasis in Transportation Management. Shortly thereafter, he once again served his country as a professor of mathematics at the U.S. Military Academy at West Point for three years.

Mr. Sutton took classes until he was once again sent to Korea in the 1st Calvary Division. Being both an energetic scholar and dedicated service member, Mr. Sutton eventually returned to Virginia to work for the Pentagon. At the Pentagon, he was an assistant to a three-star general, a position which led him to travel all around the world. For instance, this occurred when the U.S. Army sent Mr. Sutton to Vietnam, where he oversaw a battalion of 3,000 troops and spent countless days and nights living under the fear of an attack.

Upon his return to the States, he became a Colonel and was sent to Pennsylvania for 3 more years. After teaching and serving in Germany and Fort Leavenworth, Mr. Sutton was ready to return home to care for his family and his elderly parents. As a retiree from the Army, Mr. Sutton began working at Park University first as the supervisor of their Military Extension Program and later as the Assistant Dean of the University.

A man who pursues his passions and goals, Mr. Sutton received his private pilot’s license and eventually bought his own plane. To this day, he flies his plane at Fort Leavenworth. Today, Mr. Sutton’s extensive military history is honored at Veterans Hall in the Truman Memorial Building.

In addition to his 35 years of active duty service, he has been married for 69 years of marriage with two children, his five grandchildren, and four great-grandchildren. Though their travels have taken them all over the world, we are fortunate to have Mr. Sutton and his wife call Independence, Missouri, their home.

Madam Speaker, please join me and all of Missouri’s Fifth Congressional District in congratulating Mr. Sutton for his 35 years of active duty service and outstanding accomplishments. It is with great respect that I urge all my colleagues and fellow citizens across the
country to join me in showing our appreciation to Mr. Sutton for his unwavering strength and dedication to our country.

SUPPORTING H. RES. 354
HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON
OF TEXAS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, May 21, 2019

Ms. JOHNSON of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Res. 354, which celebrates the 100th anniversary of the 19th Amendment passing this body. This centennial is a moment to celebrate the women who fought to make the right to vote a reality for all women and to honor their dedication to our nation. As we gather to reflect on this important cause, it is important to recognize that because of generations of women’s commitment to our democracy, today I serve along with a record number of women in the United States Congress.

As a Member of Congress, I recognize that the right to vote is the most precious right of any American citizen. It is the collective responsibility of all today to preserve what generations of women before us fought to earn, and I am committed to continuing this great legacy for the sake of this country and the future of our democracy.

Even with these historic moments, our work is far from over as women still struggle for the right to equal pay and the right to affordable health care. Today, let us reaffirm our commitment to removing barriers that prevent women in America and around the world from achieving their full potential.

I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this resolution honoring the centennial of the House passage of the 19th Amendment. I yield back the balance of my time.

HONORING DENNIS PEDISICH
HON. MIKE THOMPSON
OF CALIFORNIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, May 21, 2019

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Dennis Pedisich for his involvement with Community Health Initiative and his leadership in providing health insurance to residents of Napa County.

Mr. Pedisich has been active in our community since earning his Master in Business Administration from Santa Clara University. He sat on the Community Health Initiative Board of Directors for nine years. During his time on the Board, he held many positions, including that of Vice President. Mr. Pedisich has selflessly given many hours of his time to Community Health Initiative, which has provided over 18,000 uninsured individuals with health insurance and access to care.

Mr. Pedisich has been active in our community in other positions as well. He has been the President of the Napa Valley College Foundation, the Justin-Siena High School Board of Trustees, and the Kiwanis Club of Napa Valley. He also sits on the Board of Trustees for the Queen of the Valley Medical Center. As the former President of Napa Community Bank and Vice President of Rabobank, Mr. Pedisich has shared his expertise of the finance community with the local non-profit sector and has helped many businesses thrive through his generosity with his time and knowledge.

Madam Speaker, Mr. Pedisich is an active member of our community who uses his expertise to assist others and help important local institutions, such as the Community Health Initiative, thrive. Community Health Initiative has been able to reach such a large number of Napa residents in no small part because of Mr. Pedisich. It is therefore fitting and proper that we honor Dennis Pedisich here today.
Chamber Action

Routine Proceedings, pages S2985–S3015

Measures Introduced: Thirty-two bills and five resolutions were introduced, as follows: S. 1553–1584, S. Res. 214–217, and S. Con. Res. 18.

Measures Reported:
S. 151, to deter criminal robocall violations and improve enforcement of section 227(b) of the Communications Act of 1934, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute. (S. Rept. No. 116–41)

Measures Passed:

Gold Star Family Tax Relief Act: Committee on Finance was discharged from further consideration of S. 1370, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to treat certain military survivor benefits as earned income for purposes of the kiddie tax, and the bill was then passed.

