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House of Representatives

The House met at 9 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (MRS. LURIA).

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

WASHINGTON, DC, May 23, 2019.
I hereby appoint the Honorable ELAINE G. LURIA to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

NANCY PELOSI,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

PRAYER
Chaplain Major Thomas E. Fussell, U.S. Air Force, Cape Canaveral, Florida, offered the following prayer:

Good morning, Lord.

In a few days, our hearts will turn toward our Armed Forces as we observe Memorial Day. Many of America’s sons and daughters have fought and died valiantly for the freedoms we now enjoy. We are grateful for the ultimate sacrifice they have made for us. May Your peace rest on their loved ones who continue to grieve.

Lord, as the many debates of great importance echo through this historic Chamber, I pray that You would give to these leaders a softness of heart and speech, that they may work to solve the problems at hand, together. Grant our congressional leaders wisdom and new ideas to solve the complex problems before them.

Bless the House of Representatives, O Lord. Imbue its leaders with Your righteousness. Remind them that to whom much is given, much is required. Lord our creator, lover of our souls, hear my prayer. Amen.

THE JOURNAL
The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day’s proceedings and announces to the House her approval thereof. Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

Mr. SCHNEIDER. Madam Speaker, pursuant to clause 1, rule I, I demand a vote on agreeing to the Speaker’s approval of the Journal.

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

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

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

The yeas and nays were ordered.

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentlewoman from Georgia (Mrs. McBATH) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mrs. McBATH 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.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE
The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will entertain up to five requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

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

Mr. SCHNEIDER. Madam Speaker, the American people sent a clear message that they want action to lower the cost and improve the quality of healthcare. I am pleased that, over the past month, this House has done exactly that.

It is a stark contrast to the 8 years under the previous majority with one attempt after another to repeal the Affordable Care Act and deny coverage to Americans with preexisting conditions.

Last week, we passed legislation to help address the rising cost of prescription drugs by increasing the availability of generic drugs.

This bill also curbs the Trump administration’s expansion of junk insurance plans and funds programs to help more Americans enroll in coverage.

Earlier, we voted to reverse the Trump administration’s dangerous effort to allow States to waive lifesaving protections for people with preexisting conditions.

I urge the Senate to take up these bills that will have immediate, positive effects on our Nation’s healthcare, and I look forward to working with my colleagues to make even more, further progress.

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

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor of the 45th annual National EMS Week. During this week, we celebrate emergency medical services personnel and the important work that they do in our Nation’s communities.

The EMS professionals provide constant services to people in need. From illness to injury, whenever the world
seems to be ending, society counts on EMS personnel to be there. They are expected to work hard and be strong, especially in times of trouble.

Madam Speaker, as a former EMT rescue technician and firefighter with more than three decades of experience being on the front lines with my fellow EMS professionals, I can personally attest to their dedication to saving lives.

The job of an EMS professional is not easy. It requires just as much compassion as it does courage. These men and women are committed to making the world better.

EMS Week brings together local communities and medical personnel to honor the dedication of those who are on the front line providing day-to-day lifesaving services.

A thank-you to the EMTs, paramedics, dispatchers, and supervisors across the country. Every American is grateful for their service.

SUPPORTING OUR NATION’S VETERANS

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

Mrs. McBATH. Madam Speaker, today I am introducing the Honoring American Veterans in Extreme Need, or HAVEN, Act, with my colleague Greg Storms of Florida.

Under current law, when a veteran files for bankruptcy, his or her disability benefits from the VA or DOD count as income that is subject to the reach of creditors; however, Social Security disability benefits are exempt. The HAVEN Act would amend bankruptcy law to exclude disability benefit payments paid from the VA or DOD from that monthly income calculation, treating it the same as Social Security disability.

Our disabled veterans earned their benefits by serving our great Nation, and we must protect them and their families, especially during financial hardship.

I encourage my colleagues to support our Nation’s veterans and cosponsor this bipartisan legislation.

HONORING LEE JERNIGAN

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

Mr. LaMalfa. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the life and honor the passage of one of my great constituents, Lee Jernigan of Oroville, California.

During Lee’s lifetime, he had joined the U.S. Army Air Corps in 1943 and served as an aerial gunner and airplane mechanic on a B-17 during World War II, where he flew 23 missions in the Asian Pacific.

Lee graduated from Chico State in 1950 and received his master’s degree in 1959 in education. Lee was known specifically for his passion and commitment to God, his family, and for educating the young people of our community.

It should come as no surprise that Lee was a beloved elementary and middle school teacher and then went on to be my principal at Central Middle School in Oroville, California, for 54 years of career. Lee was known to be kind, with a sense of humor, and this was one principal I was never really in trouble with.

Lee was devoted to teaching, but also devoted to his loving wife, Hazel, whom he married in 1948 and remained with for 72 years until his passing.

Lee was a man of extreme dedication and commitment to his wife, to his country, and to learning for the children of his community. Of course, we can all learn from that, as well.

Madam Speaker, God bless Lee Jernigan and his family.

HELPING FAMILIES ACHIEVE LIFETIME FINANCIAL SECURITY

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

Mr. Horsford. Madam Speaker, I rise today to join my colleagues in support of the SECURE Act, a bill that gets to the heart of our retirement income crisis.

Unfortunately, too many of my constituents are in danger of not having enough money to put away for retirement. In fact, 56 percent of Nevadans do not feel financially prepared for retirement, and most older Nevadans wished they had saved more money.

Fortunately, the SECURE Act will make it easier for Nevadans to save for their retirement. It makes it easier for small businesses to offer retirement plans to their employees, allows part-time workers to participate in 401(k) plans, and provides relief to pension plans, ranging from rural co-ops to organizations like the Jewish Federation of America.

I am also proud to share that this legislation includes my bill, H.R. 2806, which fixes a provision in the flawed Republican tax plan that raised the tax rate for scholarship and fellowship students up to 37 percent.

As a member of the Ways and Means Committee, I would like to thank Chairman Neal for his leadership in getting this bipartisan bill passed unanimously through our committee.

The SECURE Act will help families achieve lifetime financial security, a core of the American Dream. I urge every Member of this body to support its passage.

CONGRATULATING HAVEROFT HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS

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

Ms. Scanlon, Madam Speaker, we all know that elections matter, so I would like to congratulate the students of Haverford High School for receiving the Governor’s Civic Engagement Award. This award is given to Pennsylvania high schools that register over 85 percent of their eligible students to vote. Haverford High was 1 of 4 Philadelphia area schools and 1 of 23 schools in our Commonwealth to receive this noteworthy award.

At a time when some States are imposing restrictions on voting, we should all follow the lead set by the students at Haverford High. They worked to educate their peers and bring them into the electoral process. This Congress should do the same.

We need to ensure that our schools give students a thorough civics education so that they have the knowledge and tools necessary to fully participate in our democracy. We need to expand voting rights and access to the ballot, as we are doing with passage of bills like H.R. 1 and H.R. 4.

Again, Madam Speaker, I want to congratulate the students of Haverford High School for their outstanding achievement and for being an example for all of us to follow.

SETTING EVERY COMMUNITY UP FOR RETIREMENT ENHANCEMENT ACT OF 2019

Mr. Neal. Madam Speaker, pursuant to House Resolution 389, I call up the bill (H.R. 1994) to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to encourage retirement savings, and for other purposes, and ask for its immediate consideration in the House.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 389, the amendment in the nature of a substitute recommended by the Committee on Ways and Means, modified by the amendment printed in part B of House Report 116–79, is adopted, and the bill, as amended, is considered read.

The text of the bill, as amended, is as follows:

H.R. 1994

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE, ETC.

(a) SHORT TITLE.—This Act may be cited as the “Setting Every Community Up for Retirement Enhancement Act of 2019.”

(b) TABLE OF CONTENTS.—The table of contents of this Act is as follows:

TITLE I—EXPANDING AND PRESERVING RETIREMENT SAVINGS

Sec. 101. Multiple employer plans; pooled employer plans.
Sec. 102. Increase in 10 percent cap for automatic enrollment safe harbor after 1st plan year.
Sec. 103. Rules relating to election of safe harbor 401(k) status.
Sec. 104. Increase in credit limitation for small employer pension plan startup costs.
Sec. 105. Small employer automatic enrollment credit.
Sec. 106. Certain taxable non-fiduciary fellowship and stipend payments treated as compensation for IRA purposes.

Sec. 107. Repeal of maximum age for traditional and SEP plans.

Sec. 108. Qualified employer plans prohibited from making loans through credit cards and other similar arrangements.

Sec. 109. Portability of lifetime income options.

Sec. 110. Treatment of custodial accounts on termination of section 403(b) plan, or other arrangements that are treated as such under section 403(b) for purposes of section 401(a)(9).

Sec. 111. Clarification of retirement income account rules relating to church-controlled organizations.

Sec. 112. Qualified plans, or deferred arrangements that must allow long-term employees working more than 500 but less than 1,000 hours per year as defined in section 402(c)(5)(B) to provide tax-free distributions to such employees.

Sec. 113. Penalty-free withdrawals from retirement plans for individuals in case of birth of child or adoption.

Sec. 114. Increase in age for required beginning date for mandatory distributions.

Sec. 115. Special rules for minimum funding standards for community newspaper plans.

Sec. 116. Treating excluded difficulty of care payments as compensation for determining retirement contribution limitations.

TITLE II—ADMINISTRATIVE IMPROVEMENTS

Sec. 201. Plan adopted by filing due date for year may be treated as in effect as of close of year.


Sec. 203. Disclosure in regard to lifetime income options.

Sec. 204. Plan administrator for selection of lifetime income provider.

Sec. 205. Modification of nondiscrimination rules to protect older, longer service participants.

Sec. 206. Modification of PBGC premiums for CSEC plans.

TITLE III—OTHER BENEFITS

Sec. 301. Benefits provided to volunteer firefighters and emergency medical responders.

Sec. 302. Expansion of section 529 plans.

TITLE IV—REVENUE PROVISIONS

Sec. 401. Modification of required distribution rules for designated beneficiaries.

Sec. 402. Increasing penalty for failure to file pension plan returns.

Sec. 403. Increased penalties for failure to provide required information for lifetime income provider.

Sec. 404. Information sharing to administer excise taxes.

TITLE I—EXPANDING AND PRESERVING RETIREMENT SAVINGS

SEC. 101. MULTIPLE EMPLOYER PLANS; POOLED EMPLOYER PLANS.

(a) QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Section 412 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

"(f) APPLICATION FOR QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS FOR CERTAIN MULTIPLE EMPLOYER PLANS WITH POOLED PLAN PROVIDERS.—

"(1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in paragraph (2), if a qualified contribution plan to which subsection (c) applies—

"(A) is maintained by employers who have a common interest other than having adopted the plan, and

"(B) in the case of a plan not described in subparagraph (A), has a pooled plan provider, then the plan shall not be treated as failing to meet the requirements under this title applicable to a plan described in section 401(a)(9) to a plan that consists of individual retirement accounts described in section 408 (including by reason of subsection (c) thereof), whichever is applicable, merely because one or more employers of employees covered by the plan fail to take such actions as are required of such employers for the plan to meet such requirements.

"(2) LIMITATIONS.—

"(A) IN GENERAL.—Paragraph (1) shall not apply to any plan unless the plan provides that in the case of any employer in the plan failing to take the actions described in paragraph (1)—

"(i) the assets of the plan attributable to employees of such employer (or beneficiaries of such employees) will be transferred to a plan maintained only by such employer (or its successor), to an extent equal to the portion of the assets of the plan attributable to employees of such employer (or beneficiaries of such employees) as are reasonably necessary to ensure that—

"(I) such employer (and not the plan with respect to which the failure occurred or any other employer in such plan) shall, except to the extent permitted by the Secretary, be liable for any liabilities with respect to such plan attributable to employees of such employer (or beneficiaries of such employers) to the extent such liabilities are reasonably necessary to ensure that—

"(ii) such employer (and not the plan with respect to which the failure occurred or any other employer in such plan) shall, except to the extent permitted by the Secretary, be liable for any liabilities with respect to such plan attributable to employees of such employer (or beneficiaries of such employers) to the extent such liabilities are reasonably necessary to ensure that—

"(B) FAILURES BY POOLED PLAN PROVIDERS.—

"If the pooled plan provider of a plan described in paragraph (1)(B) does not perform substantially all of the administrative duties of such plan which are required of the provider under paragraph (3)(A)(i) for any plan year, the Secretary may provide that the determination as to whether the plan meets the requirements under this title applicable to a plan described in section 401(a) or to a plan that consists of individual retirement accounts described in section 408 (including by reason of subsection (c) thereof), whichever is applicable, shall be made in the same manner as would be made without regard to paragraph (1).

"(C) POOLED PLAN PROVIDER.—

"(A) IN GENERAL.—For purposes of this subsection, the term ‘pooled plan provider’ means—

"(i) designates by the terms of the plan as a named fiduciary (within the meaning of section 400(a)(2) of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974) or plan administrator, and as the person responsible to perform all administrative duties (including conducting proper testing with respect to the plan and the employers of such plan), and actions needed to be taken by, any employer (and the beneficiaries of such employees), and

"(ii) each plan meets any requirement applicable under this title, including provisions described in subsection (a)(2) of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 or this title to a plan described in section 401(a) or to a plan that consists of individual retirement accounts described in section 408 (including by reason of subsection (c) thereof), whichever is applicable, and

"(iii) in the plan takes such actions as the Secretary or such person determines are necessary for the plan to meet the requirements described in subsection (1), including providing to such person any disclosures or other information which the Secretary may require or specifying such procedures necessary to administer the plan or to allow the plan to meet such requirements,

"(ii) registers as a pooled plan provider with the Secretary, and provides such other information to the Secretary as the Secretary may require, before beginning operations as a pooled plan provider.

"(D) TECHNICAL AMENDMENT.—Section 408(c) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended by striking "(B)" and inserting "(C)".

"(E) MODEL PLAN.—The Secretary shall publish model plan language which meets the requirements of this subsection and of paragraphs (43) and (44) of section 3 of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 which may be adopted in order for a plan to be treated as a plan described in paragraph (1)(B).

"(F) CONFIRMING AMENDMENT.—Section 414(l)(2)(C) of such Code is amended by striking "section 401(a) and 408(c)".

"(G) TECHNICAL AMENDMENT.—Section 408(c) of such Code is amended by striking paragraph (2) following paragraph (1) and inserting in its place—

"(2) There is a separate accounting for any interest of an employer or member (or spouse of an employer or member) in a Roth IRA.

"(H) NO COMMON INTEREST REQUIRED FOR POOLED EMPLOYER PLANS.—Section 3(2) of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (29 U.S.C. 1002(2)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

"(C) A pooled employer plan shall be treated as

"(i) a single employee pension benefit plan or single pension plan; and

"(ii) an eligible plan.
(ii) a plan to which section 210(a) applies.

(c) POOLED EMPLOYER PLAN AND PROVIDER DEFINED.—

(I) IN GENERAL.—Section 3 of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (29 U.S.C. 1002) is amended by adding at the end the following:

"(44) POOLED EMPLOYER PLAN.—

"(A) IN GENERAL.—The term 'pooled employer plan' means a plan—

"(i) which is an individual account plan established or maintained for the purpose of providing benefits to the employees of 2 or more employers;

"(ii) which is a plan described in section 401(a) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 which consists of individual retirement accounts described in section 408 of such Code (including by reason of subsection (c) thereof); and

"(iii) the terms of which meet the requirements of subparagraph (B).

Such term shall not include a plan maintained by employers which have a common interest other than having adopted the plan.

(B) REQUIREMENTS FOR PLAN TERMS.—The requirements of this subparagraph are met with respect to any plan if the terms of the plan—

"(i) provide that the pooled plan provider is a named fiduciary of the plan;

"(ii) designate one or more trustees meeting the requirements of section 404(a)(2) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 (other than an employer in the plan) to be responsible for collecting contributions to, and holding the assets of, the plan and require such trustees to implement written contribution collection procedures that are reasonable, diligent, and systematic;

"(iii) provide that each employer in the plan retains fiduciary responsibility for—

"(I) the selection and monitoring in accordance with section 404(a) of the person designated by the plan provider and any other person who, in addition to the pooled plan provider, is designated as a named fiduciary of the plan; and

"(II) to the extent not otherwise delegated to another fiduciary by the pooled plan provider and subject to the provisions of section 404(c), the investment and management of the portion of the plan's assets attributable to the employees of the employer (or beneficiaries of such employers);

"(iv) provide that employers in the plan, and participants, who are not fiduciaries, may not unreasonable restrictions, fees, or penalties with regard to ceasing participation, receipt of distributions, or otherwise transferring assets of the plan to another plan or to the employees of the employer (or beneficiaries of such employers);

"(v) provide that employers in the plan are responsible for ensuring that all persons who hold assets of, or who are fiduciaries of, the pooled employer plan are bonded in accordance with section 412.

"(B) AUDITS, EXAMINATIONS, AND INVESTIGATIONS.—The Secretary may perform audits, examinations, and investigations of pooled plan providers as may be necessary to enforce and carry out the purposes of this paragraph and paragraph (43)."
(2) SIMPLIFIED ANNUAL REPORTS.—Section 104(a) of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (29 U.S.C. 102(a)) is amended by striking paragraph (2)(A) and inserting the following:

""(2)(A) With respect to annual reports required to be filed with the Secretary under this part, the Secretary may by regulation prescribe simplified annual reports for any pension plan that—

""(i) covers fewer than 100 participants; or

""(ii) is a plan described in section 210(a) that covers fewer than 1,000 participants, but only if no single employer in the plan has 100 or more participants covered by the plan.

""(B) E ase d D esignation D ate .—(I) I N GENERAL.—The amendments made by this section shall apply to plan years beginning after December 31, 2020.

(2) R ule of Construction.—Nothing in the amendments made by subsection (a) shall be construed as limiting the authority of the Secretary of the Treasury or the Secretary's delegatee (determined without regard to such amendment) to provide for the proper treatment of a failure to meet any requirement applicable under the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 with respect to one employer (and its employees) in a multiple employer plan.

SEC. 102. I NCREASE IN 10 PERCENT CAP FOR AUTOMATIC ENROLLMENT SAVINGS OPTIONS謀 SAFE HARBOR AFTER 1ST PLAN YEAR.

(a) I N GENERAL.—Section 401(k)(13)(C)(iii) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended by striking ""10 percent"" and inserting ""15 percent.""

(b) E ffective Date.—The amendment made by this section shall apply to plan years beginning after December 31, 2019.

SEC. 103. R ULES RELATING TO ELECTION OF 10 PERCENT CAP FOR AUTOMATIC ENROLLMENT SAVINGS OPTIONS P LANNED BASED ON PERSONAL INCOME OR GRADE POINT A VERAGE.

(a) L imitation of Annual Safe Harbor No tice to Matching Contribution Plans.—

""(1) I N GENERAL.—Subparagraph (A) of section 401(k)(12) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended by adding at the end the following:

""(A) $500, or

""(B) $500, or

""(A) $500, or

(b) N onelective Contributions.—Section 401(k)(12) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended by redesignating subparagraph (F) as subparagraph (G), and by inserting after subparagraph (E) the following new subparagraph:

""(F) T IMING OF PLAN AMENDMENT FOR E LIGIBILITY FOR NONELIGIBLE CONTRIBUTIONS.—(i) I N GENERAL.—Except as provided in clause (ii), a plan may be amended during the period described in subparagraph (I) to provide that the requirements of subparagraph (D)(i)(II) shall apply to the arrangement for the plan year, but only if the amendment is adopted—

""(I) at any time before the last day under paragraph (8)(A) for distributing excess contributions for the plan year, or

""(II) at any time before the last day under paragraph (8)(A) for distributing excess contributions for the plan year.