A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing that the papers relative to S. 1370, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to treat certain military survivor benefits as earned income for purposes of the kiddie tax, be held at the desk; that if the House of Representatives passes a bill identical to the text of S. 1370, passed by the Senate, the House bill be considered read a third time and passed, and the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate; and that upon passage of the House bill, S. 1370 be indefinitely postponed.

Recognizing Global Positioning System: Senate agreed to S. Res. 216, recognizing the contributions made by the men and women of the Air Force who are responsible for operating and maintaining the Global Positioning System constellation and affirming the importance of continuous availability, accuracy, efficiency, robustness, reliability, and resiliency of the Global Positioning System constellation.

Appointments:

Advisory Committee on the Records of Congress:
The Chair announced, on behalf of the Majority Leader, pursuant to Public Law 101–509, the reappointment of the following individual to serve as a member of the Advisory Committee on the Records of Congress: Deborah Skaggs Speth of Kentucky.

Advisory Committee on the Records of Congress:
The Chair announced, on behalf of the Secretary of the Senate, pursuant to Public Law 101–509, the reappointment of the following individual to serve as a member of the Advisory Committee on the Records of Congress: Sheryl B. Vogt of Georgia.

Nielson Nomination—Cloture: Senate resumed consideration of the nomination of Howard C. Nielson, Jr., to be United States District Judge for the District of Utah.

During consideration of this nomination today, Senate also took the following action:
By 52 yeas to 47 nays (Vote No. EX. 119), Senate agreed to the motion to close further debate on the nomination.

A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing for further consideration of the nomination at approximately 9:30 a.m., on Wednesday, May 22, 2019.

Clark Nomination—Cloture: By 53 yeas to 45 nays (Vote No. EX. 120), Senate agreed to the motion to close further debate on the nomination of Stephen R. Clark, Sr., to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Missouri.

Nichols Nomination—Cloture: By 55 yeas to 42 nays (Vote No. EX. 121), Senate agreed to the motion to close further debate on the nomination of Carl J. Nichols, to be United States District Judge for the District of Columbia.

Bell Nomination—Cloture: Senate resumed consideration of the nomination of Kenneth D. Bell, to be United States District Judge for the Western District of North Carolina.
During consideration of this nomination today, Senate also took the following action:
By 56 yeas to 42 nays (Vote No. EX. 122), Senate agreed to the motion to close further debate on the nomination.

Nielson, Clark, Nichols, and Bell Nominations—Agreement: A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing that the confirmation votes on the nominations of Howard C. Nielson, Jr., Stephen R. Clark, Sr., Carl J. Nichols, and Kenneth D. Bell occur at 4:30 p.m., on Wednesday, May 22, 2019.

Nomination Confirmed: Senate confirmed the following nomination:
By 53 yeas to 46 nays (Vote No. EX. 118), Daniel P. Collins, of California, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Ninth Circuit.

Nominations Received: Senate received the following nominations:
Gary Richard Brown, of New York, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of New York.
Stephanie A. Gallagher, of Maryland, to be United States District Judge for the District of Maryland.
Diane Gujarati, of New York, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of New York.
Eric Ross Komitee, of New York, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of New York.
Rachel P. Kovner, of New York, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of New York.
Lewis J. Liman, of New York, to be United States District Judge for the Southern District of New York.
Mary S. McElroy, of Rhode Island, to be United States District Judge for the District of Rhode Island.
Martha Maria Pacold, of Illinois, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of Illinois.
Mary M. Rowland, of Illinois, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of Illinois.
Steven C. Seeger, of Illinois, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of Illinois.
John L. Sinatra, Jr., of New York, to be United States District Judge for the Western District of New York.
Mary Kay Vyskocil, of New York, to be United States District Judge for the Southern District of New York.
Routine lists in the Foreign Service.

Messages from the House:

Measures Referred:

Measures Held at the Desk:

Executive Communications:

Petitions and Memorials:

Additional Cosponsors:

Statements on Introduced Bills/Resolutions:

Additional Statements:

Authorities for Committees to Meet:

Record Votes: Five record votes were taken today. (Total—122)

Adjournment: Senate convened at 10 a.m. and adjourned at 6:41 p.m., until 9:30 a.m. on Wednesday, May 22, 2019. (For Senate’s program, see the remarks of the Majority Leader in today’s Record on pages S3012–13.)

Committee Meetings

(Committees not listed did not meet)

CLIMATE CHANGE AND THE AGRICULTURE SECTOR
Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry: Committee concluded a hearing to examine climate change and the agriculture sector, after receiving testimony from Debbie Lyons-Blythe, Blythe Family Farms, LLC, White City, Kansas, on behalf of the National Cattlemen’s Beef Association; Frank Mitloehner, University of California Department of Animal Science, Davis; Matt Rezac, Rezac Farms, Weston, Nebraska; and former Secretary of Agriculture Thomas J. Vilsack, United States Dairy Export Council, Arlington, Virginia.

AUTHORIZATION: DEFENSE
Committee on Armed Services: Subcommittee on Cybersecurity met in closed session and approved for full committee consideration those provisions which fall under the subcommittee’s jurisdiction of the proposed National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal year 2020.

AUTHORIZATION: DEFENSE
Committee on Armed Services: Subcommittee on SeaPower met in closed session and approved for full committee consideration those provisions which fall under the subcommittee’s jurisdiction of the proposed National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal year 2020.

AUTHORIZATION: DEFENSE
Committee on Armed Services: Subcommittee on Personnel approved for full committee consideration

AUTHORIZED: DEFENSE

Committee on Armed Services: Subcommittee on Emerging Threats and Capabilities met in closed session and approved for full committee consideration those provisions which fall under the subcommittee’s jurisdiction of the proposed National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal year 2020.

COMBATING ILLICIT FINANCING

Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs: Committee concluded a hearing to examine combating illicit financing by anonymous shell companies through the collection of beneficial ownership information, after receiving testimony from Kenneth A. Blanco, Director, Financial Crimes Enforcement Network, and Grovetta N. Gardineer, Senior Deputy Comptroller for Bank Supervision Policy and Community Affairs, Office of the Comptroller of the Currency, both of the Department of the Treasury; and Steven M. D’Antuono, Acting Deputy Director, Criminal Investigative Division, Federal Bureau of Investigation, Department of Justice.

RENEWABLE ENERGY

Committee on Energy and Natural Resources: Committee concluded a hearing to examine opportunities to advance renewable energy and energy efficiency efforts in the United States, after receiving testimony from Daniel R. Simmons, Assistant Secretary for Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy, and Martin Keller, Director, National Renewable Energy Laboratory, both of the Department of Energy; Dan Conant, Solar Holler, Shepherdstown, West Virginia; Jason Hartke, Alliance to Save Energy, Washington, D.C.; and Bruno C. Grunau, Cold Climate Housing Research Center, Fairbanks, Alaska.

NOMINATIONS

Committee on Foreign Relations: Committee concluded a hearing to examine the nominations of Pamela Bates, of Virginia, to be Representative of the United States of America to the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, with the rank of Ambassador, and Christopher Landau, of Maryland, to be Ambassador to the United Mexican States, both of the Department of State, Jennifer D. Nordquist, of Virginia, to be United States Executive Director of the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development, and Eliot Pedrosa, of Florida, to be United States Executive Director of the Inter-American Development Bank, after the nominees testified and answered questions in their own behalf.

GAO ANNUAL DUPLICATION REPORT


DIGITAL ADVERTISING ECOSYSTEM

Committee on the Judiciary: Committee concluded a hearing to examine the digital advertising ecosystem and the impact of data privacy and competition policy, after receiving testimony from Avi Goldfarb, University of Toronto Rotman School of Management, Toronto, Canada; Fiona Scott Morton, Yale School of Management, New Haven, Connecticut; Brian O’Kelley, AppNexus Inc., New York, New York; Johnny Ryan, Brave, London, United Kingdom; and Jan M. Rybnicek, Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer, Washington, D.C.

BUSINESS MEETING

Select Committee on Intelligence: Committee met in closed session to consider pending intelligence matters.

Committee recessed subject to the call.

INTELLIGENCE

Select Committee on Intelligence: Committee held closed hearings on intelligence matters, receiving testimony from officials of the intelligence community.

Committee recessed subject to the call.

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House of Representatives

Chamber Action

Public Bills and Resolutions Introduced: 32 public bills, H.R. 2856–2887; and 4 resolutions, H. Con. Res. 40; and H. Res. 391–393, were introduced.

Additional Cosponsors: Pages H4065–66

Report Filed: A report was filed today as follows:
Supplemental Report on H.R. 1947, to amend title 38, United States Code, to exempt transfers of funds from Federal agencies to the Department of Veterans Affairs for nonprofit corporations established under subchapter IV of chapter 73 of such title from certain provisions of the Economy Act (H. Rept. 116–76, Part 2).

Speaker: Read a letter from the Speaker wherein she appointed Representative Lawrence to act as Speaker pro tempore for today.

Recess: The House recessed at 11:01 a.m. and reconvened at 12 noon.

Guest Chaplain: The prayer was offered by the Guest Chaplain, Pastor R. Perez Gatling, Ebenezer Baptist Church, Virginia Beach, VA.