""(ii) EXCEPTION WHERE PLAN PROVIDED FOR MATCHING CONTRIBUTIONS.—Clause (i) shall not apply to any plan year if the plan provided at any time during the plan year that the requirements of subparagraph (D)(i)(II) applied to the plan year.

""(iii) 4-PERCENT CONTRIBUTION REQUIREMENT.—Clause (ii)(II) shall not apply to an arrangement unless the amount of the contributions described in subparagraph (C) which the employer is required to make under the arrangement for the plan year with respect to any employee is an amount equal to at least 4 percent of the employee's compensation.

""(C) AUTOMATIC ARRANGEMENTS.—Section 401(k)(13) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended by adding at the end the following:

""(1) I N GENERAL.—Except as provided in subparagraph (D)(i)(II), the arrangement described in subparagraph (D)(i)(II) shall apply to the plan year only if the amendment is adopted—

""(I) at any time before the last day under paragraph (8)(A) for distributing excess contributions for the plan year, or

""(II) at any time before the 30th day before the close of the plan year, or

""(iii) at any time before December 31, 2018.

(c) A UTOMATIC CONTRIBUTION ARRANGEMENTS.—Subparagraph (C) is amended by redesignating subparagraphs (C) through (E) as subparagraphs (D) through (F), respectively, and by inserting after subparagraph (E) the following new subparagraph:

""(D) I MPOSED BY THE ELIGIBLE EMPLOYER AND APPLIED TO THE PLAN.—(i) I N GENERAL.—For purposes of section 401(k)(13)(C)(iii), the term 'automatic contribution arrangement' as defined in section 401(k)(13) of such Code is amended by striking ''means'' and inserting ''means a plan provided for matching contributions for the plan year.''

""(ii) EXCEPTION WHERE PLAN PROVIDED FOR MATCHING CONTRIBUTIONS.—Clause (i) shall not apply to any plan year if the plan provided at any time during the plan year that the requirements of subparagraph (D)(i)(II) applied to the plan year.

""(ii) EXCEPTION WHERE PLAN PROVIDED FOR MATCHING CONTRIBUTIONS.—Clause (i) shall not apply to any plan year if the plan provided at any time during the plan year that the requirements of subparagraph (D)(i)(II) applied to the plan year.

""(ii) EXCEPTION WHERE PLAN PROVIDED FOR MATCHING CONTRIBUTIONS.—Clause (i) shall not apply to any plan year if the plan provided at any time during the plan year that the requirements of subparagraph (D)(i)(II) applied to the plan year.

""(ii) EXCEPTION WHERE PLAN PROVIDED FOR MATCHING CONTRIBUTIONS.—Clause (i) shall not apply to any plan year if the plan provided at any time during the plan year that the requirements of subparagraph (D)(i)(II) applied to the plan year.

""(ii) EXCEPTION WHERE PLAN PROVIDED FOR MATCHING CONTRIBUTIONS.—Clause (i) shall not apply to any plan year if the plan provided at any time during the plan year that the requirements of subparagraph (D)(i)(II) applied to the plan year.

(b) E ffective Date.—The amendments made by this section shall apply to taxable years beginning after December 31, 2019.

SEC. 106. REPEAL OF MAXIMUM AGE FOR TRADITIONAL IRAs.

(a) I N GENERAL.—Paragraph (1) of section 219(d) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended by striking ""701⁄2"" and inserting ""701⁄2, over age 591⁄2, age 701⁄2, or age 701⁄2, respectively.""

(b) C OORDINATION WITH QUALIFIED CHARITABLE DISTRIBUTIONS.—Section 408(d)(8)(A) of such Code is amended by striking the term 'compensation' and inserting the term 'amount which is includable in the individual's gross income by reason of the preceding sentence for a taxable year (determined without regard to this sentence) shall be reduced (but not below zero) by an amount equal to the excess of—

""(ii) the aggregate amount of deductions allowed to the taxpayer under section 219 for all taxable years ending on or after the date the taxpayer attains age 701⁄2, over

""(ii) the aggregate amount of deductions allowed to the taxpayer under section 219 for all taxable years ending on or after the date the taxpayer attains age 701⁄2, over

""(ii) the aggregate amount of deductions allowed to the taxpayer under section 219 for all taxable years ending on or after the date the taxpayer attains age 701⁄2, over

""(ii) the aggregate amount of deductions allowed to the taxpayer under section 219 for all taxable years ending on or after the date the taxpayer attains age 701⁄2, over

""(ii) the aggregate amount of deductions allowed to the taxpayer under section 219 for all taxable years ending on or after the date the taxpayer attains age 701⁄2, over

(c) E ffective Date.—The amendments made by this section shall apply to taxable years beginning after December 31, 2019.
SEC. 108. QUALIFIED EMPLOYER PLANS PROHIBITED FROM MAKING LOANS THROUGH CREDIT CARDS AND OTHER SIMILAR ARRANGEMENTS.

(a) In General.—Paragraph (2) of section 72(p) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended by redesignating subparagraph (D) as subparagraph (E) and by inserting after such subparagraph (C) the following new subparagraph:

"(D) PROHIBITION OF LOANS THROUGH CREDIT CARDS AND OTHER SIMILAR ARRANGEMENTS.—Subsection (a) shall not apply to any loan which is made through the use of any credit card or any other similar arrangement.

(b) Transition.—The amendments made by subsection (a) shall apply to loans made after the date of the enactment of this Act.

SEC. 109. PORTABILITY OF LIFETIME INCOME OPTIONS.

(a) In General.—Subsection (a) of section 403(b) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended by inserting after paragraph (37) the following new paragraph:

"(38) PORTABILITY OF LIFETIME INCOME.—

"(A) In General.—Except as may be otherwise provided by regulations, a trust forming part of a defined contribution plan shall not be treated as failing to constitute a qualified trust under this section solely by reason of allowing—

"(i) qualified distributions of a lifetime income investment, or

"(ii) distributions of a lifetime income investment in the form of a qualified plan distribution annuity contract, on or after the date that is 90 days prior to the date on which such lifetime income investment is no longer authorized to be held as an investment option under the plan,

"(B) Definitions.—For purposes of this subsection—

"(i) the term 'qualified distribution' means a direct trustee-to-trustee transfer described in paragraph (2)(A) to an eligible retirement plan (as defined in section 402(c)(1)(B)),

"(ii) the term 'lifetime income investment' means an investment option which is designated to provide an employee with election rights—

"(I) that the amount in the investment option may be invested only in the form of a qualified distribution (as defined in section 403(b)(7));

"(II) which are not uniformly available with respect to the plan or plan amendment, that an employee described in paragraph (1) may no longer be held as an investment option under the plan, and

"(III) which are a lifetime income feature available through a contract or other arrangement offered under the plan (or under another eligible retirement plan (as so defined), if by a participant complete a period of service with the employer (or employers) maintaining the plan excess of 500 hours of service.''

"(2) CUSTODIAL ACCOUNTS.—Subparagraph (A) of section 403(b)(7) of such Code is amended by inserting "or (ii) the employee becomes disabled (within the meaning of section 3121(a)(5)(D)), the employer encounters financial hardship, or

"(VI) except as may be otherwise provided by regulations, amounts invested in a lifetime income investment (as defined in section 403(b)(7)), the date that is 90 days prior to the date that such lifetime income investment may no longer be held as an investment option under the contract, and

"(ii) in the case of amounts described in clause (i)(VI), such amounts will be distributed only in the form of a qualified distribution (as defined in section 401(a)(38)(B)(ii)) or a qualified plan distribution annuity contract (as defined in section 401(a)(38)(B)(ii)),.

"(C) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this section shall apply to plan years beginning after December 31, 2019.

SEC. 110. TREATMENT OF INDIVIDUAL ACCOUNTS ON TERMINATION OF SECTION 403(b) PLANS.

Not later than six months after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of the Treasury shall issue guidance to provide that, if an employer terminates the plan under which amounts are contributed to a custodial account under subparagraph (A) of section 403(b)(7), the plan administrator or custodian may distribute an individual custodial account in kind to a participant or beneficiary of the plan and the custodial account sustained by the custodian on a tax-deferred basis as a section 403(b)(7) custodial account, similar to the treatment of fully-paid individual annuity contracts under Revenue Ruling 2011-7, until amounts are actually paid to the participant or beneficiary. The guidance shall provide further that the section 403(b)(7) status of the distribution account retained if the custodial account thereafter adheres to the requirements of section 403(b) that is in effect at the time of the distribution of the account and that a custodial account would not be considered distributed to the participant or beneficiary if the employer has any material rights under the account and the employer would not be treated as retaining material rights simply because the custodial account was originally opened under a group contract.

Such guidance shall be retroactively effective for taxable years beginning after December 31, 2008.

SEC. 111. CLARIFICATION OF RETIREMENT INCOME ACCOUNT RULES RELATING TO CHURCH-CONTROLLED ORGANIZATIONS.

(a) In General.—Subparagraph (B) of section 403(b)(8) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended by inserting "(including an employee described in section 414(c)(3)(B))" after "employee described in paragraph (1)".

(b) Effective Date.—The amendment made by this section shall apply to plan years beginning before, on, or after the date of the enactment of this Act.

SEC. 112. QUALIFIED CASH OR DEFERRED ARRANGEMENTS MUST ALLOW LONG-TERM EMPLOYEES WORKING MORE THAN 500 BUT LESS THAN 1,000 HOURS PER YEAR TO PARTICIPATE.

(a) Participation Requirements.—

"(1) In General.—Section 401(k)(2)(D) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended to read as follows:

"(D) which does not require, as a condition of participation in the arrangement, that an employee complete a period of service with the employer (or employers) maintaining the plan exceeding the closing of 500 hours of service before, on, or after the date of the enactment of this Act.

"(2) Special Rules.—Section 401(k) of such Code is amended by adding at the end of the following new paragraph:

"(E) CASH OR DEFERRED COMPENSATION PLANS.—

"(1) In General.—Subparagraph (A) of section 457(d)(1) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended by striking or "at the end of clause (i), by inserting "and" at the end of clause (ii), and by adding after clause (ii) the following new clause:

"(V) except as may be otherwise provided by regulations, with respect to amounts invested in a lifetime income investment (as defined in section 401(a)(38)(B)(ii)), the date that is 90 days prior to the date that such lifetime income investment may no longer be held as an investment option under the arrangement, and

"(2) DISTRIBUTION REQUIREMENT.—Subparagraph (B) of section 457(d)(2) of such Code is amended by striking "and" at the end of clause (B), by striking the period at the end of subparagraph (C) and inserting "and", and by inserting after subparagraph (C) the following new subparagraph:

"(D) except as may be otherwise provided by regulations, in the case of a plan maintained by an employer described in subsection (e)(1)(A), with respect to amounts invested in a lifetime income investment (as defined in section 401(a)(38)(B)(ii)), the date that is 90 days prior to the date that such lifetime income investment may no longer be held as an investment option under the arrangement, and

"(3) Eligibility for Participation Requirements.—For purposes of paragraph (2)(D)(ii)—

"(A) In General.—Section 401(k)(2)(D) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended by strike the period at the end of subparagraph (C) and inserting "and", and by inserting after subparagraph (C) the following new subparagraph:

"(D) except as may be otherwise provided by regulations, in the case of amounts described in subparagraph (A)(iv), such amounts shall be distributed only in the form of a qualified distribution (as defined in section 401(a)(38)(B)(ii)) or a qualified plan distribution annuity contract (as defined in section 401(a)(38)(B)(ii)).".
“(a) Age Requirement Must Be Met.—Paragraph (2)(D)(ii) shall not apply to an employee unless the employee has met the requirement of section 410(a)(1)(A)(i) by the close of the last of the 12-month periods described in such paragraph.

“(b) Nondiscrimination and Top-heavy Rules Not to Apply.—

“(1) Nondiscrimination Rules.—In the case of employees who are eligible to participate in the arrangement solely by reason of paragraph (2)(D)(ii) of such section 410(a)(1)(A)(i), the contributions are made on behalf of other employees eligible to participate in the arrangement, and

“(2) an employer may elect to exclude such employees from the application of subsection (a)(4), paragraphs (3), (12), and (13), subsection (m)(2), and section 410(b).

“(c) Top-heavy Rules.—An employer may elect to exclude all employees who are eligible to participate in a plan maintained by the employer solely by reason of paragraph (2)(D)(ii) of such section 410(a)(1)(A)(i) from the application of the vesting and benefit requirements under subsections (b) and (c) of such section 416.

“(d) employees who become full-time employees.—This subparagraph (other than clause (iii)) shall cease to apply to any employee as of the later of

“(1) the plan year in which the employee meets the requirements of section 410(a)(1)(A)(i) without regard to paragraph (2)(D)(ii).”

“(3) Exception for employees under collectively bargained plans, etc.—Paragraph (2)(D)(ii) shall not apply to employees described in section 410(a)(1)(A)(i) of such section 416.

“(4) Special Rules.—

“(I) Time of Participation.—The rules of section 410(a)(4) shall apply to an employee eligible to participate in an arrangement solely by reason of paragraph (2)(D)(ii).

“(II) 12-Month Periods.—12-month periods shall be determined in the same manner as under such section 410(a)(4).”

“(b) Effective Date.—The amendments made by this section shall apply to plan years beginning after December 31, 2020, except that, for purposes of section 401(h)(2)(D)(ii) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 (as added by such amendments), 12-month periods beginning before January 1, 2021, shall not be taken into account.

“SEC. 113. Penalty-Free Withdrawals from Retirement Plans for Individuals in Case of Birth of Child or Adoption.

“(a) In General.—Section 72(c)(2) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended by adding at the end the following new subparagraph:

“(3)(C) Exemptions for Qualifying Births or Adoptions—

“(I) in general.—Any qualified birth or adoption distribution shall be treated as a qualified retirement plan distribution for purposes of section 408(d)(3).”

“(d) Effective Date.—The amendments made by this section shall apply to distributions made after December 31, 2020.

“SEC. 114. Increase in Age for Required Beginning Date for Mandatory Distributions.

“(a) In General.—Section 401(a)(9)(C)(i) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended by striking ‘age 701⁄2’ and inserting ‘age 72’.

“(b) Spouse Beneficiaries; Special Rule for Owners.—Subparagraphs (B)(ii)(I) and (C)(i)(I) of section 401(a)(9)(C) of such Code are each amended by striking ‘age 701⁄2’ and inserting ‘age 72’.

“(c) Conforming Amendments.—

“(I) The last sentence of section 408(b) of such Code is amended by striking ‘age 701⁄2’ and inserting ‘age 72’.

“(II) The amendments made by this section shall apply to plan years beginning after December 31, 2019, with respect to individuals who attain age 72 after such date.

“SEC. 115. Special Rules for Minimum Funding Standards for Community Newspaper Plans.

“(a) Amendment to Internal Revenue Code of 1986—Section 430 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

“(b) Election.—An election under paragraph (1) shall be made at such time and in such manner as prescribed by the Secretary. Such election, once made with respect to any plan year, shall apply to all subsequent plan years unless revoked with the consent of the Secretary.

“(c) Alternative Minimum Funding Standards.—The alternative standards described in the last sentence of paragraph (1) shall apply.

“(d) New Benefit Accruals.—Notwithstanding subsection (h)(2), for purposes of determining the funding target and normal cost of a plan year, special rules may be applied to plans in which benefits accrued or earned under the plan for any plan year with respect to which an election under paragraph (1) is in effect shall be determined on the basis of the U.S. Treasury obligations yield curve for the day that is the valuation date of such plan year for any such plan year.

“(e) U.S. Treasury Obligation Yield Curve.—For purposes of such subsection, the term ‘U.S. Treasury obligation yield curve’ means, with respect to any day, a yield curve which shall be prescribed by the Secretary for such day on the basis of the U.S. Treasury obligations of the United States.

“(f) Shortfall Amortization Base.—The shortfal...
preceding the first plan year to which the election under paragraph (1) applies (and all short-
fall amortization installments determined with respect to such bases) shall be reduced to zero under rules similar to the rules of subsection (c)(6).

(ii) NEW SHORTFALL AMORTIZATION BASE.—Notwithstanding subsection (c)(3), the shortfall amortization base for the first plan year to which the election under paragraph (1) applies shall be the funding shortfall of such plan for such plan year (determined using the interest rates as modified under subparagraph (A)).

(iii) U.S. TREASURY OBLIGATION YIELD CURVE.—For purposes of this subsection, the term ‘U.S. Treasury obligation yield curve’ means, with respect to any day, a yield curve which shall be prescribed by the Secretary of the Treasury for such day on the basis of the U.S. Treasury obligation yield curves for the days immediately preceding the first plan year to which the election under paragraph (1) applies (and all shortfall amortization installments determined with respect to such bases) shall be reduced to zero under rules similar to the rules of subsection (c)(6).

(iv) NEW SHORTFALL AMORTIZATION BASE.—Notwithstanding subsection (c)(3), the shortfall amortization base for the first plan year to which the election under paragraph (1) applies shall be the funding shortfall of such plan for such plan year (determined using the interest rates as modified under subparagraph (A)).

(iii) DETERMINATION OF SHORTFALL AMORTIZATION INSTALLMENTS.—For purposes of this subsection, installments shall be applied by substituting ‘30-plan-year’ for ‘7-plan-year’ each place it appears.

(iv) DETERMINATIONAL ELECTION.—The election under subparagraph (D) of section (c)(2) shall not apply to any plan year to which the election under paragraph (1) applies.

(v) EXEMPTION FROM AT-RISK TREATMENT.—Subsection (i) shall not apply.

(vi) COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER PLAN.—For purposes of this subsection—

(A) the term ‘community newspaper plan’ means a plan to which this section applies maintained by an employer which, as of December 31, 2017—

(i) distributes daily, either electronically or in printed form, 1 or more community newspapers in a single State,

(ii) is not a company the stock of which is publicly traded (on a stock exchange or in an over-the-counter market), and is not controlled, directly or indirectly, by such a company,

(iii) is controlled, directly or indirectly—

(B) COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER.—The term ‘community newspaper’ means a newspaper which primarily serves a metropolitan statistical area, as determined by the Office of Management and Budget, with a population of not less than 100,000.

(C) CONTROL.—A person shall be treated as controlled by another person if such other person possesses, directly or indirectly, the power to direct or cause the direction and management of such person (including the power to elect a majority of the members of the board of directors of such person) through the ownership of voting securities.

(5) CONTROLLED GROUP.—For purposes of this subsection, the term ‘controlled group’ means all persons treated as a single employer under subsection (b), (c), (m), or (o) of section 4006(a)(3)(E).

(ii) NO SPECIAL ELECTION.—The election under subparagraph (D) of section (c)(2) shall not apply to any plan year to which the election under paragraph (1) applies.

(2) ELECTION.—An election under paragraph (1) shall be made at such time and in such manner as prescribed by the Secretary of the Treasury. Such election, once made with respect to a plan year, shall apply to all subsequent plan years unless revoked with the consent of the Secretary of the Treasury.

(iii) ALTERNATIVE MINIMUM FUNDING STANDARDS.—The alternative standards described in this paragraph shall be as follows:

(A) INTEREST RATES.—

(i) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding subsection (h)(2)(C) and except as provided in clause (ii), the first, second, and third segment rates in effect for any month for purposes of this section shall be 8 percent.

(ii) NEW BENEFIT ACCRUALS.—Notwithstanding subsection (h)(2), for purposes of determining the funding target and normal cost of a plan for any plan year, the present value of any benefits accrued or earned under the plan for a plan year to which an election under paragraph (1) applies (and all shortfall amortization installments determined with respect to such bases) shall be reduced to zero under rules similar to the rules of subsection (c)(6).