Celebrating the 100th anniversary of the passage and ratification of the 19th Amendment, providing for women's suffrage, to the Constitution of the United States: The House agreed to discharge from committee and agree to H. Res. 354, celebrating the 100th anniversary of the passage and ratification of the 19th Amendment, providing for women's suffrage, to the Constitution of the United States.

Recess: The House recessed at 1:32 p.m. and reconvened at 2:27 p.m.

Consumers First Act and Setting Every Community Up for Retirement Enhancement Act of 2019—Rule for consideration: The House agreed to H. Res. 389, providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 1500) to require the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau to meet its statutory purpose, and providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 1994) to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to encourage retirement savings, by a yea-and-nay vote of 230 yeas to 190 nays, Roll No. 221, after the previous question was ordered by a yea-and-nay vote of 227 yeas to 191 nays, Roll No. 220.

Suspensions: The House agreed to suspend the rules and pass the following measures:

Whole Veteran Act: H.R. 2359, amended, to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to submit to Congress a report on the Department of Veterans Affairs advancing of whole health transformation;

Vet Center Eligibility Expansion Act: H.R. 1812, amended, to amend title 38, United States Code, to furnish Vet Center readjustment counseling and related mental health services to certain individuals;

Navy SEAL Chief Petty Officer William Bill Mulder (Ret.) Transition Improvement Act of 2019: H.R. 2326, amended, to amend the Social Security Act, to amend the Dignified Burial and Other Veterans' Benefits Improvement Act of 2012, and to direct the Secretaries of Veterans Affairs, Defense, Labor, and Homeland Security, and the Administrator of the Small Business Administration, to take certain actions to improve transition assistance to members of the Armed Forces who separate, retire, or are discharged from the Armed Forces;

Support for Suicide Prevention Coordinators Act: H.R. 2333, to direct the Comptroller General of the United States to conduct an assessment of the responsibilities, workload, and vacancy rates of Department of Veterans Affairs suicide prevention coordinators;

Fostering Intergovernmental Health Transparency in Veteran Suicides Act: H.R. 2340, amended, to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to provide to Congress notice of any suicide or attempted suicide of a veteran in a Department of Veterans Affairs facility;

Veterans' Compensation Cost-of-Living Adjustment Act of 2019: H.R. 1200, to increase, effective as of December 1, 2019, the rates of compensation for veterans with service-connected disabilities and the rates of dependency and indemnity compensation for the survivors of certain disabled veterans;

Veterans' Care Quality Transparency Act: H.R. 2372, amended, to direct the Comptroller General of the United States to conduct an assessment of all memoranda of understanding and memoranda of agreement between Under Secretary of Health and non-Department of Veterans Affairs entities relating to suicide prevention and mental health services;


Agreed to amend the title so as to read: “To amend title 38, United States Code, to establish in the Department the Veterans Economic Opportunity and Transition Administration, and for other purposes.”.

Amending title 38, United States Code, to exempt transfers of funds from Federal agencies to the Department of Veterans Affairs for nonprofit corporations established under subchapter IV of
chapter 73 of such title from certain provisions of the Economy Act: H.R. 1947, amended, to amend title 38, United States Code, to exempt transfers of funds from Federal agencies to the Department of Veterans Affairs for nonprofit corporations established under subchapter IV of chapter 73 of such title from certain provisions of the Economy Act;

Agreed to amend the title so as to read: “To amend title 38, United States Code, to exempt transfers of funds from Federal agencies to the Department of Veterans Affairs for nonprofit corporations established under subchapter IV of chapter 73 of such title from certain provisions of the Economy Act, and for other purposes.”

Permission to File Report: Agreed by unanimous consent that the Committee on Veterans’ Affairs be authorized to file a supplemental report on H.R. 1947, to amend title 38, United States Code, to exempt transfers of funds from Federal agencies to the Department of Veterans Affairs for nonprofit corporations established under subchapter IV of chapter 73 of such title from certain provisions of the Economy Act.

Consensus Calendar: Representative Courtney presented to the clerk a motion to place on the Consensus Calendar the bill H.R. 748, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to repeal the excise tax on high cost employer-sponsored health coverage, it having accumulated 290 cosponsors.

Senate Referral: S. 163 was referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

Senate Message: Message received from the Senate by the Clerk and subsequently presented to the House today appears on page H4024.

Quorum Calls—Votes: Two yea-and-nay votes developed during the proceedings of today and appear on pages H4030–31 and H4031. There were no quorum calls.

Adjournment: The House met at 10 a.m. and adjourned at 7:18 p.m.

Committee Meetings

TO REVIEW ANIMAL PEST AND DISEASE PREVENTION AND RESPONSE CAPABILITIES

Committee on Agriculture: Subcommittee on Livestock and Foreign Agriculture held a hearing entitled “To Review Animal Pest and Disease Prevention and Response Capabilities”. Testimony was heard from Greg Ibach, Under Secretary, Marketing and Regulatory Programs, Department of Agriculture.

MISCELLANEOUS MEASURES


MILITARY AND VETERAN SUICIDE: UNDERSTANDING THE PROBLEM AND PREPARING FOR THE FUTURE

Committee on Armed Services: Subcommittee on Military Personnel; and Subcommittee on Health of the House Committee on Veterans’ Affairs held a joint hearing entitled “Military and Veteran Suicide: Understanding the Problem and Preparing for the Future”. Testimony was heard from Elizabeth P. Van Winkle, Executive Director, Office of Force Resilience, Department of Defense; Captain Mike Colston, M.D., U.S. Navy, Director, Mental Health Policy and Oversight, Department of Defense; Keita Franklin, National Director of Suicide Prevention, Department of Veterans Affairs; and Michael W. Fischer, Chief Readjustment Counseling Officer, Department of Veterans Affairs.

ELIMINATING BARRIERS TO EMPLOYMENT: OPENING DOORS TO OPPORTUNITY

Committee on Education and Labor: Full Committee held a hearing entitled “Eliminating Barriers to Employment: Opening Doors to Opportunity”. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

UNDERMINING MERCURY PROTECTIONS: EPA ENDANGERS HUMAN HEALTH AND THE ENVIRONMENT

Committee on Energy and Commerce: Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations held a hearing entitled “Undermining Mercury Protections: EPA Endangers Human Health and the Environment”. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

IMPROVING DRUG PRICING TRANSPARENCY AND LOWERING PRICES FOR AMERICAN CONSUMERS

Committee on Energy and Commerce: Subcommittee on Health held a hearing entitled “Improving Drug Pricing Transparency and Lowering Prices for American Consumers”. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.
HOUSING IN AMERICA: OVERSIGHT OF THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT

Committee on Financial Services: Full Committee held a hearing entitled “Housing in America: Oversight of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development”. Testimony was heard from Dr. Benjamin S. Carson, M.D., Secretary, Department of Housing and Urban Development.

UNDERMINING DEMOCRACY: KREMLIN TOOLS OF MALIGN POLITICAL INFLUENCE

Committee on Foreign Affairs: Subcommittee on Europe, Eurasia, Energy held a hearing entitled “Undermining Democracy: Kremlin Tools of Malign Political Influence”. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

THE TSA WORKFORCE CRISIS: A HOMELAND SECURITY RISK


GROWING AND DIVERSIFYING THE CYBER TALENT PIPELINE

Committee on Homeland Security: Subcommittee on Cybersecurity, Infrastructure Protection and Innovation held a hearing entitled “Growing and Diversifying the Cyber Talent Pipeline”. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

OVERSIGHT OF THE ELECTION ASSISTANCE COMMISSION

Committee on House Administration: Full Committee held a hearing entitled “Oversight of the Election Assistance Commission”. Testimony was heard from the following U.S. Election Assistance Commission officials: Christy McCormick, Commissioner and Chairwoman; Benjamin Hovland, Commissioner and Vice Chair; Don Palmer, Commissioner; and Thomas Hicks, Commissioner.

OVERSIGHT OF THE REPORT BY SPECIAL COUNSEL ROBERT S. MUELLER, III: FORMER WHITE HOUSE COUNSEL DONALD F. MCGAHN, II

Committee on the Judiciary: Full Committee held a hearing entitled “Oversight of the Report by Special Counsel Robert S. Mueller, III: Former White House Counsel Donald F. McGahn, II”.

EXAMINING THE PRESIDENT’S FISCAL YEAR 2020 BUDGET PROPOSAL FOR THE NATIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION AND U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

Committee on Natural Resources: Subcommittee on Water, Oceans, and Wildlife held a hearing entitled “Examining the President’s Fiscal Year 2020 Budget Proposal for the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service”. Testimony was heard from Rear Admiral Timothy Gallaudet, U.S. Navy (Ret.), Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere, and Deputy National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Administrator, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration; and Margaret Everson, Principle Deputy Director, Exercising the Authority of the Director, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

TRUMP’S WAR ON A MERIT BASED CIVIL SERVICE

Committee on Oversight and Reform: Subcommittee on Government Operations held a hearing entitled “Trump’s War on a Merit Based Civil Service”. Testimony was heard from Margaret Weichert, Deputy Director of Management, Office of Management and Budget, Acting Director, Office of Personnel Management; Triana McNeil, Acting Director of Strategic Issues, Government Accountability Office; Norbert E. Vint, Acting Inspector General, Office of Inspector General, Office of Personnel Management; and public witnesses.