(v) COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER.—The term ‘community newspaper’ means a newspaper which primarily serves a metropolitan statistical area, as determined by the Office of Management and Budget, with a population of not less than 100,000.

(C) CONTROL.—A person shall be treated as controlled by another person if such other person possesses, directly or indirectly, the power to direct or cause the direction and management of such person (including the power to elect a majority of the members of the board of directors of such person) through the ownership of voting securities.

(5) CONTROLLED GROUP.—For purposes of this subsection, the term ‘controlled group’ means all persons treated as a single employer under subsection (b), (c), (m), or (o) of section 412 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 as of the date of enactment of this subsection.

(iii) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this section shall apply to plan years ending after December 31, 2017.

SEC. 116. TREATING EXCLUDED DIFFICULTY OF CARE PAYMENTS AS COMPENSATION FOR DETERMINING RETIREMENT CONTRIBUTION LIMITATIONS.

(a) INDIVIDUAL RETIREMENT ACCOUNTS.—(1) IN GENERAL.—Section 408(o) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

(2) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this subsection shall apply after the date of the enactment of this Act.

(b) DEFINED CONTRIBUTION PLANS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Section 415(c) of such Code is amended by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

(2) SPECIAL RULE FOR DIFFICULTY OF CARE PAYMENTS EXCLUDED FROM GROSS INCOME.—(A) IN GENERAL.—For purposes of paragraph (1), in the case of an individual who for a taxable year excludes from gross income under section 131 a qualified foster care payment which is a difficulty of care payment, the paragraph applies as if the amount so excluded were not so excluded.
"(B) CONTRIBUTIONS ALLOCABLE TO DIFFICULTY OF CARE PAYMENTS TREATED AS AFTER-TAX.—Any contribution by the participant which is allocable to such payments is treated as an allocable contribution made after the close of the taxable year.

(i) shall not cause a plan (and any arrangement which is part of such plan) to be treated as a qualified joint and survivor annuity which is part of a group of plans, if the administrator of such plan (or a group of plans) is a person that performs each of the functions described in such paragraph, as applicable, for all other plans in such group performs each of such functions for substantially all such plans,

(ii) shall be treated as provided for in such section, and

(2) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by subparagraph (B) shall apply to contributions allocable to payments made after December 31, 2021.

TO RETURNS RELATING TO DEFERRED COMPENSATION PLANS.—The Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

(2) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The modification required by subparagraph (a) shall be implemented not later than January 1, 2022, and shall apply to returns and reports for plan years beginning after December 31, 2021.

SEC. 202. DISCLOSURE REGARDING LIFETIME INCOME.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subparagraph (B) of section 105(a)(2) of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (29 U.S.C. 1055(a)(2)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

(iii) the assumptions and rules described in clause (iii) and subsection (d) of section 105(a)(1) of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (29 U.S.C. 1055(a)(1)); and

(b) LIFETIME INCOME.—Paragraph (2) of section 105(a) of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (29 U.S.C. 1055(a)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

(1) IN GENERAL.—With respect to the selection of a single life annuity or a joint and survivor annuity (as defined in section 1001(40) of such Act (29 U.S.C. 1001(40))), the plan sponsor may choose any annuity which is a single life annuity or a joint and survivor annuity, provided that it is a single life annuity or a joint and survivor annuity which is actuarially equivalent, as determined under rules prescribed by the Secretary, to a single life annuity or a joint and survivor annuity which is actuarially equivalent to the single life annuity or joint and survivor annuity which is the greater of—

"(A) engages in an objective, thorough, and analytical search for the purpose of identifying insurers from which to purchase such contracts;

"(B) with respect to each insurer identified under subparagraph (A)—

"(ii) consider the financial capability of such insurer to satisfy its obligations under the guaranteed retirement income contract; and

"(iv) considers the cost (including fees and commissions) of the guaranteed retirement income contract offered by the insurer in relation to the benefits and product features of the contract and administrative services to be provided under such contract, and

"(iv) provides such other similar explanations as the Secretary considers appropriate.

"(ii) MODEL DISCLOSURE.—Not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of the Setting Every Community Up for Retirement Enhancement Act of 2019, the Secretary shall—

"(I) prescribe assumptions which administrators of individual account plans may use in converting total accrued benefits into lifetime income stream equivalents for purposes of this subparagraph; and

"(II) issue interim final rules under clause (i).

In prescribing assumptions under clause (I), the Secretary may have a term certain or other features to the extent that an accrued benefit is or may be invested in a lifetime income stream described in clause (ii)(III), the assumptions prescribed under such subparagraph shall, to the extent appropriate, permit administrators of individual account plans to use the amounts payable under such lifetime income stream as a lifetime income stream equivalent.

"(iv) LIMITATION ON LIABILITY.—No plan fiduciary, plan sponsor, or other person shall have any liability under this title solely by reason of the assumption of lifetime income stream equivalents which are derived in accordance with the assumptions and rules described in clause (ii) and (iii) which include the explanations contained in the model lifetime income disclosure described in clause (ii).

"(D) LIFETIME INCOME STREAM EQUIVALENT OF THE TOTAL BENEFITS ACCRUED.—For purposes of this paragraph, the term ‘lifetime income stream equivalent of the total benefits accrued’ means the amount of monthly payments a participant or beneficiary would receive if the total accrued benefit of the participant or beneficiary was used to provide lifetime income streams described in section 105(a)(3) of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (29 U.S.C. 1055(a)(3)), based on assumptions specified in rules prescribed by the Secretary.

"(III) LIFETIME INCOME STREAMS.—The lifetime income streams described in this clause are a qualified joint and survivor annuity (as defined in section 1001(40)), based on assumptions specified in rules prescribed by the Secretary, including the assumption that the participant or beneficiary has a spouse of equal age, and a set of assumptions which are derived in accordance with the explanations contained in the model disclosure required under section 105(a)(1) of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (29 U.S.C. 1055(a)(1)); and

"(IV) provides such other similar explanations as the Secretary considers appropriate.

"(C) the administrative expense is less than the amount of the services and expenses (as determined under clauses (I) and (II)) which are generally applicable, and

"(B) the amount of such administrative expense is less than the amount of the services and expenses (as determined under clauses (I) and (II)) which are generally applicable,
“(i) at the time of the selection, the insurer is financially capable of satisfying its obligations under the guaranteed retirement income contract; and

“(ii) the aggregate cost of the selected guaranteed retirement income contract as described in subparagraph (B)(ii) is reasonable.

(2) FINANCIAL CAPABILITY OF THE INSURER.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—A fiduciary is deemed to satisfy the requirements of paragraphs (1)(B)(i) and (1)(C)(i) if—

(A) the fiduciary obtains written representations from the insurer that—

(i) the insurer is licensed to offer guaranteed retirement income contracts;

(ii) the request for the time of selection and for each of the immediately preceding 7 plan years—

(I) operates under a certificate of authority from the insurance commissioner of its domiciliary State which has not been revoked or suspended;

(II) has filed audited financial statements in accordance with the laws of its domiciliary State under applicable statutory accounting principles;

(III) maintains (and has maintained) reserves which satisfy all the statutory requirements of all States where the insurer does business; and

(IV) is not operating under an order of supervision, rehabilitation, or liquidation;

(iii) the insurer undergoes, at least every 5 years, a financial examination (within the meaning of section 409(a)) by the insurance commissioner of the domiciliary State (or representative, designee, or other party approved by such commissioner); and

(iv) the insurer will notify the fiduciary of any change in circumstances occurring after the provision of the representations in clauses (i), (ii), and (iii) which would preclude the insurer from making such representations at the time of issuance of the guaranteed retirement income contract; and

(B) after receiving such representations and as of the time of selection, the fiduciary has not received any notice described in subparagraph (A)(iii) and is in possession of no other information which would cause the fiduciary to question the representations provided.

(3) NO REQUIREMENT TO SELECT LOWEST COST.—Nothing in this subsection shall be construed to require a fiduciary to select the lowest cost contract. A fiduciary may consider the value of a contract, including features and benefits of the contract and attributes of the insurer (including, without limitation, the insurer’s financial strength) in conjunction with the cost of the contract.

(4) TIME OF SELECTION.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—For purposes of this subsection, the time of selection is—

(i) the time that the insurer and the contract are selected for distribution of benefits to a specific participant or beneficiary; or

(ii) if the fiduciary periodically reviews the continuing appropriateness of the conclusion described in paragraph (1)(C) with respect to a selected guaranteed retirement income contract, as described in such paragraph, the time that the insurer and the contract are selected to provide benefits at future dates to participants or beneficiaries under the plan.

Nothing in the preceding sentence shall be construed to require the fiduciary to review the appropriateness of a selection after the purchase of a closed class or grandfathered benefit.

(B) PERIODIC REVIEW.—A fiduciary will be deemed to have conducted the periodic review described in subparagraph (A)(ii) if the fiduciary—

(i) has written representations described in clauses (i), (ii), and (iii) of paragraph (2)(A) from the insurer on an annual basis, unless the fiduciary receives any notice described in paragraph (1)(B)(i) or (C)(i) by the insurer, or otherwise becomes aware of facts that would cause the fiduciary to question such representations.

(5) LIMITED LIABILITY.—A fiduciary which satisfies the requirements of this subsection shall not be liable following the distribution of any benefit, or the investment by or on behalf of a participant or beneficiary in an amount to the selected guaranteed retirement income contract, for any losses that may result to the participant or beneficiary due to an insurer’s inability to satisfy its financial obligations under the terms of such contract.

(6) DEFINITIONS.—For purposes of this subsection—

(A) INSURER.—The term ‘insurer’ means an insurance company, insurance service, or insurance organization, including affiliates of such companies.

(B) GUARANTEED RETIREMENT INCOME CONTRACT.—The term ‘guaranteed retirement income contract’ means an annuity contract for a fixed term of years (or thereof) which provides guaranteed benefits annually (or more frequently) for at least the remainder of the life of the participant or the joint lives of the participant and the participant’s designated beneficiary as part of an individual account plan.”

SEC. 205. MODIFICATION OF NONDISCRIMINATION RULES TO PROTECT OLDER, LONGER SERVICE PARTICIPANTS.

(A) IN GENERAL.—Section 401 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended—

(1) by redesignating subsection (a) as subsection (p); and

(2) by inserting after subsection (n) the following new subsection:

(n) SPECIAL RULES FOR APPLYING NONDISCRIMINATION RULES TO PROTECT OLDER, LONGER SERVICE AND GRANDFATHERED PARTICIPANTS.—

(1) TESTING OF DEFINED BENEFIT PLANS WITH CLOSED CLASSES OF PARTICIPANTS.—

(A) BENEFITS, RIGHTS, OR FEATURES PROVIDED TO CLOSED CLASSES OF PARTICIPANTS.—

(i) the insurer is licensed to offer guaranteed retirement income contracts;

(ii) such benefits, rights, and features have substantially greater than the value as of the first date the class is closed, any plan amendment which modifies the closed class or the benefits, rights, or features described in subparagraph (A)(ii) shall be treated as having had a substantial increase in coverage or value of the benefits, rights, or features described in subparagraph (A) during the applicable 5-year period only if, during such period—

(III) the class was closed before April 5, 2017, or the plan is described in subparagraph (C);

(B) AGGREGATE TESTING WITH DEFINED CONTRIBUTION PLANS.—

(i) the plan provides benefits to a closed class of participants; and

(ii) the average benefit provided to such participants on the date such period ends is more than 50 percent greater than the number of such participants on the first day of the plan year in which such period began, or

(iii) the average benefits, rights, and features have been modified by 1 or more plan amendments in such a way that, as of the date the class is closed, the value of such benefits, rights, and features provided to the closed class is substantially greater than the value of the benefits, rights, or features described in paragraph (A) during the applicable 5-year period only if, during such period—

(IV) the number of participants covered by such benefits, rights, or features on the date such period begins is not more than 50 percent greater than the number of such participants on the first day of the plan year in which such period began, or

(C) PLANS DESCRIBED.—A plan is described in this subparagraph if, taking into account any predecessor plan—

(i) such plan has been in effect for at least 5 years as of the date the class is closed, and

(ii) during the 5-year period preceding the date the class is closed, there has not been a substantial increase in coverage or value of the benefits, rights, or features described in subparagraph (A) or in the coverage or benefits under the plan described in subparagraph (B)(iii) whichever is applicable.

(D) DETERMINATION OF SUBSTANTIAL INCREASE FOR BENEFITS, RIGHTS, AND FEATURES.—

In applying subparagraph (C)(ii) for purposes of subparagraph (A)(iii), a plan shall be treated as having had a substantial increase in coverage or value of the benefits, rights, or features described in subparagraph (A) during the applicable 5-year period only if—

(i) the average benefit provided to such participants on the date such period ends is more than 50 percent greater than the number of such participants on the first day of the plan year in which such period began, or

(ii) the number of participants covered by such benefits, rights, or features on the date such period begins is not more than 50 percent greater than the number of such participants on the first day of the plan year in which such period began, or

(E) DETERMINATION OF SUBSTANTIAL INCREASE FOR AGGREGATE TESTING ON BENEFITS BASE.—In applying subparagraph (C)(ii) for purposes of subparagraph (B)(iii)(IV), a plan shall be treated as having had a substantial increase in coverage or benefits during the applicable 5-year period only if, during such period—

(i) the number of participants benefitting under the plan on the date such period ends is more than 50 percent greater than the number of such participants on the first day of the plan year in which such period began, or

(ii) the number of participants benefitting under the plan on the date such period ends is more than 50 percent greater than the average benefit provided on the first day of the plan year in which such period began.

(F) CERTAIN EMPLOYEES DISREGARDED.—For purposes of subparagraphs (D) and (E), any in-plan coverage or benefit which is attributable to such coverage and value, whether benefits provided to such participants or otherwise, is not subject to subparagraphs (D) and (E) if—

(i) who becomes participants as a result of a merger, acquisition, or similar event which occurred during the 7-year period preceding the date the class is closed; or

(ii) who become participants by reason of a merger of the plan with another plan which had
been in effect for at least 5 years as of the date of the merger, shall be disregarded, except that clause (ii) shall apply for purposes of subparagraph (D) only if, under the merger, the benefits, rights, or features to a closed class of participants whose accruals under a defined benefit plan have been reduced or eliminated, (ii) for the plan year of the defined contribution plan as of which the class eligible to receive such benefits are closed and the 2 succeeding plan years, such closed class of participants satisfies the requirements of section 401(h)(2)(A)(i) (determined by applying the rules of paragraph (2)(A) to such plan described in paragraph (26) of section 401(a) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 as amended by adding at the end the following new subparagraph:—

(ii) **PROTECTED PARTICIPANTS.—**

(i) In general.—A plan shall be deemed to satisfy the requirements of subparagraph (A) if—

(ii) **PLANS DESCRIBED.—** A plan is described in this clause if the plan would be described in such clause at the time of the spin off and (ii) the plan satisfies paragraph (A) (without regard to this subparagraph) as of the effective date of the amendment, and (III) the amendment was adopted before April 5, 2017, or the plan is described in clause (ii).

(iii) **SPECIAL RULES.—** For purposes of clause (ii), in applying section 410(b)(6)(C), the amendments described in clause (ii) shall not be treated as a significant change in coverage under section 410(b)(6)(C)(ii).

(iv) **SPIN-OFF PLANS.—** For purposes of this subparagraph, if a portion of a plan described in clause (i) is spun off to another employer, the treatment under clause (i) of the spin-off plan shall continue with respect to the other employer.

(c) **EFFECTIVE DATE.—**

(i) **IN GENERAL.—** Except as provided in paragraph (2), the amendments made by this section shall not take effect in the case of any plan described in any clause (A)(i), (B)(i), (B)(ii), (B)(iii), (B)(iv), (C), (D), (E), (F), (G), or (H) of section 401(o)(1)(A), 401(o)(1)(B)(iii), or 401(a)(26) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 as amended by adding at the end the following new subparagraph:—

**(2) SPECIAL RULES.—**

(A) **ELECTION OF EARLIER APPLICATION.—** At the election of the plan sponsor, the amendments made by this section shall apply to plan years beginning after December 31, 2013.

(B) **CLOSED CLASSES OF PARTICIPANTS.—** For purposes of paragraphs (A)(ii), (B)(iii)(IV), and (D)(ii) of section 401(o) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 as added by this section, a closed class of participants shall be treated as being closed before April 5, 2017, if the plan sponsor’s intention to create such closed class is reflected in formal written documents and communicated to participants before such date.
sec. 206. modification of PBGC premiums for csec plans.
(a) flat rate premium.—Subparagraph (A) of section 4006(a)(3) of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (29 u.s.c. 1306(a)(3)) is amended by inserting “plan other than a cSEC plan (as described in section 210(f)(1)”), for plan years beginning after December 31, 2010.” and inserting “$50”.
(b) variable rate premium.—Section 4006(a)(9)(E) of such Act (29 U.S.C. 1306(a)(9)(E)) is amended—
(1) in clause (i), by striking “plan,” and inserting “plan other than a CSEC plan (as defined in section 210(f)(1))”;
(2) in clause (v), by striking “or” at the end;
(3) in clause (vi), by striking the period at the end and inserting “;”;
(4) by adding at the end the following new clause:
“(vii) in the case of a CSEC plan (as defined in section 210(f)(1)), for plan years beginning after December 31, 2018, the excess (if any) of—
(I) the funding liability of the plan as determined under subparagraph (E), and
(II) the fair market value of plan assets for the plan year which are held by the plan on the valuation date.”;
(b) conforming amendment.—Clause (iii) of section 4006(a)(3)(E) of such Act (29 U.S.C. 1306(a)(3)) is amended by striking “For purposes of this subparagraph” and inserting “Except as provided in clause (v), for purposes”;
(2) variable rate amount.—(A) in general.—Paragraph (B) of section 4006(a) of such Act (29 U.S.C. 1306(a)) is amended by adding at the end the following new paragraph:
“(E) CSEC PLANS.—In the case of a CSEC plan (as defined in section 210(f)(1)), the applicable dollar amount shall be $9.”;
(b) conforming amendment.—Subparagraph (A) of section 4006(a)(8) of such Act (29 U.S.C. 1306(a)(8)) is amended by striking “(B) and (C)” and inserting “(B), (C), and (E)”.

Title III—OTHER BENEFITS
sec. 301. benefits made available to volunteer firefighters and emergency medical responders.
(a) increase in dollar limitation on qualified payments.—Subparagraph (B) of section 139B(c)(2) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended by striking “$30” and inserting “$40”.
(b) extension.—Section 139B(d) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended by striking “beginning after December 31, 2010.” and inserting “beginning after December 31, 2010, and before January 1, 2020, or (2) after December 31, 2020.”.

Title IV—Revenue provisions
sec. 401. Modification of required dis-
tribution rules for designated beneficiaries.
(a) Modification of rules where employee dies before entire distribution.—(1) in general.—Section 401(a)(9)(A) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended by adding at the end the following new subparagraph:
“(H) special rules for certain defined contribution plans.—In the case of a defined contribution plan, if an employee dies before the distribution of the employee’s entire interest—
(I) in general.—Except in the case of a beneficiary who is a designated beneficiary, subparagraph (B)(ii)—
(II) shall be applied by substituting ‘10 years’ for ‘5 years’, and
(III) shall apply whether or not distributions of the employee’s interests have been in accordance with subparagraph (A).

(II) exception only for eligible designated beneficiaries.—Subparagraph (B)(iii) shall apply only in the case of an eligible designated beneficiary.