THE NEED FOR RESILIENCE: PREPARING AMERICA’S TRANSPORTATION INFRASTRUCTURE FOR CLIMATE CHANGE

Committee on Science, Space, and Technology: Subcommittee on Investigations and Oversight held a hearing entitled “The Need for Resilience: Preparing America’s Transportation Infrastructure for Climate Change”. Testimony was heard from Susanne DesRoches, Deputy Director for Infrastructure and Energy, New York City Mayor’s Office of Resiliency and Office of Sustainability; Jason D. Averill, Chief of the Materials and Structural Systems Division, National Institute of Standards and Technology; and public witnesses.

INVESTING IN COMMUNITY: THE SBA’S COMMUNITY ADVANTAGE LOAN PROGRAM

Committee on Small Business: Subcommittee on Investigations, Oversight, and Regulation held a hearing entitled “Investing in Community: The SBA’s Community Advantage Loan Program”. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.
REVIEW OF FISCAL YEAR 2020 BUDGET FOR THE COAST GUARD AND MARITIME TRANSPORTATION PROGRAMS

Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure: Subcommittee on Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation held a hearing entitled “Review of Fiscal Year 2020 Budget for the Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation Programs”. Testimony was heard from Admiral Karl P. Schultz, Commandant, U.S. Coast Guard; Master Chief Jason M. Vanderhaden, Master Chief Petty Officer of the Coast Guard, U.S. Coast Guard; Rear Admiral Mark H. Buzby, U.S. Navy (Ret.), Administrator, U.S. Maritime Administration; and Michael A. Khouri, Chairman, Federal Maritime Commission.

PROTECTING PATIENTS FROM SURPRISE MEDICAL BILLS

Committee on Ways and Means: Subcommittee on Health held a hearing entitled “Protecting Patients from Surprise Medical Bills”. Testimony was heard from Representatives Porter and Rogers of Washington; and public witnesses.

Joint Meetings

No joint committee meetings were held.

COMMITTEE MEETINGS FOR WEDNESDAY, MAY 22, 2019

(Committee meetings are open unless otherwise indicated)

Senate

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Department of the Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies, to hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates and justification for fiscal year 2020 for the Department of the Interior, 9:30 a.m., SD–124.

Subcommittee on Department of Defense, to hold closed hearings to examine proposed budget estimates and justification for fiscal year 2020 for the Missile Defense Agency, 10 a.m., SVC–217.

Committee on Armed Services: closed business meeting to markup the proposed National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal year 2020, 9 a.m., SR–222.

Committee on Environment and Public Works: to hold hearings to examine legislation to address the risks associated with per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS), 9:45 a.m., SD–406.

Committee on Foreign Relations: to hold closed hearings to examine the reconciliation process in Afghanistan, 10:15 a.m., SVC–217.

Full Committee, business meeting to consider S. 178, to condemn gross human rights violations of ethnic Turkic Muslims in Xinjiang, and calling for an end to arbitrary detention, torture, and harassment of these communities inside and outside China, S. 249, to direct the Secretary of State to develop a strategy to regain observer status for Taiwan in the World Health Organization, S. 1025, to provide humanitarian relief to the Venezuelan people and Venezuelan migrants, to advance a constitutional and democratic solution to Venezuela’s political crisis, to address Venezuela’s economic reconstruction, to combat public corruption, narcotics trafficking, and money laundering, S. 1340, to authorize activities to combat the Ebola outbreak in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, H.R. 31, to require certain additional actions in connection with the national emergency with respect to Syria, S. Res. 74, marking the fifth anniversary of Ukraine’s Revolution of Dignity by honoring the bravery, determination, and sacrifice of the people of Ukraine during and since the Revolution, and condemning continued Russian aggression against Ukraine, S. Res. 81, calling for accountability and justice for the assassination of Boris Nemtsov, S. Res. 135, expressing the gratitude and appreciation of the Senate for the acts of heroism and valor by the members of the United States Armed Forces who participated in the June 6, 1944, amphibious landing at Normandy, France, and commending those individuals for leadership and bravery in an operation that helped bring an end to World War II, S. Res. 184, condemning the Easter Sunday terrorist attacks in Sri Lanka, offering sincere condolences to the victims, to their families and friends, and to the people and nation of Sri Lanka, and expressing solidarity and support for Sri Lanka, S. Res. 188, encouraging a swift transfer of power by the military to a civilian-led political authority in the Republic of the Sudan, the nominations of Jeffrey L. Eberhardt, of Wisconsin, to be Special Representative of the President for Nuclear Nonproliferation, with the rank of Ambassador, Bridget A. Brink, of Michigan, to be Ambassador to the Slovak Republic, Kenneth A. Howery, of Texas, to be Ambassador to the Kingdom of Sweden, Matthew S. Klimow, of New York, to be Ambassador to Turkmenistan, and John Jefferson Daigle, of Louisiana, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Cabo Verde, all of Department of State, a routine list in the Foreign Service, and other pending calendar business, 1:45 p.m., S–116, Capitol.

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs: Subcommittee on Regulatory Affairs and Federal Management, with the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship, to hold hearings to examine reauthorization of the Small Business Administration Office of Advocacy, 2:30 p.m., SD–106.

Committee on the Judiciary: to hold hearings to examine the nominations of Daniel Aaron Bress, of California, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Ninth Circuit, Michael S. Bogren, to be United States District Judge for the Western District of Michigan, Stephanie Dawkins Davis, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Michigan, Jason K. Pulliam, to be United States District Judge for the Western District of Texas, Frank William Volk, to be United States District Judge for the Southern District of West Virginia, and David Austin Tapp, of Kentucky, to be a Judge of the United States Court of Federal Claims, 10 a.m., SD–226.

Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship: with the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental
Affairs, Subcommittee on Regulatory Affairs and Federal Management, to hold hearings to examine reauthorization of the Small Business Administration Office of Advocacy, 2:30 p.m., SD–106.

Committee on Veterans’ Affairs: to hold hearings to examine S. 123, to require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to enter into a contract or other agreement with a third party to review appointees in the Veterans Health Administration who had a license terminated for cause by a State licensing board for care or services rendered at a non-Veterans Health Administration facility and to provide individuals treated by such an appointee with notice if it is determined that an episode of care or services to which they received was below the standard of care, S. 221, to amend title 38, United States Code, to require the Under Secretary of Health to report major adverse personnel actions involving certain health care employees to the National Practitioner Data Bank and to applicable State licensing boards, S. 318, to authorize the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to furnish medically necessary transportation for newborn children of certain women veterans, S. 450, to require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to carry out a pilot program to expedite the onboarding process for new medical providers of the Department of Veterans Affairs, to reduce the duration of the hiring process for such medical providers, S. 514, to amend title 38, United States Code, to improve the benefits and services provided by the Department of Veterans Affairs to women veterans, S. 524, to establish the Department of Veterans Affairs Advisory Committee on Tribal and Indian Affairs, S. 711, 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, S. 746, to require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to conduct a study on the accessibility of websites of the Department of Veterans Affairs to individuals with disabilities, S. 785, to improve mental health care provided by the Department of Veterans Affairs, S. 805, to amend title 38, United States Code, to improve the processing of veterans benefits by the Department of Veterans Affairs, to limit the authority of the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to recover overpayments made by the Department and other amounts owed by veterans to the United States, to improve the due process accorded veterans with respect to such recovery, S. 850, to extend the authorization of appropriations to the Department of Veterans Affairs for purposes of awarding grants to veterans service organizations for the transportation of highly rural veterans, S. 857, to amend title 38, United States Code, to increase the amount of special pension for Medal of Honor recipients, S. 980, to amend title 38, United States Code, to improve the provision of services for homeless veterans, S. 1101, to ensure that only licensed health care providers furnish disability examinations under a certain Department of Veterans Affairs pilot program for use of contract physicians for disability examinations, S. 1154, to amend title 38, United States Code, to establish an advisory committee on the implementation by the Department of Veterans Affairs of an electronic health record, an original bill entitled, “Janey Ensminger Act of 2019”, and an original bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to extend the authority of the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to continue to pay educational assistance or subsistence allowances to eligible persons when educational institutions are temporarily closed, 2:30 p.m., SR–418.

Special Committee on Aging: to hold hearings to examine aging and disability in the 21st century, focusing on how technology can help maintain health and quality of life, 9:30 a.m., SD–562.

House


Committee on the Budget, Full Committee, hearing entitled “Key Design Components and Considerations for Establishing a Single-Payer Health Care System”, 10 a.m., 210 Cannon.


Committee on Energy and Commerce, Full Committee, hearing entitled “LIFT America: Modernizing Our Infrastructure for the Future”, 10 a.m., 2123 Rayburn.

Committee on Financial Services, Full Committee, hearing entitled “The Annual Testimony of the Treasury on the State of the International Financial System, Part II”, 8:30 a.m., 2128 Rayburn.

Committee on Foreign Affairs, Full Committee, hearing entitled “Searching for Solutions in Syria: The Trump Administration’s Strategy”, 10 a.m., 2172 Rayburn.