(III) death upon death of eligible designated beneficiary.—If an eligible designated beneficiary dies before the portion of the employee’s interest to which this subparagraph applies is entirely distributed, the portion thereto shall apply after the date of death of such eligible designated beneficiary.

(IV) application to certain eligible retire-
ment plans.—For purposes of applying the provisions of this subparagraph to a retirement plan, all eligible retirement plans (as defined in section 402(c)(6)(B), other than a defined benefit plan described in clause (i) or (v) thereof or a qualified trust which is a part of a defined benefit plan) shall be treated as a defined contribution plan.

(2) Definition of eligible designated ben-
eficiary.—Section 401(a)(9)(E) of such Code is amended to read as follows:
“(E) designated beneficiary.—The term ‘designated beneficiary’ means an individual designated as a beneficiary by the employee.

(ii) Eligible designated beneficiary.—The term ‘eligible designated beneficiary,’ with respect to any employee, any designated beneficiary who is—
(I) the surviving spouse of the employee,
(II) subject to clause (iii), a child of the employee who has not reached majority (within the meaning of subparagraph (F)), or
(III) disabled (within the meaning of section 72(m)(7)).
(IV) a chronically ill individual (within the meaning of section 7702B(c)(2), except that the requirement of subparagraph (B)(iii) shall only be treated as met if there is a certification that, as of such date, the period of inability described in such subparagraph with respect to the individual is an indefinite one which is reasonably expected to be lengthy in nature), or
(V) an individual not described in any of the preceding subclauses who is not more than 10 years younger than the employee.

(iii) special rule for children.—Subject to subclause (I), subsection (B) of subparagraph (H) shall be applied without regard to any extension thereof.

(iv) time for determination of eligible designated beneficiary.—The determination of whether a designated beneficiary is an eligible designated beneficiary shall be made as of the date of death of the employee.”.

(3) effective dates.—(A) in general.—Except as provided in this paragraph and paragraphs (4) and (5), the amendments made by this subsection shall apply to distributions with respect to employees who die after December 31, 2019.

(B) collective bargaining exception.—In the case of a plan maintained pursuant to 1 or more collective bargaining agreements between employee representatives and 1 or more employers ratified before the date of enactment of this Act, the amendments made by this subsection shall apply to distributions with respect to employees who die in calendar years beginning after the earlier of—
(1) the later of—
(I) the date on which the last of such collective bargaining agreements terminates (determined without regard to any extension thereto agreed to on or after the date of the enactment of this Act), or
(II) December 31, 2019, or
(iii) December 31, 2021.

For purposes of clause (i)(I), any plan amend-
ment made pursuant to a collective bargaining
agreement (A) relating to a plan which amended
the plan solely to conform to any requirement
added by this section shall not be treated as a
termination of such collective bargaining agree-
ment.

(C) GOVERNMENTAL PLANS.—In the case of a
governmental plan (as defined in section 414(d)
of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986), subpara-
graph (A)(i) shall be applied by substituting “De-
cember 31, 2021” for “December 31, 2019”.

(4) EXCEPTION FOR CERTAIN EXISTING ANNUITY
CONTRACTS.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The amendments made by
this subsection shall not apply to a qualified an-
nuity which is a binding annuity contract in ef-
cfect on the date of enactment of this Act and at
all times thereafter.

(B) QUALIFIED ANNUITY.—For purposes of
this paragraph, the term “qualified annuity” means,
with respect to an employee, an annuity—
(i) which is a commercial annuity (as defined in
section 403(c)(6) of the Internal Revenue
Code of 1986);

(ii) under which the annuity payments are
made over the life of the employee or over the
joint lives of such employee and a designated
beneficiary; or

(iii) under which the annuity payments are
not made in accordance with the terms of the
plan with respect to employees dying on or after
the first day of the first calendar year to which the
plan is to apply.

(5) EXCEPTION FOR CERTAIN BENEFICIARIES.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—If an employee dies before
the effective date determined in applying the amend-
ments made by this subsection to such employ-
ee’s designated beneficiary who dies after such
date—

(i) such amendments shall apply to any bene-
ficiary of such designated beneficiary; and

(ii) if clause (I) does not apply, the em-
ployee has made an irrevocable election before
such date to receive the annuity payments to the
employee or any designated beneficiaries; or

(B) IF SUBCLAUSE (I) DOES NOT APPLY, THE
EMPLOYEE HAS MADE AN IRREVOCABLE ELECTION
BEFORE SUCH DATE TO RECEIVE THE ANNuity
PAYMENTS TO THE EMPLOYEE OR ANY DESIGNATED
BENEFICIARIES—

SEC. 402. INCREASE IN PENALTY FOR FAILURE TO FILE.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The second sentence of sub-
section (e) of section 6652 of the Internal
Revenue Code of 1986 is amended by striking “$205”
and inserting “$400”.

(b) INFLATION ADJUSTMENT.—Section 6651(j)(1)
of such Code is amended by striking “$205” and
inserting “$400”.

(c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by
this subsection shall apply to taxable years begin-
ing after December 31, 2019.

SEC. 403. INCREASED PENALTIES FOR FAILURE TO FILE
RETIREMENT PLAN RETURNS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subsection (e) of section
6652 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is
amended—

(1) by striking “$50” and inserting “$250”;

and

(2) by striking “$15,000” and inserting
“$150,000”.

(b) ANNUAL REGISTRATION STATEMENT AND
NOTIFICATION OF CHANGES.—Subsection (d)
of section 6652 of the Internal Revenue Code of
1986 is amended—

(1) by striking “$1” both places it appears in
paragraphs (1) and (2) and inserting “$10”;

(2) by striking “$5,000” in paragraph (1) and
inserting “$50,000”;

(3) by striking “$1,000” in paragraph (2) and
inserting “$10,000”; and

(c) FAILURE TO PROVIDE NOTICE.—Subsection
(h) of section 6652 of the Internal Revenue Code of
1986 is amended—

(1) by striking “$10” and inserting “$100”;

and

(2) by striking “$5,000” and inserting
“$50,000”.

(d) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made
by this section shall apply to returns, state-
ments, and notifications required to be filed, and
notices required to be provided, after De-
cember 31, 2019.

SEC. 404. INCREASE INFORMATION SHARING TO
ADMINISTER EXCISE TAXES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 6103(o) of the Inter-
nal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended by adding
at the end the following new paragraph:

“(3) TAXATION OF BORDER PROTECTION.—Re-
turns and return information with respect to
taxes imposed by section 481 shall be open to
inspection by or disclosure to officers and em-
ployees of the United States Customs and
Border Protection of the Department of Homeland Secu-
rity whose official duties require such inspection
or disclosure for purposes of administering such
section.”.

(b) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—Paragraph
(4) of section 6103(p) of the Internal Revenue
Code of 1986 is amended by striking “or
(o)(1)(A)” each place it appears and inserting “,
(o)(1)(A), or (o)(3)”.

TITLE V—TAX RELIEF FOR CERTAIN
CHILDREN

SEC. 501. MODIFICATION OF RULES RELATING TO
THE TAXATION OF UNEARNED INCOME OF CERTAIN
CHILDREN.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section (i)(1) of the Internal
Revenue Code of 1986 is amended by striking
paragraph (4).

(b) COORDINATION WITH ALTERNATIVE MIN-
IMUM TAX.—The amendment made by sub-
section (a) shall apply to taxable years begin-
ing after December 31, 2019.

(c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—(1) IN GENERAL.—Except as otherwise provided in
this subsection, the amendment made by sub-
section (a) shall apply to taxable years begin-
ing after December 31, 2019.

(2) COORDINATION WITH ALTERNATIVE MIN-
IMUM TAX.—The amendment made by sub-
section (a) shall apply to taxable years begin-
ing after December 31, 2017.

(3) ELECTIVE RETROACTIVE APPLICATION.—In
the case of a taxpayer who elects the applica-
tion of this paragraph (at such time and in such
manner as the Secretary of the Treasury (or the
Secretary’s designee) may provide), the amend-
ment made by subsection (a) shall apply to tax-
able years beginning after December 31, 2017.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The bill, as amended, shall be debatable for 1 hour equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Ways and Means.

The gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. NEAL) and the gentleman from Texas (Mr. BRADY) each will control 30 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Massachusetts.

Mr. NEAL. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and to insert extraneous material on H.R. 1994.

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

Mr. NEAL. Madam Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 1994, the Setting Every Community Up for Retirement Enhancement Act, or the SECURE Act. This is the most substantive promotion of retirement savings in the last 15 years, and we all should be pleased that we are part of it this morning.

One of my priorities since becoming chairman of the Ways and Means Committee has been helping American workers of all ages prepare for a financially secure retirement, so I am particularly pleased to bring this legislation to the floor this morning.

I also am very proud of the fact that I was able to collaborate with Ranking
Member KEVIN BRADY and our Republican colleagues in drafting this legislation. Both Republicans and Democrats have wins in this bill, and I would like to thank Mr. BRADY this morning for all of his hard work in helping me to write this legislation.

Unfortunately, currently, Americans face a retirement income crisis with too many people in danger of not having enough in retirement to maintain their standard of living and avoid sliding into poverty. Social Security benefits are modest; employer-sponsored pensions are disappearing; and too many people find it difficult to save for retirement. According to a recent study, one-third of American workers believe that they will either face a significant financial hardship during retirement or, in fact, will never retire. And the 2018 study found that almost two-thirds of workers have no retirement account assets.

The SECURE Act, which the Ways and Means Committee approved with unanimous, bipartisan votes, goes a long way in addressing this problem by making retirement easier for Americans today.

For example, the SECURE Act includes a small employer automatic enrollment credit. Automatic enrollment is shown to increase employee participation and retirement savings opportunities. The bill creates a new tax credit of up to $500 per year for employers to defray the startup costs for new 401(k) plans that include automatic enrollment.

The SECURE Act also increases the age for required minimum distributions from 70 1/2 to 72. This hasn’t been adjusted since the 1960s. With Americans working longer, this will encourage them to continue saving.

The SECURE Act also allows long-term, part-time employees to participate in their employer’s 401(k) plans. Women are more likely to work part-time than men, so this legislation is particularly important for women.

Madam Speaker, I thank Representative MURPHY for her leadership here.

The bill would also make it easier for small businesses to offer retirement plans to their employees by eliminating outdated barriers to the use of multiple employer plans. As a result of this provision, it is estimated that 600,000 to 700,000 new retirement opportunities will be formed.

All of these are important, commonsense proposals that will improve our retirement system.

I also note that this bill has tremendous support from a diverse group of stakeholders: AARP, SEIU, the Women’s Institute for a Secure Retirement, Church Alliance, the Girl Scouts, the Boy Scouts, and the National Rural Electric Cooperative.

Firstly, Madam Speaker, I want to highlight the provision that fixes an urgent problem affecting children of our fallen troops and first responders. Due to changes included in the Republicans’ tax law, the amount of tax imposed on survivor benefits for children of veterans, Active Duty servicemembers, and emergency personnel increased significantly.

This bill eliminates that tax increase by repealing this harmful change. It also makes sure that all similar payments, like Tribal government payments to children, payments out of the Alaska Permanent Fund, and certain scholarships and fellowship grants will not be subject to this unexpected and unfair tax treatment.

These fixes could not have been accomplished without Mrs. LURIA’s leadership on behalf of our troops, along with many Members on both sides of the aisle who supported her efforts.

We should recognize Ms. MOORE’s leadership on Tribal payments and Mr. HORSFORD’s leadership on the scholarship issue.

I am very proud that we were able to put together a bill that will help American families prepare for a financially secure retirement, and that it was done on a bipartisan basis, which we will acknowledge as the morning moves on, with significant stakeholder support.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 7, the SECURE Act, and I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Madam Speaker, for nearly 2 years, Republicans have been advocating for policies that help our families and Main Street businesses save more and save earlier for the future.

Following the historic rewrite of our Tax Code, Republicans knew the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act was only step one. We knew that we changed the trajectory of our economy with our reforms.

Today in America, we are growing 50 percent faster than the Obama administration projected. Wages are surging for blue-collar workers and low-income workers for the first time in a decade, and our job market continues to be the envy of the world.

These are all encouraging signs, and Republicans are committed to building on this success for years to come, which is why last year, we set out to change the culture in Washington, where we only do, it seems, tax reform once a generation.

In Tax Reform 2.0, we passed three bills that offered permanent tax relief for families and small businesses, sparked American innovation, and went further and enhanced retirement and savings vehicles for our workers and our local, mainstream businesses.

That effort, the Family Savings Act, was led by Representative MIKE KELLY. Those reforms passed on a bipartisan basis, and our retirement proposals passed the U.S. House of Representatives not once but twice.

Unfortunately, time ran out on the calendar before we were able to get those reforms to the President’s desk. But I was greatly encouraged earlier this year when Chairman NEAL reached out to say he was committed to getting retirement-focused legislation signed into law this year. This area, retirement savings, is one that Chairman NEAL has worked on for much of his career.

Right away, he and I, and many members of our committee worked together to develop the Setting Every Community Up for Retirement Enhancement Act, the SECURE Act, we debate today.

The SECURE Act builds well on the work that Republicans have championed throughout this Congress and the last. Our bipartisan legislation makes it easier for Main Street businesses to offer retirement plans for their workers by making it simpler, easing administrative burdens, and cutting down on unnecessary and often costly paperwork.

We make it easier for them to join together to pool their resources to offer these plans. We offer local businesses the flexibility to tailor retirement plans to best fit their workers, not necessarily what Washington may need.

Additionally, our reforms help Americans not only save earlier in their careers, but it helps families save longer, as well.

We know for a fact that people are choosing to work longer today than in previous generations. Our Tax Code should reflect that, which is why we make smart, needed changes to reflect today’s workforce.

First, the age limit for contributing to IRAs is removed, as it should be.

Second, we increase the minimum age for forcing people to spend their savings from 70 1/2 to 72 years of age. My hope is, someday, we can remove it completely. We want Americans to save throughout their lifetime and use those savings when they need it most, not when Washington needs it.

This legislation is prowork and, equally as important, our bill is also profamily.

For the first time, we allow what we call the new baby savings provision. We allow parents to access their own retirement accounts on a penalty-free basis to use when welcoming a new child into their homes, whether by birth or adoption. This works well for working parents and stay-at-home parents, as well. It is allowed to be used for the things you need, whether it is medical equipment, medical expenses, or if you need to spend time at home with your new child in those opening weeks. We know all that is so important.

The bill also expands 529 plans to make sure you can use, tax-free, your savings for apprenticeships or to pay down college debt.

Our legislation lowers taxes for Gold Star families, ensuring that children of our fallen heroes have the certainty they deserve. This provision was first made public in 2014 in a draft that was widely praised by Democrats and Republicans alike.
It was brought to us by the Joint Committee on Taxation to make it simpler for families to file their kids’ taxes and also to close some tax loopholes for the wealthy. Unfortunately, over 5 years, with scrutiny by both parties, and the Joint Committee on Taxation, we still did not see one unintended consequence.

In this bill, we worked together, Republicans and Democrats, to make sure we honor our Gold Star families.

The bill is right for these reforms. Workers’ paychecks are rising; inflation is low; and businesses are expanding. What better opportunity to help folks save for the future?

Chairman NEAL deserves a great deal of credit. The bill we brought to the Rules Committee earlier this week cleared our committee nearly unanimously. Members of the Progressive Caucus, Freedom Caucus, New Democrats, Problem Solvers, and Republican Study Committee, we all voted ‘yes’ on these reforms.

This is a rare occurrence in Washington, and it speaks to what a committee can accomplish when we work together on reforms to positively impact our families and economy.

I have to admit, it is incredibly troubling that special interests—in this case, teachers unions—forced changes on our bipartisan bill for absolutely no good reason at the eleventh hour.

These special interest groups forced Democrats to block two provisions.

One allows parents to use their education tax-free to cover expenses of homeschooling. Nearly 2.5 million families use parent-centered, child-centered homeschooling as the best way for their children to reach their potential. It is all types of Americans and becoming more mainstream. It is Christians and Jews and Muslims. It is all races. It is parents whose kids are exceptionally bright and parents whose kids have learning disabilities and severe special needs. That is why that is the right decision.

The second provision that was blocked would allow families with kids in grades kindergarten through 12 to use savings for books, tutors, and educational therapies for students who are exceptionally bright and parents whose kids have learning disabilities. How many of us in this Chamber have kids with special needs? It is just plain sad how important it is that this bill also improve both access and coverage of retirement plans. The legislation to improve both access and coverage of retirement plans. The legislation to improve both access and coverage of retirement plans. The legislation to improve both access and coverage of retirement plans.

One provision, known as the “KID Saviing for College” provision, would allow parents to save for their kids’ college, including private colleges. The second provision, known as the “KID Saviing for College” provision, would allow parents to save for their kids’ college, including private colleges. The second provision, known as the “KID Saviing for College” provision, would allow parents to save for their kids’ college, including private colleges.

I am glad we could reach this bipartisan solution to make it easier for workers, including home healthcare workers in California, to take advantage of important retirement savings tools.

As a combat veteran and the father of two first responders, I understand how important it is that this bill also allow for tax-free money saved for retirement. The SECURE Act before us today helps fix that.

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than seven million Americans age 55 and older. According to AARP research, 38 percent of those age 23 to 49 and 26 percent of those age 50 to 64 who work part-time do so because they want to maintain their standard of living. Many workers, especially women, say their top priority is to help their children save for retirement and education. The bill would be especially helpful to both caregivers and older workers who shift from full-time to part-time status.

The bill would also give workers more information to prepare for retirement as well as provisions to safeguard their hard-earned savings. It would require that workers’ benefit statements add a lifetime income disclosure that projects retirement savings. It would increase the monthly value of their savings at retirement. Seniors would also be able to delay the required draw down of retirement savings until age 72, giving them more time to accumulate savings. The bill would also clarify rules on how employers and plans may select appropriate lifetime income payments. It is important to retain strong fiduciary law protections that ensure all retirement plan decisions, including for pooled-asset superiority selections, are made solely in the interest of participants and beneficiaries.

We urge you to vote YES on the SECURE Act, and look forward to working with you to enact legislation to enhance the ability of American workers to save for a secure retirement. We answer your questions, please feel free to call me, or have your staff contact Michele Varnhagen on our Government Affairs staff.

Sincerely,

Nancy A. LeaMond, Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Engagement Officer.

Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, this is an unusual day. In many cases, it is providential, as we look on the eve of the time that we take to honor our fallen war dead. Some people confuse it with the beginning of summer or the opening of our swimming pools. It has nothing to do with that.

But the fact that we can talk today about the SECURE Act—and when you talk about “secure,” what does “secure” mean? It means giving you certainty, making you assured, and making something reliable, something dependable. And that is fixed, something that is established, and something that is solid and sound.

What we are doing today is acting in the best interests of the American people. We are doing it in the people’s House at a time when the rest of the Nation looks at us and asks, “Isn’t there anything they can do together to help the American people?”

When I go home, I say, yes there is. I have a great friend from Wisconsin, Ron Kind, and we feel the same way. I talked with Mr. Brady about it, and we feel the same way. I have talked with Mr. Neal about it, and we feel the same way.

Today’s effort is adding security in retirement years for every American, the ones that are in these years with a little gold in their pockets so that they can get through it, giving them peace of mind in being able to lay their heads on the pillows at night feeling safe and secure, knowing that they have a retirement plan.

There are many other pieces to this bill. We have talked about the provisions to the Gold Star program. So if something was wrong, we made it right.

The 529 programs give people the opportunity to actually save and allocate money for the education of their children.

It may not be in a 4-year college. Maybe it is a vocational opportunity. But it is there. It is their money, and they should be able to use it the way they want to use it.