Full Committee, markup on H.R. 2615, the “United States-Northern Triangle Enhanced Engagement Act”; H.R. 2744, the “USAID Branding Modernization Act”; H.R. 598, the “Georgia Support Act”; H.R. 2140, the “Preventing Child Marriage Act”; H.R. 2023, the “Protect European Energy Security Act”; H.R. 2046, the “Energy Diplomacy Act”; H. Res. 129, condemning the Government of Saudi Arabia’s continued detention and alleged abuse of women’s rights activists; H. Res. 372, expressing concern for the United States-Turkey alliance; H. Res. 345, recognizing widening threats to freedoms of the press and expression around the world, reaffirming the centrality of a free and independent press to the health of democracy, and reaffirming freedom of the press as a priority of the United States, 2 p.m., 2172 Rayburn.


Committee on the Judiciary, Full Committee, markup on H.R. 2820, the “Dream Act of 2019”; H.R. 2821, the “American Promise Act of 2019”; H.R. 549, the “Venezuela TPS Act of 2019”, 10 a.m., 2141 Rayburn.

Committee on Natural Resources, Subcommittee on National Parks, Forests, and Public Lands, hearing on H.R.
182, to extend the authorization for the Cape Cod National Seashore Advisory Commission; H.R. 307, the “Preserving America’s Battlefields Act”; H.R. 473, to authorize the Every Word We Utter Monument to establish a commemorative work in the District of Columbia and its environs, and for other purposes; H.R. 1088, the “FIRST Act”; H.R. 1130, the “Fort Pillow National Battlefield Park Study Act”; H.R. 1179, the “African-American Burial Grounds Network Act”; H.R. 1248, the “York River Wild and Scenic River Act of 2019”; H.R. 1472, to rename the Homestead National Monument of America near Beatrice, Nebraska, as the Homestead National Historical Park; H.R. 1487, the “Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area Boundary Adjustment Study Act”; H.R. 1727, the “Complete America’s Great Trails Act”; H.R. 2369, the “Long Island Aviation History Act”; H.R. 2427, the “Chesapeake Bay Gateways and Watertrails Network Reauthorization Act of 2019”; H.R. 2490, to amend the National Trails System Act to direct the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a study on the feasibility of designating the Chief Standing Bear National Historic Trail, and for other purposes; H.R. 2525, to establish the Steel Valley National Heritage Area in the States of Pennsylvania and Ohio, and for other purposes, 10 a.m., 1334 Longworth.


Committee on Oversight and Reform, Full Committee, hearing entitled “Facial Recognition Technology (Part 1): Its Impact on our Civil Rights and Liberties”, 10 a.m., 2154 Rayburn.

Subcommittee on Economic and Consumer Policy, hearing entitled “Examining For-Profit College Oversight and Student Debt”, 2 p.m., 2247 Rayburn.


Committee on Small Business, Full Committee, hearing entitled “Immigration and the Small Business Workforce”, 11:30 a.m., 2360 Rayburn.

Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, Subcommittee on Water Resources and Environment, hearing entitled “Policies, Recommendations, and Impacts of the President’s Fiscal Year 2020 Budget Request”, 10 a.m., 2167 Rayburn.


Committee on Veterans’ Affairs, Subcommittee on Health; and Subcommittee on Technology Modernization, joint hearing entitled “MISSION Critical: Caring for our Heroes”, 10 a.m., HVC–210.


Committee on Ways and Means, Subcommittee on Trade, hearing entitled “Enforcement in the New NAFTA”, 10 a.m., 1100 Longworth.

Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence, Full Committee, business meeting on Committee Vote on Enforcement Action regarding the Subpoena Issued by the Committee to the Attorney General on May 8, 2019, for Foreign Intelligence, Counterintelligence and Other Information Related to the Special Counsel’s Investigation, 9:30 a.m., HVC–304. This meeting is closed.

Joint Meetings

Joint Economic Committee: to hold hearings to examine the economic impacts of the 2020 Census and business uses of Federal data, 2 p.m., 210, Cannon Building.
Next Meeting of the SENATE
9:30 a.m., Wednesday, May 22

Senate Chamber

Program for Wednesday: Senate will continue consideration of the nomination of Howard C. Neilson, Jr., to be United States District Judge for the District of Utah. At 4:30 p.m., Senate will vote on confirmation of the nominations of Howard C. Neilson, Jr., Stephen R. Clark, Sr., to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Missouri, Carl J. Nichols, to be United States District Judge for the District of Columbia, and Kenneth D. Bell, to be United States District Judge for the Western District of North Carolina.

Next Meeting of the HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
10 a.m., Wednesday, May 22

House Chamber

Program for Wednesday: Consideration of H.R. 1500—Consumers First Act (Subject to a Rule).

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