I just said earlier about it being providential, and I mean that sincerely. There will be a few times today that the American people will look at us and say: They really have our best interests at heart. They really go to work every day thinking that they are not representing themselves but representing us, the American people.

When I look at this piece of legislation, I know how hard we worked with the chairman to get it through in the past sessions. We almost got it there but didn’t quite get it there.

Madam Speaker, I say to Chairman Neal, we are getting there. We are getting there. And I say to Mr. Kind, we are getting there.

I just think that it is such a fantastic opportunity to show the American people who we really are and what we really do and where our hearts really lie.

There are so many people who worked on this. Also, the staff. I thank Kara for doing the work that she has done. I always call her my girl Friday. In our office, Lori Prior. They all work so closely together. I wish the American people could see the camaraderie, could see how well we work together, and could understand that our concerns and their concerns are the same.

I am saying today that the SECURE Act gives us that opportunity. The time for the American people and retired people is just beginning, and we have blue skies and strong winds on our backs.

Madam Speaker, I wish everybody the best Memorial Day ever, and let’s not forget our fallen heroes.

Mr. NEAL. Madam Speaker, I acknowledge the good work that Mr. KELLY and Mr. KIND did on one very important amendment on this as well.

Madam Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the Democrat from New Jersey (Mr. PASCRELL).

Mr. PASCRELL. Madam Speaker, after years and years of prior Congresses thinking that tax policy was giving cuts to the rich, this bill uses our Tax Code for some good.

As the gentleman, my good friend from Pennsylvania, just said, we can work together, we can walk and chew gum at the same time, we can have oversight and have issues come up, and we join together for the American people. Whoever thinks otherwise doesn’t know history and is not reading the papers every day.

Retirement should be about one thing: security. If you have spent your life working your tail off, you have the right to be able to relax without fear.

But, today, millions of Americans—millions—are afraid they are entering retirement and have the resources they need to live. Many live on a Social Security check. They resources they need to live. Many live on a Social Security check. They

But, today, millions of Americans—millions—are afraid they are entering retirement and have the resources they need to live. Many live on a Social Security check.
Employees deserve benefits, and employers need incentives to provide them. This legislation does both. It provides flexibility to 401(k)s to give employees and small businesses better access; it creates a tax credit for employers; and it creates a tax credit for employers that build automatic enrollment plans.

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

Mr. NEAL. Madam Speaker, I yield an additional 30 seconds to the gentleman.

Mr. PASCRELL. By passing this bill, we would finally repeal the maximum age for IRA contributions, something I have worked on for many years.

This bill cleared out of our committee unanimously. That is pretty rare. It is as rare as a unicorn. That tells you how commonsense the bill is.

I am glad that this bill eliminates an unfair tax, a tax increase on the benefits of children and Gold Star military family members. It was caused by the tax bill of 2017. This was a crushing blow to many families.

Madam Speaker, it is fitting that the House will make this fix before Memorial Day.

I encourage my colleagues to support the SECURE Act.

Mr. BRADY. Madam Speaker, I am proud to yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. HOLDING), a key member of the Ways and Means Committee.

Mr. HOLDING. Madam Speaker, this past Saturday, I had the great pleasure of addressing a number of homeschool graduates in Cary, North Carolina, 55 of them, in fact.

I was impressed by these students, and I was inspired by their parents, who have made so many sacrifices and who have dedicated immeasurable time to ensuring their kids get a good education.

Today, we were supposed to be voting on legislation that would help homeschoolers. Tens of millions of Americans choose 529 savings plans to cover K–12 expenses. This money can be used for public schools, private schools, and religious schools, but it cannot be used to cover homeschool expenses.

This bill was supposed to fix this inequity by enabling homeschool parents to use their 529 savings plans. This would help erase and ease the financial burdens on school parents and give homeschoolers the same opportunities and resources enjoyed by other kids who go to private and public schools.

As Chairman Neal said, Republicans and Democrats on the Ways and Means Committee came together, passed this bill out of our committee. Then it went to the Rules Committee, and Democratic leadership intervened. At the last minute, the bill was changed, and the language ending this discrimination against homeschoolers was removed.

Why would anyone object to ending the wrongful discrimination against homeschool families? There are over 130,000 homeschoolers in North Carolina and 1.6 million across the country. They deserve fairness, and their incredible parents deserve our help.

Sadly, Madam Speaker, that is not going to happen today. Otherwise, this is a good bill, but it certainly could have been better.

Mr. NEAL. Madam Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS).

Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois. Madam Speaker, when only 39 percent of Americans have enough savings to cover an emergency costing $1,000 and when 67 percent of Americans say that they will outlive their retirement savings, the SECURE Act becomes a lifesaver.

It becomes a lifesaver because it makes it easier for small businesses to offer retirement plans. It gives retirement benefit opportunities to home healthcare workers, more than half of whom are women of color, working for extremely low pay.

And I must take note of that, because these individuals are at the low end of not only quality of life but low end of earnings. They now have an opportunity for some serious consideration of retirement.

It creates a small employer automatic enrollment credit to make it easier for workers to participate in 401(k) plans.

These are important changes. It is a great bill, not just a good bill.

Madam Speaker, I strongly support it, and I urge all my colleagues to do so.

Mr. BRADY. Madam Speaker, I am proud to yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. SMITH), a member of the Ways and Means Committee, who has been a champion for expanding education savings accounts for Americans.

Mr. SMITH of Missouri. Madam Speaker, Speaker of the House, and I yield back to the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. EVANS).

Mr. EVANS. Madam Speaker, I am proud to yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. SCHWEIKERT), a key member of our committee who worked on this legislation.

Mr. SCHWEIKERT. Madam Speaker, to the committee chairman and, in my world, the chairman for life, you have done great.

It has been an interesting experience being in the minority, but we are blessed. We have freaky-smart people on the committee. It works. Even when we disagree, at least the debate and the discussion is fairly highbrow.

I am concerned that 529, more so because of the flexibility and, being the daddy of a 3½-year-old, not completely knowing if there are going to be any special needs coming, that choice. We should love and embrace the concept of that flexibility to take care of our little people.

I am very encouraged that there is movement towards incentivizing it and
making it easier, particularly for smaller businesses, to offer access into retirement accounts.

We need to have the conversation—and it is uncomfortable for all of us—to go a bit further.

The amount of our society that is now in independent-contractor relationships, should we be allowed to use technology so that population also starts to have more and more savings for the future? We just need to deal with them. That is where much of the economy, in a demand economy, is going.

My last caveat—and I am voting for the bill. We have come a long ways. I do worry a little bit about the special agreement on newspapers, only because if we are truly worried about protecting workers into their retirement years, do we want to create more even special, special small cutouts where we are allowing the underfunding of a pension system?

We just need to think that through a little more from an ethical standpoint. Do we keep creating carve-out after carve-out after carve-out that creates a fragility for that retired population?

Even as think we are helping the businesses survive, we actually hurt the future chances of those retirees getting their checks. We need to be careful on that.

Mr. Neal. Madam Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentlewoman from California (Ms. Sánchez), who was very instrumental in the provisions that will simplify the Form 5500 filing process for small business.

Ms. NEAL. Madam Speaker, I rise in support of the SECURE Act. I thank Chairman Richard Neal for his tireless efforts to get this legislation across the finish line.

I have been proud to support versions of this legislation for many years, and I am pleased that one of my bills has been included. My piece of this package offers a simple yet impactful way for smaller businesses, primarily affecting small businesses, to offer access into retirement plans, including multiple-employer plans, for employees of small businesses, primarily affecting small businesses, including multiple-employer plans.

Mr. ESTES. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of the SECURE Act. It is an overall good policy that will encourage Americans to save for retirement.

I am pleased that this bill makes it easier for small businesses to join together and offer retirement plans for more Americans. It allows graduate students and home health care workers to save more for retirement.

It includes a policy change to help Gold Star families. It also includes a fix to the taxation of children's earnings for young Americans and for American Indian Tribal youth. And encourage them to pursue a college education, similar to the legislation that I helped introduce with my colleague from Wisconsin (Ms. Moore).

Finally, this bill will allow 529 plans to be used to pay for student loans and apprenticeship programs.

As a former State treasurer of Kansas, I oversaw a 529 plan and understand the importance of expanding these plans for our families. That is why I am disappointed that the manager's amendment removed good policy from this legislation that would have allowed 529 plans to help be used for expenses for K-12 education and to help special needs children.

Earlier this year, my Republican colleagues and I on the Ways and Means Committee entered good faith negotiations with Chairman Neal and our Democratic colleagues to craft this bill. As a result, Republicans and Democrats on the committee unanimously voted for the SECURE Act in April.

However, since that time, the other side of the aisle played politics with this legislation when it was before the Rules Committee and removed those additional 529 provisions that were originally included to help special needs students. So, while I support today's bill and the policies that are still included, I sincerely hope that, moving forward, we can find good policy that is in the interests of all Americans and work in a bipartisan manner and negotiate in good faith to produce legislation that will help the American people.

Mr. Neal. Madam Speaker, I include in the RECORD a letter of support for the SECURE Act from the National Association of Insurance Commissioners.

Hon. Richard E. Neal, Chairman, Ways and Means Committee, House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

Hon. Kevin Brady, Ranking Member, Ways and Means Committee, House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

Dear Chairman Neal and Ranking Member Brady: On behalf of the National Association of Insurance Commissioners (NAIC), we would like to express our support for H.R. 94, the Setting Every Community Up for Retirement Enhancement (SECURE) Act. Recognizing the retirement savings crisis that exists in the United States, state insurance regulators have worked to make improvements to guidance impacting product delivery, compliance, and innovation of insurance products designed to help mitigate this crisis under the NAIC Retirement Security Initiative. Given the unique products and features of our sector, state insurance regulators have embraced a broader public policy responsibility to not only ensure consumers remain protected by a solvent industry, but to help foster an environment where they have greater flexibility and more options to take steps to secure their retirement. The SECURE Act is aligned with the goals of this initiative as it seeks to provide greater consumer options for retirement plans.

Several of the provisions contained in the SECURE Act also complement our own consumer financial literacy and disclosure efforts and will make it easier for consumers to save for retirement. First, the legislation makes it easier for consumers to engage in a tax-free rollover of an annuity to another employer-sponsored retirement plan or IRA and avoid surrender charges and fees, making these products more portable and providing consumers more flexibility.

Second, the bill would encourage plan participants to think in terms of lifetime income by requiring benefit statements to break down the total account balance into estimates of monthly annuity income, at least once a year. Third, the legislation makes it easier for ERISA plan sponsors to select companies to offer annuity products by creating a safe harbor that relieves sponsors of the solvency regime of the state insurance regulatory system, which is specifically designed to ensure that an insurance company's obligations will be met both today and many years into the future.

We applaud your leadership in this effort to assist savers in making more-informed decisions to prepare for retirement, and allowing defined contribution plans to become a more effective vehicle for providing lifetime income.

Sincerely,

Eric A. Cioppa, NAIC President, Superintendent of Insurance.

David Altmaier, NAIC Vice President, Commissioner, Florida Office of Insurance Regulation.

Michael F. Consedine, Chief Executive Officer, National Association of Insurance Commissioners.

Raymond G. Farmer, NAIC President-Elect, Director, South Carolina Department of Insurance.

Dean L. Cameron, NAIC Secretary-Treasurer, Director, Idaho Department of Insurance.

Mr. Neal. Madam Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. Kind), who was very instrumental in provisions which will help small businesses sponsor retirement plans, including multiple-employer plans.

Mr. Kind. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding.

I rise in strong support of the SECURE Act. This legislation is meant to address one of the greatest crises we have in retirement savings: employees in small businesses, primarily affecting women, minorities, and young adults.
I want to thank the chairman and the ranking member for their leadership on the issue. I want to thank my good friend Mike Kelly for partnering with me throughout this process, along with former colleagues Dave Reichert and Pat Tiberi, with whom I had a chance to work on this issue in particular.

I also want to thank the Representative in the chair today, Representative Elaine Luria, our commander. She is the one who introduced the Gold Star fix. In that, we included in the Tax Code that adversely affects survivor benefits for children of our fallen soldiers.

It also fixes distributions to Native American children and to students who receive scholarships and grants. I thank her for her leadership on it.

This is a good, bipartisan, bicameral piece of legislation. I encourage my colleagues to support it.

Mr. Brady. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Nebraska (Mr. Smith).

Mr. Smith of Nebraska. Madam Speaker, I do want to say that I plan to vote for this bill. I support the improvements it makes to savings and retirement, which have gained bipartisan approval, both in the Senate and here in the House.

In particular, I appreciate hearing from agricultural cooperatives across Nebraska’s Third District about the importance of the language in this bill reducing PBGC premiums for nonprofits.

I am also incredibly pleased we are moving quickly to address the Gold Star families tax issue and hope we can complete work on that problem as quickly—if not more quickly—as the rest of the provisions in this bill.

I do have reservations and concerns about the process which got us here and some provisions which are no longer needed.

As we know, the bill was marked up in the Ways and Means Committee on April 2. We reported it out unanimously, a very bipartisan effort. It was moved out of committee by a voice vote.

Prior to the markup, there were no concerns raised about the provisions in the bill, provisions that would help families pay for the education of their children, whether in home school or public school. As we know, many expenses come up for various reasons.

It is unfortunate that that took place, and I know that this wasn’t the first time. Actually, it was the second time in 2 weeks that we are here considering legislation that was produced by bipartisan work in committee, but it was altered before it came to the House. It is very unfortunate.

And as I said at the beginning, I am going to support this bill. It has many good provisions, but I hope that we can avoid similar situations from under-mining the integrity of the committee system that we have that empowers individual Members to work together with colleagues on a bipartisan basis. Let’s not undermine that.

Again, I will vote for this bill. It could have been a better bill, and I hope next time we can address the shortcomings.

Mr. Neal. Madam Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. Blumenauer), chairman of the Trade Subcommittee.

Mr. Blumenauer. Madam Speaker, I appreciate the chair’s courtesy, and I appreciate his moving forward on the issue of retirement security, for which he has been a tireless champion.

We are facing a retirement crisis in this country. Nearly half of households headed by someone 55 or older lack retirement savings. One of the many reasons they are not saving enough is lack of access to retirement plans. This bill moves in that direction.

I appreciate it going to increase access to employer retirement plans for people who work in small business and part-time workers.

Of particular interest to me is a provision in this bill that fixes a quirk in the current law that prevents many home care workers from participating in a retirement account, an IRA.

I heard directly from home health care workers in Oregon about this problem. I am pleased, working with the committee, we have been able to fix this quirk moving forward. I anticipate this is one of many bills that will be moving forward dealing with retirement security in America, and I look forward to that progress.

Mr. Brady. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. Walberg), who has worked on retirement and pension issues for many years.

Mr. Walberg. Madam Speaker, I thank my friend from Texas (Mr. Brady) for yielding me the time.

Madam Chair, I rise today in support of the SECURE Act. I would like to thank Chairman Neal and Ranking Member Brady for their leadership on this important piece of legislation.

For families in my district, putting away enough money for retirement is a constant struggle. Now more than ever, we need policies that empower workers to save more and save earlier for retirement.

I am pleased this legislation includes a provision I coauthored with my colleague from Delaware (Ms. Blunt Rochester). Our bipartisan provision clarifies rules surrounding annuity plans, making it possible for more employers to guarantee lifetime income products as part of their benefits package. Our goal is to remove barriers to saving and give workers a variety of tools to help choose what option best fits their needs.

Madam Speaker, we have a retirement income crisis in this country, and the SECURE Act will help more Americans retire with dignity and peace of mind. I urge its passage today.

Mr. Neal. Madam Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Washington (Ms. DelBene), who was very instrumental in the provisions providing pension plan relief for community newspapers and home healthcare workers as they attempt to maintain their retirement plans.

Ms. DelBene. Madam Speaker, I thank the chairman for yielding me the time.

As we know, the bill was marked up in the chair today, Representative C. A. Dutch Rokecter (Ms. Wagner), a leader who has worked for working moms and our veterans.

Mrs. Wagner. Madam Speaker, I thank my friend from Texas (Mr. Brady) for yielding me the time.

I rise today in support of the SECURE Act.

Over the last two decades, we have made progress in helping Americans save more for their retirement. U.S. retirement savings have increased from $11 trillion in 2001 to $22 trillion today. But we need to do more, especially in this booming economy.

This legislation will increase the number of workers with access to retirement plans, encourage higher savings rates, and empower workers to save more and save earlier for a secure retirement.

The SECURE Act is a commonsense, private-sector solution enabling Americans to save more for their retirement by expanding access for workers who choose to participate in a workplace plan. It simultaneously preserves employer choice and competition.

The SECURE Act has the added benefit of lowering taxes for our Gold Star families. Providing more for the relatives and the children of U.S. military members who paid the ultimate sacrifice to secure our freedom and liberty is most fitting on the eve of our Memorial Day weekend.
I urge my colleagues to vote in favor of this legislation today.

Mr. NEAL. Madam Speaker, I yield 1 1/2 minutes to the gentlewoman from Wisconsin (Ms. MOORE), who was a leader on the kiddie tax issue addressing Tribal distributions.

Ms. MOORE. Madam Speaker, I thank the chairman for his leadership and for moving this bipartisan legislation forward. This is really a necessary step to ensuring that more Americans can save for retirement.

I also commend the chairman for his swift action to redress the harsh tax rate and unintended consequences caused by the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act of 2017 on Gold Star families, low-income children, and young adults who receive payments from Tribal governments.

Our special tax rules on unearned income of children and young adults to prevent wealthy families from engaging in tax planning to artificially lower their tax liability, is not relevant to these payments made to Gold Star families, survivor benefits, and Tribal children.

The 2017 rate repeal only partially addressed an underlying problem where additional legislation is required related to Tribal youth. Mr. ESTES and I addressed an underlying problem where Star families, survivor benefits, and run-of-the-mill distributions from the kiddie tax on taxable disbursements made by Tribal governments.

So, Madam Speaker, I ask the chairman to tell Members of this Chamber and the Tribes who are watching closely throughout the country what his intentions are relative to the underlying problem with the kiddie tax.

Mr. NEAL. Will the gentlewoman yield?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentlewoman has expired.

Mr. NEAL. Madam Speaker, I yield myself 30 seconds.

I want to thank the gentlewoman from Wisconsin (Ms. MOORE) for her support of the bill before us and her leadership on addressing the unfair tax that has plagued Tribes making taxable distributions to their children and young adults.

The kiddie tax was enacted to prevent wealthy families from shifting family income to minor children. The rationale for this new law does not apply to funds distributed by Indian Tribal governments because Indian Tribal governments are tax-exempt entities and their distributions could never be intended for the purpose of a tax deduction.

The Ways and Means Committee will work to address this problem, with the goal of excluding such Tribal government distributions from the kiddie tax provisions.

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

Mr. NEAL. Madam Speaker, I yield 15 seconds to the gentlewoman from Wisconsin (Ms. MOORE).

Ms. MOORE. Madam Speaker, this is a first step toward meeting our trust obligations to the sovereign first peoples of this country.

I thank the chairman for yielding.

Mr. BRADY. Madam Speaker, I yield myself 30 seconds.

Madam Speaker, I want to recognize those of us on both sides of the aisle working to address the Gold Star issue: Representatives BACON, DIAZ-BALART, HERRERA BEUTLER, HOLDING, MARCHANT, WAGNER, WALTZ, and WENSTRUP.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. NEAL. Madam Speaker, how much time is remaining on both sides?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Massachusetts has 14 1/2 minutes remaining.

Madam Speaker, this is really a necessary step to ensuring that more Americans can save for retirement.

This is really a necessary step to ensuring that more Americans can save for retirement. This is really a necessary step to ensuring that more Americans can save for retirement.

I am pleased that this House is taking action today in response. Our bill will help more Americans save for retirement by allowing workers to participate in 401(k) plans.

Additionally, the legislation makes it easier for small businesses to offer retirement plans to their employees and help small businesses set up automatic enrollment programs. It replaces antiquated barriers slowing the adoption of multiemployer plans and improves the quality of service providers. The AARP estimates that these changes will lead to more than 700,000 new retirement accounts.

Finally, as we approach Memorial Day and reflect on the ultimate sacrifice made by our fallen servicemembers and their families, I am pleased this legislation fixes a provision in the 2017 Republican tax law that increased taxes on survivor benefits paid by families. Our Gold Star families already deal with the unimaginable loss of a loved one; they should not also be facing a tax increase.

Madam Speaker, I am so proud this legislation was a bipartisan effort in the Ways and Means Committee, and I urge my colleagues to support this important bill to improve retirement security.

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

Mr. NEAL. Madam Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from New York (Mr. SUOZZI).

Mr. SUOZZI. Madam Speaker, there is a retirement crisis in America today. Working men and women simply just don’t have enough money in retirement savings.

I rise today to advocate for the bipartisan SECURE Act, which will: one, help small businesses provide retirement plans that include automatic enrollment by giving those businesses an opportunity to pool together and by offering them a tax credit to help pay for startup costs; and, two, provide 501(k)s for the rising number of part-time workers and independent contractors in the new tech economy that can be portable from their current jobs to the next ones.

Since the 1980s, the American economy has grown dramatically. Since 1983, the Dow Jones has gone up 1,200 percent and the GDP up 600 percent, yet the wages of the American people have gone up less than 20 percent. No longer is hard work a guarantee of achieving the American Dream.

Every American, whether liberal or conservative, believes that if you are willing to work 40 or 50 hours a week and 50 weeks a year that you should be able to have a decent place to live, to educate your children, to have health insurance, and to not go through the unimaginable loss of a loved one.

I urge my colleagues to vote in favor of the bipartisan SECURE Act.

We have an opportunity today to fix this with the Gold Star Family Tax Relief Act, which is being included in the SECURE Act that is up for today’s vote.
I would thank Chairman Neal and Ranking Member Brady for quickly recognizing this issue and for including this measure in the final bill.

Today, I call upon my colleagues in the House to make this right. I hope that they will join me in supporting the passage of this legislation to show our country’s appreciation to the Gold Star families for laying so costly a sacrifice upon the altar of freedom.

Mr. Neal. Madam Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. Beyer) and thank the gentleman for his valuable work on the kiddie tax issue that affects the children of fallen first responders.

Mr. BEYER. Madam Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 94.

I would like to begin by thanking Chairman Neal, my friend Ron Kind, and all of the good folks and committee staff for their hard work on this bill.

The 2017 Republican tax law was passed despite being littered with errors, unintended consequences, and just straight-up bad ideas.

One of the most unjustifiable and immediately painful provisions of the bill was the unintended consequence of this change to the kiddie tax, which resulted in massive tax increases for the surviving children of servicemembers, first responders, as well as for scholarship recipients and other minors. The SECURE Act repeals that provision.

These populations deserve our sympathy and support. I can only hope that this was a stunning oversight.

Since the harms of this provision came to light during tax filings, many Members, including myself, heard from constituents whose families were subject to these unjust and shocking bills.

Several bills have been introduced to address these tax issues for various impacted groups, including my bill, H.R. 2840, which exempted the survivors of first responders. It is a strong, positive bill, and I encourage my colleagues to vote for it.

Mr. Brady. Madam Speaker, I am very proud to yield 1 minute to the gentleman from California (Mr. McCarthy), the leader for Republicans of the U.S. House of Representatives.

Mr. Mccarthy. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Before I begin, I want to thank both sides. I want to thank the chairman and I want to thank the ranking member. I want to be sure that that bill is on the floor today but for the bill that was put out of committee.

When we look across the country, we see division. Very seldom can we ever find a bill that gets every Democrat’s and every Republican’s support, but that is what we look for, that committees can work together.

The whole reason bills go through committees before they come to the floor is this is where the expertise is, this is where the debates happen, this is where it is combined together.

But now I want to apologize to the chairman. I don’t know what the gentleman’s leadership did or why. But why would they change the moment that we have for the country to see something that they haven’t seen in a while? Why would they do something that a chairman and a ranking member and every member on that committee, regardless of where they come from across this country, regardless of party, agreed to?

Special interest has power. Special interest is more powerful than the members of the committee with the expertise. Special interest is more powerful than Members of Congress finding common ground. Special interest is more powerful with the leadership on the other side.

They should not treat their Members this way. They should not treat America this way.

So let’s talk about this bill. Because what it really goes to is, how powerful is this special interest, and who are they hurting?

Many parents choose to use a 529 savings account to help them save money for their children’s education. We all agree that the education of the American people is one of the most important things that happens when you have a child is the opportunity that they will have. It is no longer about what you will become; it is what your children’s opportunities will be.

We all agree that education is the great equalizer. It doesn’t matter where a person grows up or what side of the street they live on, but education will give everybody that opportunity.

As a Republican leader, when I watched this committee work, I was proud. I was proud of both sides. I was proud that they were able to come together.

And where they came together was on 529 accounts. These plans allow them to save in a tax-free account, incur interest, and spend it on educational expenses like tuition.

For many years, these accounts only applied to college-related expenses, but today, Republicans passed tax reform law in 2017. Families can now use those funds to pay K-12 costs too.

Because why would we want to hurt somebody? Maybe they were in a bad school district or have other reasons.

We want everybody in America to have that opportunity. That was a big win for all families—Republican, Democrat, Green Party, didn’t matter.

Under current law, 529 savings accounts cannot be used for K-12 book costs, tutoring expenses for when kids fall behind and we want them to be able to catch up, fees for college admission exams—anybody that has a child at that age knows how much is spent on all of the exams—or to pay for educational therapy for students with disabilities.

Wouldn’t everybody want to help that child with disabilities? I believe so. The action of the committee proves that the Democrats in the committee said that, and every member on the Republican side said that. I was proud of that.

But, unfortunately, special interest has more power. This is why, to me, I have real concerns on this bill. The official bill report is fantastic, what came out of committee. But when it got to the Democratic leadership, I guess they didn’t quite do as much.

Now, I shouldn’t be shocked, because I was sitting in this well last week with the same dilemma. Another committee, Energy and Commerce, was dealing with a really important issue, much like what we are dealing with today, prescription drugs. And what happened was that both sides agreed on how to make prescription drug prices lower and give Americans more options, and they all voted for it. But it went right through that leadership, Madam Speaker, on the other side, and special interest won again. They put a poison pill in, so that will never become law.

Madam Speaker, because special interest pressured this leadership to change this bill, it is a poison pill. To me, it says three things very clearly.

It seems to me that the Democratic leadership is not the same Democratic leadership that I knew in the past. There are people on the other side of the aisle who call themselves Socialist Democrats. It seems to me that they want institutions, not individuals, to be focused on education funding. They want partisan interests, not parents, to decide how children learn. And they want the Federal Government, not families, to have control over their money.

But that is not what the American people want. The American people want exactly what happened in that committee, exactly the power that brought all the Republicans and all the Democrats together. They don’t want special interests to continue to run this House.

The committee proved they could stand up. Whom did they stand up for? Those who need it the most: the parents of children with disabilities, leveling the playing field so every child has an opportunity when it comes to education.

Of all the issues that could divide us, Madam Speaker, I don’t understand why the leadership did that to the Ways and Means Committee. I don’t think that is right for the work that the chairman and the ranking member put in. We deserve better. We displayed that we could be better. Unfortunately, special interests won over the parents, and that is wrong.

Mr. Neal. Madam Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. Kildee).

Mr. Kildee. Madam Speaker, I thank the chairman for yielding and for his leadership on bringing this important legislation to the floor.

We all have different plans. But this bill really does. It provides Americans who work hard access to retirement with dignity and respect. It allows workers who don’t have
access to retirement accounts—including home healthcare workers, part-time workers, as well as multiple employers—to have access to retirement accounts.

The SECURE Act fixes this. This is an important step forward in providing much-needed retirement security for so many Americans. It encourages small employers to develop 401(k) plans. It helps build our workforce by allowing apprentices to access to college savings accounts to cover the cost of post-high school training necessary for their training for their chosen trade. This is a big step forward for those workers.

Finally, Madam Speaker, I appreciate the fact that this bill also addresses some of the many oversights of the 2017 Republican tax bill, including addressing how children are taxed, especially Tribal children.

This is a good bill, and I support it.

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

Mr. NEAL. Madam Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentlewoman from Florida (Mrs. MURPHY), who was instrumental on a provision allowing long-term, part-time workers to participate in 401(k) plans.

Mrs. MURPHY. Madam Speaker, if you spend your life working hard, then you should have the dignity of a secure retirement. That is why I rise today in strong support for the SECURE Act, a bipartisan proposal that will help more Americans retire with dignity and with a higher quality of life. It allows older Americans to continue to invest more and for longer in their traditional IRAs so that they can get a greater ROI on their hard-earned money.

It also contains a provision I authored requiring employers to allow long-term, part-time employees to participate in a company’s 401(k) plan. This change will especially help women, as women are more likely than men to be long-term, part-time workers.

Finally, the SECURE Act fixes a mistake the Republicans made last Congress when they rammed through their partisan tax giveaway to corporations and the wealthy. In doing so, they inadvertently raised taxes on Gold Star children and families.

As we fix this problem today, I hope this body remembers that process matters and that a bad process leads to unintended consequences that hurt everyday Americans. I am glad that we can undo some of that damage today.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support the SECURE Act, which is a good piece of bipartisan legislation that helps countless American families.

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

Mr. NEAL. Madam Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Connecticut (Mr. LARSON), who was very instrumental on a provision related to benefits to volunteer firefighters and emergency medical responders.

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. Madam Speaker, I rise today to support the SECURE Act and commend Chairman Neal and Republican Leader BRADY for the outstanding work on this, as well as our colleagues ROX KIND and MIKE KELLY. I also want to single out Dave Reichert, who is no longer here, and myself for the work that was done with regard to volunteers.

The provisions of this bill in terms of aid and assistance to rank-and-file citizens are leadership—and I thank Mr. NEAL again for those efforts—but specifically for volunteer firefighters, for EMTs, and for those who give selflessly in an opportunity to serve their communities. For the meager amounts of uniforms and whatever they received in compensation, to have that taxed was an insult. So I am proud, again, to make sure that this piece of legislation included an opportunity for volunteers all across this country. Twenty-three communities in my State have volunteers.

I thank the chairman again for his leadership.

Mr. BRADY. Madam Speaker, I continue to reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. NEAL. Madam Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. SCOTT), Chairman Bobby SCOTT is responsible for a number of very important provisions in this legislation.

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding.

I rise in support of the SECURE Act, a bipartisan proposal to address our Nation’s retirement security crisis. Several of the bill’s provisions are under the jurisdiction of the Committee on Education and Labor, and I would like to discuss two of them.

First, the SECURE Act makes it easier for small businesses to band together to form multiple employer plans. This is expected to increase workers’ access to retirement savings programs with potentially lower cost investment options.

Second, the SECURE Act includes a carefully and narrowly tailored safe harbor for the selection of an annuity provider for 401(k) plans. This limited safe harbor is intended to ease employers’ concerns about their fiduciary liability and to expand workers’ access to annuities and other lifetime income options.

I thank Chairman NEAL and Ranking Member BRADY for their leadership, and I urge my colleagues to support the SECURE Act.

Mr. BRADY. Madam Speaker, I continue to reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. NEAL. Madam Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. MALINOWSKI).

Mr. MALINOWSKI. Madam Speaker, I rise today to express my strong support for the bipartisan SECURE Act. This bill will enable hundreds of thousands of working and middle-class Americans to retire with the dignity they deserve.

According to the AARP, 72 percent of New Jersey’s workers say they are anxious about having enough money to live comfortably through retirement, and 86 percent of workers without access to a retirement savings account would take advantage of one if available.

Madam Speaker, 1.7 million people in New Jersey work for employers that do not provide access to a retirement plan. So this year, our State passed a law requiring businesses with 25 or more employees to have a retirement savings program. The SECURE Act will make it much easier for small- and medium-sized businesses in New Jersey to meet this requirement by allowing them to pool together to create multi-employer plans. It also expands access to retirement accounts for home healthcare workers, a rapidly growing sector of our economy.

Passing this bill today will go a long way toward helping Americans retire with peace of mind. I am grateful for the bipartisan support, and I urge my colleagues to back the bill.

Mr. BRADY. Madam Speaker, I continue to reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. NEAL. Madam Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentlewoman from Virginia (Mrs. LURIA) and thank her particularly for her critical leadership in preventing an unfair and unexpected tax burden from being imposed on the children of our fallen soldiers.

Mrs. LURIA. Madam Speaker, we are all in Congress because we see room for improvement in America, especially for our servicemembers, veterans, and our military families. As a 20-year Navy veteran myself, I know it is not just the brave men and women who fight for America, but also the families who support them every step of the way.

When Gold Star widows from Virginia Beach contacted me about how their tax bills jumped thousands of dollars as a result of the 2000 tax law, I knew I had to do something. That is why I took action to introduce the bipartisan Gold Star Family Tax Relief Act, which fixes the unintended tax hike that many Gold Star families experienced.

A number of families across our coastal Virginia district have shared their stories about how this tax law changed their lives. One woman, the widow of a Navy SEAL killed in Afghanistan, saw the taxes on her son’s benefits rise by $4,000 in 2016, another by $6,000, and another by $2,500.

What this tax bill did to Gold Star families was wrong, but I have been heartened to see so many of my colleagues join me in a bipartisan effort to right these wrongs. As of today, we have 155 cosponsors and received endorsements of 20 veterans service organizations.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Ms. DEGETTE). The time of the gentleman woman has expired.
Mr. NEAL. Madam Speaker, I yield the gentlewoman from Virginia an additional 1 minute.

Mrs. LURIA. Madam Speaker, with this momentum, we can fix a problem that has impacted so many heroic families and ensure security for their survivors.

I include in the RECORD a letter signed by 20 veterans service organizations in support of the Gold Star family tax provisions included within the SECURE Act.

Hon. Elaine Luria, House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

Dear Congresswoman Luria: As leaders of the major veterans, military and survivor organizations, we are pleased to offer our support for H.R. 2981, the Gold Star Family Tax Relief Act.

Surviving spouses of service members who die in the line of duty and military retirees who die from service-connected wounds, illnesses, or injuries are entitled to Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (DIC) benefits from the Department of Veterans Affairs. Survivors who paid into the Department of Defense Survivor Benefits Plan (SBP) have a dollar-for-dollar offset of their DIC benefits by the amount of DIC benefits received. To avoid the SBP/DIC offset, surviving spouses sign over their SBP benefits to their children to ensure the family receives both earned benefits.

Due to a recent change in tax law, known as the “Kiddie Tax,” Gold Star families who were formerly obligated to pay 12 to 15 percent in taxes on their earned benefits are now being taxed up to 37 percent, leaving them thousands of dollars in tax debt. This important bill would rightfully repeal the Kiddie Tax and reinstate military survivor benefits to the current tax rate.

Thank you again for your leadership on this issue. We look forward to working with you and your staff to pass this important legislation immediately.

Sincerely,

Robert Wallace, Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States; Bonnie Carroll, Tragedy Assistance for Survivors of Service Members and Veterans, Inc.; Parriet Boyden, Gold Star Wives of America; Joseph R. Cenelli, AMVETS; Louis Celli, The American Legion; Joyce Wessel Raezer, National Association of County and City Officials; Carl Blake, Paralyzed Veterans of America; Keith A. Reed, Air Force Sergeants Association; John Cho, AMSUS, the Society of Federal Health Professionals; James T. Currie, Commissioned Officers Assn. of the US Public Health Service, Inc.; Norman Rosenhein, Jewish War Veterans of the USA; Vincent Patton III, Non Commissioned Officers Assn. of the United States of America; R. Paul Reid, USCG Chief Petty Officers Association; Catherine Ritter, Seal Beach, California; Christopher C. Koons, Association of the United States Navy; Carol Sotol搭udisco, Chief Warrant Officers Association of the US Coast Guard; Thomas W. Howlett, Marine Corps Reserve;

Kara Getz, Andrew Grossman, Beth Bell, Aruna Kalyanam, Mary Petrovic, Edward Sabot, Richard Branson, Henry Ford, all with learning disabilities, all of whom are saying they will pass laws and make sure our government acts in the best interests of the American people, not entrenched special interests.

It is unfortunate that every word there was stomped on this week by special interest groups that forced our Democratic friends to make changes to a bill that would help children and parents with costs associated with schools.

The Tax Cuts and Jobs Act allowed parents to save tax-free for schools from kindergarten through 12th grade, and these bipartisan reforms that were stripped from this bill would have allowed parents to use their education savings dollars for homeschooling and additional kindergarten through 12th grade expenses at public, private, and religious schools.

In over 5 years, no one spotted this unintended consequence. When it surfaced, Republicans and Democrats came together immediately and resolved to not just fix it but to make it retroactive.

Why make this a petty, partisan issue? Our Gold Star parents deserve better.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

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

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

Madam Speaker, I am proud that, last session, Republicans and Democrats came together to pass a retirement security bill. It will not have been possible twice because we knew how important this was. I was chairman, and I was proud to help lead that effort.

This year, I am the proudest leader of the Republicans on the Ways and Means Committee to work with Chairman Neal again to make it even better to try to help families save.

But I am disappointed in the process after it left the committee, through no fault of Chairman Neal’s. Just 2 months ago, we heard Democratic lawmakers sit in that seat and say they will work to restore the people’s faith that government works in the public’s interest. They said they will pass laws and make sure our government acts in the best interests of the American people, not entrenched special interests.

It is beyond me how an education association can oppose parents using their own savings to help their child reach their highest potential. But I don’t fault them. I fault the lawmakers who are beholden to them, who removed these provisions.

This bill deserves support, and I will strongly support it, but I am terribly disappointed.

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

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

As I close, I want to take a moment to celebrate this truly bipartisan process that brought this legislation to the floor today.

First, I want to thank the Democratic members and Republican members of the Committee on Ways and Means, and, in particular, I want to thank Mr. Brady for his good work along the way.

I also want to acknowledge that there is more work to be done in the leadership space in terms of retirement savings, and I am hopeful that we will be able to do that as well.

Let me acknowledge Mr. Roe, Mrs. Trahan, Mrs. McMorris Rodgers, Ms. Blunt Rochester, Mr. Walberg, Mr. Kennedy, Mr. Banks, Mr. Pocan, Mr. Budd, Mrs. Luria, and Mr. Bacon.

Certainly, its highest potential. But home stretch in closing, I want to acknowledge much of the good work that has taken place by staff members on both sides as well. But let me cite on the Democratic side, if I could—this was a pretty big bill, and it required a team effort. One Democratic staff, including Kara Getz, Andrew Grossman, Beth Bell, Aruna Kalyanam, Mary Petrovic, and Lee Slater all did yeomen and

search to find the right learning tools, the effective therapies, and the trained tutors to help their challenged children learn.

Apparently, for our teachers’ union, that was wrong. They moved effectively to block the ability of parents to help their kids, whether they are gifted, whether they have learning disabilities, whether they need that tutor, or whether a child is severely challenged, mentally and physically, and needs that help.

I hope we have to fear from parents who want to help their kids and use their own dollars for it?

What would our Nation be if denied the genius of Steven Spielberg who overcame dyslexia as a child or CNN anchor Anderson Cooper whose parents hired a special instructor to help him overcome his learning disabilities?

Where we would be without business leaders like Steve Jobs, Charles Schwab, Richard Branson, or Henry Ford, all with learning disabilities, all who have made amazing contributions to our country?

Blocking these provisions is not proeducation, and there is no way it is prochild.
yeowomen’s work in making sure that we would get to this day.

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

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Madam Speaker, I arise to speak in support of the “Setting Every Community Up for Retirement Enhancement Act of 1994.”

H. R. 1994, the Setting Every Community Up for Retirement Enhancement Act, helps Americans to save more for a secure retirement and delivering a urgently needed fix for Gold Star military families facing drastic tax hikes under the GOP tax scam.

This legislation:

- Makes it easier for small businesses to offer retirement plans to their employees;
- Ensures that hard-working home health care workers can receive retirement benefits; and,
- Eliminates the unexpected and unfair enormous tax increases caused by the GOP tax scam that were on the survivorship benefits of children in Gold Star military families already facing the extraordinary hardship of losing a loved one.

The houses of our fallen heroes sometimes sign over earned benefits to their children to ensure the family receives all benefits.

This bill will help Gold Star Families who are being taxed unfairly by the Trump Tax Cut.

But because the new Republican tax law brought changes to how children’s assets are taxed, many Gold Star Families are required to pay thousands of additional dollars in taxes on survivor benefits—a crushing blow to families who have already given so much to our country.

Prior to the Trump Tax Cut Scam, money given by the military to the children of troops who died on duty were taxed at the same rate as their surviving parents.

But under Trump’s tax cuts the changes included in the December 2017 tax law overhaul, those benefits were instead treated the same as family estate transfers, which increased the tax rate from no more than 15 percent to up to 37 percent.

This change significantly raised the tax bills for many of those military families.

It is important to provide these needed changes to protect Gold Star Families, and I look forward to the additional changes that are under way to help others hurt by the inequity of the Trump tax hike for the very rich.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. All time for debate has expired.

Pursuant to House Resolution 389, the previous question is ordered on the bill, as amended.

The question is on the engrossment and third reading of the bill.

The bill was ordered to be engrossed and read a third time, and was read the third time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 1(c) of rule XIX, further consideration of H.R. 1994 is postponed.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the unfinished business is the question on agreeing to the Speaker’s approval of the Journal, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

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

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 223, nays 194, answered “present” 2, not voting 12, as follows:

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ANSWERED “PRESENT”—2

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NOT VOTING—12

Armstrong    Herrera Beutler    Kaptur

Armstrong (GA) Jackson Lee    King

Gohmert      Jeffries         Staubaer

Gozar        Johnson (LA)     Stivers

□ 1104

MESSRS. CROW, VAN DREW, AND MS. OCASIO-CORTES CHANGED THEIR VOTE FROM “NAY” TO “YEA.” SO THE JOURNAL WAS APPROVED. THE RESULT OF THE VOTE WAS ANNOUNCED AS ABOVE REPORTED.

SETTING EVERY COMMUNITY UP FOR RETIREMENT ENHANCEMENT ACT OF 2019

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 1(c) of rule XIX, further consideration of the bill (H.R. 944) to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to encourage retirement savings, and for other purposes, will now resume.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

MOTION TO RECOMMIT

Mr. McHENRY. Madam Speaker, I have a motion to recommit at the desk.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is the gentleman opposed to the bill?

Mr. McHENRY. Yes, in its current form.
Israel? To destroy Israel, to choke off fare. We will stand with our ally, and will not stand for this economic war—today that we as the American people ism is anti-Semitism.

But what the BDS movement says is that you are anti-Semitic. What you say by supporting the BDS movement is that you are okay with discriminating against people because of their faith; you are okay discriminating against the Jewish people because you don’t like—well, let me stop there.

This body has a long history of working together in a bipartisan fashion. I have worked for 3 years to hammer out a bipartisan approach to stopping the BDS movement. That got rolled into the bill that was passed in January in the Senate.

Seventy-seven Senators joined altogether and sent a bill over here to the House. We have waited 4 months, with no vote on that bill, and it is not because we don’t have bipartisan support to stop the BDS movement. We do. We do.

In this Chamber, we have stood together in a bipartisan forum to stand against hate and to stand against anti-Semitism, but the leadership over there doesn’t want us to have a vote on that bill.

So, today, we are saying let’s have the vote. Let’s stand up for the State of Israel. Let’s stand against hate. Let’s stand up against this anti-Zionism and the anti-Semitism that underlies it. Let’s stand up for our Jewish friends and allies, and let’s speak with one voice that the BDS movement is anti-Semitism.

Vote “yes” on this motion to recommit. Madam Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time in opposition to the motion to recommit.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from North Carolina is recognized for 5 minutes in support of his motion.

Mr. MCHENRY. Madam Speaker, this is a final amendment to the bill. This amendment will not kill the bill or send it back to the Senate. If adopted, the bill will immediately proceed to final passage, as amended.

You know the drill on a motion to recommit. I stand here before the House today to get an affirmative vote that we stand together against the anti-Semitic notion of the BDS movement.

The BDS movement is an effort to weaponize the world’s economy against one simple State, one State, the great State of Israel and the Jewish people. They are using our economy, our dollars, against our only ally in the Middle East that is a democracy.

This is an effort for us today—today—to say that we will stand against this movement. This movement is about anti-Zionism. Anti-Zionism is a war.

Let us speak with one clear voice today that we as the American people will not stand for this economic warfare. We will stand with our ally, and we will stand with the Jewish people in the Israel State.

Why weaponize our economy against Israel? To destroy Israel, to choke off economic growth, to choke off economic opportunity, and thereby weaken the State of Israel so they get rolled into the sea.

That is unacceptable. That is the notion of the BDS movement.

It may be polite in certain company to say you boycott, you divest, you sanction the State of Israel. It is not polite to say that you are anti-Semitic.

The BDS movement is an effort to weaponize the world’s economy against a one simple State, one State, the great State of Israel that is a democracy.

They are trying to weaponize our economy against one simple State, one State, the great State of Israel so they get rolled into the sea.

Let me just say to the new Members on our side: This is a safe provision. For years, I wore a bracelet for the refugees who wished from Russia to emigrate to Israel. There is no weakness on our part in support of the State of Israel on this side of the aisle.

You have a chance to stand up right now for retirement savings for those who have lost loved ones in military conflict, to stand up for Tribal interests, to stand up for those who receive scholarships, and to continue help for those families who are in financial distress because they lost a loved one in a military conflict.

Set aside the demagoguery, and turn down this motion to reconcommit.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the previous question is ordered on the motion to reconcommit.

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion to reconcommit.

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

Mr. MCHENRY. Madam Speaker, I demand a recorded vote.

A recorded vote was ordered.

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

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 200, noes 222, not voting 9, as follows:
So the motion to recommit was announced as above recorded.

The result of the vote was announced as yeas 229, nays 199, 1 present.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the passage of the bill.

The question was taken; and the SPEAKER pro tempore announced that the ayes had a majority, it being announced that the yeas and nays are ordered.

Mr. NEAL. 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 417, nays 3, not voting 11, as follows: [Roll No. 231]
HOUR OF MEETING ON TOMORROW

Ms. ESCOBAR. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that when the House adjourns today, it adjourn to meet at 11 a.m. tomorrow.

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

There was no objection.

HONORING LIEUTENANT COLONEL ROBERT EUGENE CHISOLM

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

Ms. ESCOBAR. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of an El Paso hero, Lieutenant Colonel Robert Eugene Chisolm, who was inducted yesterday into the 82nd Airborne Division’s All American Hall of Fame.

Colonel Chisolm, known affectionately as Colonel Bob back home, is a true role model of service to our Nation.

A combat veteran of three wars, Colonel Chisolm has a storied past. He made a combat parachute jump into Normandy on D-Day and another into Holland, where he would assume command of more than 80 men after higher ranked officers fell, earning him the only Legion of Merit awarded to a non-commissioned officer in World War II.


He was awarded the Silver Star and the Purple Heart, among other decorations, for his courage and leadership.

To Colonel Chisolm, whom I am so honored to know, we thank him for his incredible, courageous leadership and service, and I offer him my heartfelt congratulations.

IN CELEBRATION OF PEG MYRICK

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

Ms. SPANBERGER. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to celebrate my friend, my constituent, and my role model, Peg Myrick. I celebrate Peg here on the floor of the House of Representatives because her life and her example is one I would like to share with you, my colleagues.

Peg began her career as a teacher, reaching kids, impacting lives, but on Halloween 2016, Peg was diagnosed with colorectal cancer. With a life-changing terminal diagnosis, Peg committed herself to continuing her role as an educator, now acting as an ambassador for Fight Colorectal Cancer and educating others on the importance of screenings and understanding this disease.

As she has battled for her life, she shares her exuberant positivity with everyone, and she demonstrates in her daily life what it is to live for the minute, what it is to show love and life to those around you—to her family, to her friends—and she demonstrates a lesson I think we should all learn from, which is that we are all in this together. Through her positivity and her friendship, she endeavors to lift up everyone around her.

100TH ANNIVERSARY OF PASSING HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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

Mr. RESCHENTHALER. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize the 100th anniversary of the passing of the 19th Amendment in the U.S. House of Representatives.

One hundred years ago this week, right here on the House floor, Members began the process to recognize women’s right to vote.

Pennsylvania, my home State, became the seventh State to ratify the Amendment, only 20 days after it passed the U.S. Senate.

One hundred years later, we honor the idea that our democracy works best when everyone participates. One hundred years later, we recognize those who devoted their lives to representing with transparency and representative of all its people, regardless of ethnicity or religious beliefs. However, 10 years later, these essential rights have yet to be fully recognized.

Mr. Speaker, while it is true that the Sri Lankan government has made some progress towards fulfilling its commitments at the U.N. Human Rights Council, I rise to urge the Sri Lankan Government to make meaningful progress on all fronts to restore democratic principles for all Sri Lankans and ensure the country can move forward as a unified, prosperous nation.
this worthy cause, such as Susan B. Anthony, Elizabeth Cady Stanton, and Ida B. Wells.

We all have different perspectives, and by engaging with each other, we can develop the best policies to benefit all Americans and all freedom-loving people around the world.

REMEMBERING MAMA LILA CABBIL

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

Ms. TLAIB. Mr. Speaker, earlier this month, community members came together to celebrate the life of Lila Cabbil, affectionately known as Mama Lila, or Ms. Cabbil, a dedicated and well-known activist and a member of our community.

With genuine respect for her legacy, we join with the community in celebrating Ms. Cabbil, remembering the impact she continues to have on so many people and sharing her strength and will among her family. She will be sincerely missed and long remembered. Mama Lila lived to serve and advocate for a better quality of life for her community.

Born in North Carolina and raised in Detroit, Michigan, Mama Lila possessed a strong sense of justice and willingness to stand against injustices. She became involved with the civil rights movement and was a close friend of Rosa Parks.

Mama Lila soon became a prominent leader in the movement, becoming the president of the Rosa and Raymond Parks Institute for Self Development. She has been a tireless advocate for economic and social justice, as well as for food and water justice in the city of Detroit.

In addition, Mama Lila has served as an educator for younger generations, advocating for greater social awareness and sensitivity. She facilitated dialogue across cultures and built relationships in order to address systematic oppression and combat racism.

We offer our words of praise as a memorial for Mama Lila. May her family find comfort in their faith and their memories of this fine person and her distinguished life.

CONDEMNING ATTACK ON CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES

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

Mr. JOYCE. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to address the latest action my colleagues from across the aisle have taken to blow up what was a perfectly good piece of legislation in the sake of scoring political points.

The SECURE Act was a great piece of legislation that would have allowed Americans to expand the benefits of 529 education savings plans. It would have also allowed students with disabilities to be able to use their 529 savings accounts to pay for critical therapy options outside of the traditional classroom. But Democrats struck this commonsense provision down before bringing the bill to the floor today.

How can my colleagues across the aisle justify limiting the resources that children with disabilities have at their disposal to get a chance to live? As a father of a child with disabilities, I know how difficult it is to allow disabled children to receive the services that they deserve and that they need. Having flexible payment mechanisms to enhance these opportunities to access therapies opens doors that are otherwise closed.

Mr. Speaker, I condemn my colleagues across the aisle for their attack on children with disabilities.

COMMEMORATING 19TH AMENDMENT CENTENNIAL

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

Mr. HECK. Mr. Speaker, it was, indeed, 100 years ago in this very room that the House of Representatives passed the 19th Amendment to the United States Constitution, granting women the right to vote.

The vote was here, but the work was out there, because the fact is the victory was due in no small part to the countless trailblazers who championed women suffrage throughout the decades.

Many of those trailblazers called home that which I call home: the Pacific Northwest. That included activists like Emma Smith DeVoe of Tacoma and Mary Arkwright Rutton of Spokane. It was because of their efforts that Washington State became the fifth State in the Union to enact women suffrage in 1910. These efforts built the momentum to pass and ratify the 19th Amendment nearly a decade later.

But the point is, as we celebrate this anniversary, let us not allow the progress we have made beget complacency; because the long, hard-fought battle for equality and representation spans generations and continues to this very day.

Let’s continue to affirm those principles as we recognize and commemorate the 100th anniversary of women’s right to vote.

REMEMBERING THE LIFE OF MIGUEL LORENZO HOLMES

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

Mr. CARTER. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to remember the life of Mr. Miguel Lorenzo Holmes, who passed away at the age of 22 on May 6 while serving his country in Afghanistan.

The First Congressional District of Georgia was home for Mr. Holmes, but he also stationed there as part of the 48th Infantry Brigade Combat Team in Savannah.

He was raised in Hinesville, in the First District, close to his grandparents, where he attended Bradwell High School. There, he entered the Fort Stewart Youth Challenge Academy, which inspired him to join the National Guard.

He passed away after being wounded in Nangarhar province of Afghanistan. This is a sobering reminder of the danger that soldiers face while working to make our country and world a better place to live.

I thank all who serve. And friends will be in my thoughts and prayers during this most difficult time.

BENEFITS FOR ALL SERVICEMEMBERS

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

Mr. PAPPAS. Mr. Speaker, I rise on behalf of thousands of American heroes who may be unjustly denied the opportunity to serve the country they love.

Last month, the administration’s discriminatory ban on transgender military service took effect, telling 15,000 Active-Duty servicemembers they don’t belong in uniform. That is completely unacceptable.

And now these brave patriots are worried not just about the loss of a career that they love, but also about the loss of healthcare benefits they have earned through years of service and sacrifice.

That is why, yesterday, I was proud to introduce the SERVE Act. My legislation will enshrine into law a simple pledge to every veteran that they will receive the benefits they deserve no matter how they identify or whom they love.

Americans willing to lay down their lives for our country are entitled to honor and dignity. That is a basic promise we make to everyone who puts on the uniform, and we can never go back on that promise.

CONGRATULATING BLOOMINGTON SCHOOL DISTRICT 87

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

Mr. LAHOOD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Bloomington Public School District 87, in Bloomington, Illinois, on being named one of the 2019 U.S. Department of Education Green Ribbon School District and receiving a District Sustainability Award.
Bloomington Public School District 87 is one of only 14 schools across the country to receive this award, which recognizes schools and districts for their innovative efforts to provide a healthy, safe, sustainable, and efficient learning environment.

The most exciting thing that happened in May was that my 2014 and 2015 legislative colleagues and I had the opportunity to speak with Bloomington Junior High School students and faculty, which is reflected in this poster, to see firsthand the innovative work District 87 schools are doing to facilitate more resource-efficient schools.

Bloomington Public School District 87 continues to lead the way in Illinois. Their resource-efficient practices let teachers and administrators dedicate more resources to student instruction rather than operational costs.

Students deserve the opportunity to achieve their full potential in the classroom, and Bloomington Public School District 87 continues to give McLean County students that opportunity. I am especially grateful to Chairman Exergel and Ranking Member McCaul for their leadership and want to, once again, congratulate them on this prestigious honor.

**SECURING RESTROOMS IN REFUGEE CAMPS**

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

Ms. Meng. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in gratitude that my bill, H.R. 615, the Refugee Sanitation Facility Safety Act, unanimously passed the House. I thank my colleagues for their support.

I am especially grateful to Chairman Exergel and Ranking Member McCaul for their leadership and support of this critical bill to ensure the protection of women and girls.

While refugee camps are intended to serve as a temporary refugee from war, refugees often feel that they have been followed by the very violence rising insecurity that caused them to flee their home countries in the first place. Women and girls, in particular, face high levels of sexual assaults, and the infrastructure of camps fall to protect against these already-vulnerable populations.

Refugee camps around the world don’t provide safe and secure access to sanitary, facilities, and those that exist are often mixed sex, public, and without locks or well-lit paths.

Many women and girls so fear using the bathroom at night that they develop urinary tract infections, are forced to relieve themselves in their tents, or are unable to change their clothes for weeks.

Refugee camps have failed to provide commonsense solutions to protect refugees from sexual assault in sanitation facilities. This legislation aims to fix that by requiring U.S. refugee funding facilities. This legislation aims to fix that by requiring U.S. refugee funding.

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**Honoring Those Who Made the Ultimate Sacrifice on Memorial Day**

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

Mr. Guest. Mr. Speaker, our nation has been built on democratic ideas. Over the course of our nation’s history, these principles have been threatened by forces that do not share our ideas of democracy. Due to the heroic efforts of the men and women of our military, our nation has stood against these threats.

Memorial Day is the time to honor these men and women who gave their lives in defense of our country and the blessings of liberty that we enjoy today. This Memorial Day, I hope that all will join me in remembering the soldiers who laid down their lives for this nation and to celebrate the rights, liberties, and institutions that they preserved.

**Honoring the Life of Code Talker Fleming Begaye, Sr.**

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

Mr. O’Halleran. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of a selfless hero and warrior, Mr. Fleming Begaye, Sr., a Navajo code talker. He served our nation during World War II and passed away last week in Chaline, Arizona.

He served with his fellow marines from 1943 to 1945 in the Battle of Tarawa and the Battle of Tinian, some of the bloodiest battles in the Pacific theater. He was wounded serving our nation.

Mr. Begaye returned home and became a businessman and farmer in Chaline, where he raised his family.

We must never forget the service of these brave code talkers. They sacrificed so much for our nation.

My prayers are with Mr. Begaye’s family, and I know he has been reunited with his sweetheart, Helen.

**Condemning Female Genital Mutilation**

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

Mr. Perry. Mr. Speaker, I stand in support of H. Res. 106, which condemns female genital mutilation, or cutting, as a violation of the human rights of women and girls and calls for a coordinated response from the United States Government and the international community to end this horrific and abhorrent practice.

I am proud of the bipartisan effort that has gone into this resolution, and I want to thank Representative Lois Frankel from Florida for coleading this resolution with me, which gives us the opportunity to bring renewed attention to the harm that FGM causes innocent girls and highlights the actions needed to eliminate this unspeakable act.

As the House considers this resolution, there are over 200 million women and girls alive today who have been affected by FGM. This year alone, an estimated 3 million girls are at risk of being mutilated. This despicable practice simply must end.

I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this effort to condemn and end FGM in the United States and across the globe. There is much more work that must be done to combat FGM, and I hope that we continue this bipartisan work.

**CRIMES AGAINST UIGHUR POPULATION**

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

Ms. Omar. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak out against the horrifying crimes against humanity that China is currently committing against the Uighur population.

About a million Uighur Muslims have been detained in so-called reeducation camps in China. Reports from the camps are scarce, but they indicate that physical and psychological torture is taking place.

These are the precursors to genocide. We have the power to act.

According to reports in The Atlantic, 22 Uighur Muslims with no known anti-American sentiments were detained at Guantanamo in late 2001 and kept there for 12 years at the urging of the Chinese Government.

There are also known cases of Uighurs on the suspected terrorist watch list in the United States, and it is entirely possible they were added unfairly by the Chinese Government.

Reporting in The Wall Street Journal indicates that U.S. companies, including Coca-Cola, the Gap, and Kraft Heinz, are materially benefiting from the Uighur detention, and this must be investigated and prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law.

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police chief 91/2 years ago by Raymond's mayor, who said she "fit the bill as the perfect small-town officer."

Those who worked with her said she was always willing to do what she could to help out the village. She oversaw the Neighborhood Watch Program in Raymond, and she was a Montgomery County emergency management volunteer as well as a member of the Montgomery County search and rescue team. "There was nothing more important to Valerie than the safety of her community. Like most law enforcement officers, Valerie loved every day of her job, and she loved serving the people of Raymond. She made a profound impact on so many, and I know she will be greatly missed."

My prayers are with her two sons, Jake and Isaac, her family, and the entire town of Raymond during this difficult time.

NET NEUTRALITY

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

Mr. VAN DREW. Mr. Speaker, the internet without net neutrality isn't really the internet. Net neutrality is the way the internet should always work.

Net neutrality is essential to everything we need in our society and in our democracy, from educational and economic opportunities to political organizing and dissent. Keeping the internet free and open for all Americans is essential to the success of our Nation.

Earlier this year, we passed the Save Internet Act, which I voted for. I strongly believe in working in a bipartisan way to achieve and secure net neutrality to ensure Americans can thrive in the 21st century's information economy.

We must continue to work together to ensure that every American has unencumbered access to the internet in a free way, in an open way, in an honest way, and in an American way.

CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF GERALDINE ‘JERRY’ EMMETT

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

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. STANTON. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and to include extraneous material on the subject of this Special Order.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. STANTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with my fellow colleagues from Arizona to celebrate the life of a phenomenal woman. Geraldine Emmett, "Jerry" to most of us, was 104 years old when she passed away on April 30, 2019.

Many Americans got the chance to see Jerry spark in 2016 at the Democratic National Convention, where she served as an honorary delegate and, along with Congressman GALLEGLO, proudly announced our State's votes for Hillary Rodham Clinton.

But her influence on the democratic process started long before that. Part of what captured the attention of the rest of the country during the national convention is that Jerry symbolized just how far women's progress had come. She was born before the 19th Amendment granted women the right to vote. She lived through the civil rights movement, the women's liberation movement, and the women's suffrage movement.

She brought a sign to the convention that read "Centenarian for Hillary," a reminder that you can be politically active at any age.

Jerry represented the best of our State. She graduated from Northern Arizona University, and in her first job she instructed children with disabilities and chronic illness on the Navajo Reservation.

She served as a public schoolteacher in Arizona for 43 years and actively promoted civic engagement and participation. She was a pillar in Democratic politics in Arizona for decades.

Each of us here today had a chance to witness Jerry's profound influence on our State and our Nation.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. O'HALLERAN).

Mr. O'HALLERAN. Mr. Speaker, today, I join my colleagues to remember and honor a true patriot and someone I was honored to know and call a dear friend, Jerry Emmett.

Jerry lived a life of extraordinary dedication to serving the people of Arizona. She was a teacher for more than four decades. She was a passionate advocate for the rights of women and underrepresented groups.

I mourned with our State when she passed away last month at the age of 104.

Jerry inspired people from every corner of Arizona and across the Nation, and that will be her lasting legacy.

I am in awe of what she has seen and what she has accomplished in her lifetime. She witnessed history unfold, from the suffrage movement to the nomination of the first female President candidate.

At the national convention, the world saw Jerry as we all in Arizona knew her, full of life and zeal, and she proudly represented Arizona for such a historic moment.

I will never forget the wisdom she shared with me over the years. She was truly an inspiration to all of us, and I never left her side without learning something important.

We come together today to mourn her passing but also to remember all she has done for our State. My prayers are with her family and with all the admirers and students she shaped and inspired over the years.

Mr. STANTON. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from Arizona (Mrs. KIRKPATRICK).

Mrs. KIRKPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, no woman or person I have ever known has appreciated the right to vote quite like Jerry Emmett.

She was born at a time when being a woman meant being silenced. She was raised at a time when women had to fight to be heard and worked 10 times as hard to be taken seriously. She aged to see women become prominent and powerful, and she passed away the same year that we had the most women elected to Congress.

I remember the first time I met Jerry Emmett. She was very close friends with the late Carolyn Warner, our former superintendent of schools.

Jerry was always the teacher. I was a newly elected State legislator at a pivotal event, and Jerry and Carolyn were there.

Carolyn Warner said: Do you have a card?

I said: Oh, I don't have them with me right now.

Jerry Emmett said: Always keep your cards in your pocket.

So, Jerry, this is for you.

Mr. STANTON. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. GALLEGLO).

Mr. GALLEGLO. Mr. Speaker, I know I speak for my colleagues when I say that we all loved Jerry. How could you not love Jerry?

Her spirit and unwavering optimism and her love for our State and our party made her the quintessential Arizonan. She lived to 104 years old, and she really lived. She lived in a way that set an example for all of us.

Her life spanned some of the momentous times in our Nation’s history: the Great Depression, the fight for women’s suffrage, World War II, and the civil rights movement.

In 1944, when Jerry was born, women did not have the right to vote. Who could have thought then that a century later Jerry would announce our State’s delegates on the floor of the 2016 Democratic National Convention for the first time?

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In 1944, when Jerry was born, women did not have the right to vote. Who could have thought then that a century later Jerry would announce our State’s delegates on the floor of the 2016 Democratic National Convention for the first time?
Her son Jim recalled that her biggest lesson was: No matter what is going on at that time, as long as you keep hope, you keep believing things will change, and you are doing you best to help change, it will change.

Those words guided Jerry’s life. Those words have inspired me and should inspire us all as we keep fighting for the things we believe in.

We will miss you, Jerry.

Mr. GOHMERT. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the members of the Arizona delegation for those beautiful words about Jerry Emmett.

Now the rest of the country can see why she was such a treasure to those of us in Arizona and what an honor it was today to honor her life.

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

OUR SINGULAR AMERICAN REVOLUTION

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

Mr. GOHMERT. Mr. Speaker, it is wonderful to hear the great tributes to those who have served this country well, as we just heard. In fact, we have so many people to whom we should be eternally grateful.

As Abraham Lincoln said, they gave their last full measure of devotion for the freedom of this country, not for some cheap-shot, glibly before in Washington, D.C., that can’t figure out what it should do or not do, but for the idea of freedom.

I heard more discussion again recently about the Revolution. I have read a few new books I hadn’t read this year about the Revolution, the victory at Yorktown, and other aspects of the Revolution.

And, still, there are too many historians who wonder why there was such a dramatic difference between the outcome of the United States Revolution, 1775 to 1783, and the French Revolution which followed.

I think the historians have it right who have said that the key difference, the reason the U.S. Revolution lasted and was unlike the French, which resulted in so many heads being cut off and eventually resulted in a monarchy again, the key difference was that the U.S. Revolution was about liberty and freedom.

It wasn’t about vengeance. They weren’t out to cut off as many of the British heads as possible. It was about liberty. Unfortunately, too many in the French Revolution, not all, but too many in the French Revolution were about revenge and not about liberty.

So the great efforts of great heroes in France got hijacked. Many people lost their lives, and then they lost their effort to have a republican form of government, as we have had.

A lot of people don’t understand the difference between democracy and a republic. I think it is fair to say, as most historians do, we have a democratic republic.

Democracy would mean the majority always rules, and our Founders realized that sometimes you can have too much passion and not enough time for clear reflection. Especially among a majority that really doesn’t understand the total aspects and factors involved in a decision, selecting and electing representatives with majority votes, except for President.

We set up the electoral college so all States would have a say in who was President, not just the few that had the most people.

But all the other elections were about a majority—so a democracy—electing representatives to their government entities locally, State, and Federal. So, really, we have a democratic republic.

It is interesting, as we saw this week, the Speaker of the House getting ready to go meet with a President of the United States from the other party, and he really wanted to talk about infrastructure and making this country stronger.

I think probably most everybody on both sides of the aisle has seen the surveys regarding the permanent structures, the infrastructure of this country that helps tie us together as a nation, and most of the scores are D-minus, D, D-plus at best. And that is about all you see.

We are better in some areas than we are in others, but whether it is dams, bridges, or highways, we have a lot of infrastructure needs. And that is something that I would hope that we could come together on and work out, as those who went before us were able to do.

We are told in Proverbs that, where there is no vision, the people perish. And it is interesting, when you see towns that had community leaders with visions who could see certain things needed to be done to have a vibrant community 10, 50, 100 years later, you saw how blessed that community was to have leaders with vision.

You go to some communities, and you find, gee, they haven’t progressed very well. They seem to be eternally declining and holding on to what they have. Normally, you will find leaders in a community like that who have been spiteful, who didn’t want somebody else to get credit for what was being done. And they prevented a community from flourishing for years into the future just because they were small-minded and had petty differences and didn’t want somebody else to get the credit.

One of my heroes, Ronald Reagan, is often credited with the line that actually started the infrastructure for a great deal longer than President Reagan, but he used the line: It is amazing what you can get accomplished if you don’t care who gets the credit. And that has been true since the beginning here in Washington and, even before Washington became the capital, in Philadelphia and New York.

But the Speaker announced at a presidential, before going over to the White House to talk about infrastructure, that the President of the United States had been engaged in a coverup. We weren’t told a coverup of what. We were not told what was done to cover up.

“Coverup” is a very ingenious term to be using, almost as brilliant as the term “collusion,” because neither the term “collusion” nor “coverup” are crimes. There is no law that says it is a crime to cover up. There is no crime that says it is a violation of the law to collude.

So words like that have been chosen and used and repeated over and over again so that people think, “Oh, my goodness, crimes have been committed. There was collusion. There was a coverup.” Well, of what?

We now know that, after 2½ years of hearing about collusion with the Russian Government—and I am certainly no fan of Robert Mueller. He did more damage to the FBI than any FBI Director ever, including the worst of J. Edgar Hoover, when he was spying on Americans.

We had Mueller’s FBI that took innocent people, destroyed their lives. In the case of the longest serving Senator, Republican Senator, at the time, he even saw to it that he was convicted and sent to prison. There is no law that says it is a crime to cover up. And then that cost him the election.

And then he was killed in a plane accident that he would never have been involved in if Mueller’s FBI hadn’t framed him for a crime he didn’t commit and gotten him voted out of office right before or at his election. That was, of course, Senator Ted Stevens from Alaska.

And Dr. Hatfill, who Mueller accused of committing the crimes of murder using anthrax right after the 9/11 attacks. There was no evidence to support that Dr. Hatfill committed the crimes.

We are told that, at one point—though Mueller kept pursuing Hatfill and questioning his neighbors, telling the neighbors, through Mueller’s minions, that Hatfill had committed murder with anthrax and they needed to be careful and report anything. They basically ruined the Hatfill family’s lives.

But, at one point, President Bush is reported to have called him in and said: There is no evidence that Dr. Hatfill is the guy who did this. Are you sure? I mean, there is just no evidence. And Mueller stated: I am 100 percent certain.

So, when it turned out he was not the guy that had been involved with anthrax and should have been cleared—by anybody—but Mueller—Mueller was asked if he had any regrets about destroying the life of an innocent man. He said, “Absolutely not,” and never apologized.
Unfortunately, U.S. taxpayers paid millions of dollars in settlement for Mueller’s vindictiveness with no evidence.

Curt Weldon stood right here at this podium making speech after speech in my freshman term. This was obviously well after 9/11, I didn’t get here until 2005. But in 2005, 2006, he was talking about a program through which information had gotten to the FBI, and, according to Curt Weldon—Able Danger, I think, was the name of the program that identified some radical Islamist terrorists, wannabes, and that they were planning an attack in the United States.

And according to Curt Weldon’s speeches right here at this podium where I am standing, the FBI, if they acted, they probably could have prevented 9/11, but they didn’t act.

And I kept thinking: I don’t know if what he is saying is true, I was not familiar with the Able Danger program at that time. But what I kept thinking was: Gosh, these are really serious allegations about the leadership of the FBI. Surely Mueller is going to have to come out and address these allegations from Congressman Curt Weldon of Pennsylvania. And the FBI never publicly addressed those issues, not that I have been able to find.

But they did address them. Mueller’s FBI, in fact, raided Weldon’s adult daughter, a lawyer, her office, early in the Trump term. Gosh, somebody in the FBI committed a crime, apparently, and leaked it to the media so they could be there when the warrant was run early in the morning. And somebody alerted Democratic operatives. They had signs that morning around the office talking about, you know, Curt Weldon is caught red-handed, he is a thief, alleging all kinds of crimes.

It turns out he hadn’t committed any crimes at all. As it turns out, some months later, they notified the Weldon family they could come get all the stuff that Mueller’s FBI had collected during the raid. They were told: It has never been presented to a grand jury. We just did the raid. No prosecution, no grand jury, no indictment.

But since they did that 2 weeks before his election, he narrowly lost that election.

So it appeared to me pretty clear that in the way of responding to allegations that his FBI—and, in fairness to him, he hadn’t been there long before 9/11, so he had plausible deniability: “Gee, I just got there. I didn’t know about Able Danger at the time.” But, instead, what he chose to do was to have his FBI affect an election adversely, causing a critic to lose.

So these are all part of Robert Mueller’s background.

But even as much as he wanted to ruin Donald J. Trump, later President Trump, the guy that he begged for a second appointment as Director of the FBI, just shortly after he was begging Trump for appointment to Director of the FBI again and President Trump turned him down, he jumped at the chance to investigate and try to destroy the life of the sitting President who refused to hire him. And he spent 2 years, virtually 2 years, on it. I have seen $25 million, $35 million that Mueller spent.

Mueller took the unusual step of hiring people to assist him in the Special Counsel’s Office who hated Donald Trump. Normally, when there has been a special counsel of integrity, they know the people that they are going to be vilified, so they are careful to hire people that appear will be even-handed.

I can’t imagine any person of integrity actually hiring people who contributed to the opponent of the person to be investigated, who would go to what they hoped would be her victory party, who despised the man who got elected. It is surprising he would go out of his way to make sure that he hired people that hated President Trump, whom they were supposed to investigate.

But here again, the one good thing that I can say about Robert Mueller is—and he apparently served honorably and well in Vietnam, so I thank him for that service—the guy is consistent. When he decides he wants to destroy an innocent man, he gets after it.

Weissmann hated President Trump. These other folks that hate Trump, some of them still work at the FBI. Many of them have been fired and run out of the office by Director Don C. Trump. They should have had more than that happen, and hopefully they will.

But there was no crime committed. His report indicates that there were efforts by Russians to reach out and try to pull the Trump campaign into some type of conspiracy, but nobody in the Trump campaign took the opportunity that was presented by Russia, and there was no crime of conspiracy with Russians.

And then, as we go along, the more we find out, we find out that, actually, it is a whole lot worse than Mueller indicated. Mueller indicated no collusion, no conspiracy, no crime that anybody in the Trump campaign committed with Russian agents. But if Mueller had been the man of integrity that I would have hoped, he would have investigated those who did conspire with Russian agents.

Because, now, the information is coming out that the Clinton campaign had hired Fusion GPS. Perkins Coie law firm was helping them negotiate and work through some of these things, using their firm’s name in the conspiracy—it sure seems like a conspiracy to me—as they hired a now-disbarred former FBI agent who later worked for MI6. Christopher Steele, to do digging to try to find some tie between the Trump campaign and Russia, any kind of dirt they could get.

They tried to lure Don Trump, Jr., into some kind of deal. They said, gee, there is a Russian person who has all kinds of negative information about Hillary Clinton.

He agreed to meet and found right away that this is not what it was represented to be and got out of the meeting as quickly as he could.

Here again, Christopher Steele was hired, apparently through Fusion GPS, to dig up dirt, true or not true, about Donald Trump. Fusion GPS hired this fellow, disgraced intelligence agent, to dig, using Russian agents.

Fusion GPS also hired the spouse of one of the top FBI people, Bruce Ohr. That was his wife, Nellie. She was hired to dig up dirt, anything she could in Russia about Trump.

I didn’t realize until more recently that Christopher Steele was not even traveling to Russia to dig up this dirt. He was simply contacting people in Russia, trying to find somebody who had some dirt on Donald Trump.

Apparently, he has now recently indicated: You know what? I guess there is a good chance that the people I was talking to in Russia who gave the false information about Trump, yeah, they may have been working for Vladimir Putin.

It appears the evidence is now starting to come out, no thanks to Robert Mueller and the tens of millions of dollars wasted, the years he wasted. The truth is starting to come out, and it is making people who are in positions of power very uncomfortable.

We have heard Clapper and Brennan make really inappropriate statements for somebody who had been involved in our intelligence-gathering agencies. But it is appearing that it was probably Brennan—we will be finding out in the days ahead—who may have asked England’s intelligence agencies to spy on American citizens involved with the Trump campaign because our intelligence community is not authorized to spy on American citizens. So there may be a wink and a nod.

We need to get to the bottom of whether our intelligence community winks and nods, and says: Hey, we want to spy on our own citizens, but we are not allowed to legally. So how about you spy on these citizens, and we will spy on some for you in our country?

We need to know if that kind of thing has really gone on. If it has gone on, if there is a quid pro quo, we need to know. We need to know if some of our top intelligence officials have committed crimes. This is serious stuff.

It turns out there was no collusion, no conspiracy between anybody in the Trump campaign and Vladimir Putin or Russia. But it is appearing more and more that there was winks and nods by people associated with the Clinton campaign, Fusion GPS, Perkins Coie, Christopher Steele, potential agents of Vladimir Putin, to try to destroy Donald Trump before the election and possibly the elected.

We expect to see more coming out as some of the information that was classified is declassified. It appears now we...
are hearing, and we heard previously, that an Australian Ambassador had spoken to a member of the Trump campaign, just tangentially part of the campaign.

But what we have found out now is, apparently, that the Australian Ambassador warned Australia’s Washington Embassy that there was a coordinated effort to defeat Donald Trump, recruited to tell a tangential member of the Trump campaign that the Russians had Hillary Clinton’s emails. Then they said that same Trump marginal official up by asking him questions: Have you heard anything about Russia having information on Hillary?

He said: Well, yes. I heard that Russians had Hillary Clinton’s emails.

Then they used that information to help them get a warrant to spy on the Trump campaign. It was a total setup by potentially our intelligence community, potentially British MI6.

We have to get to the bottom of this. People who have committed crimes need to face the consequences.

In the meantime, there is all this animosity that has been stirred up against Donald Trump. Now we find out there was nothing to the collusion. He knew that he had not committed anything to prevent his presidency. He knew that this was all bogus. He was hearing rumors that if there was a conspiracy, it involved the other campaign.

What do you do? How do you act? I would submit, you act exactly as President Trump has acted, frustrated. He can’t believe that his own United States Government is trying to set him up and say that he committed some crime that he never committed. He can’t obstruct justice when he is doing everything he possibly can to ensure that justice gets done.

That is where we have been. We heard the roadblocks, the things that, oh gee, there was collusion. When that didn’t materialize, then: Well, there is a coverup.

No allegations other than just the general term “coverup.”

Clearly, efforts are being made in this city to prevent President Trump from being successful in getting legislation through this House and through the Senate that could become law and help the country.

Even on issues of securing our border, President Obama talked about the need to secure the border and stop illegal immigration. Senator Clinton had talked about the need to stop illegal immigration and secure the border. Most of the leaders on both sides of the aisle have talked about that at some point.

Why don’t we do it? Well, he would get credit for keeping a campaign promise, and apparently, it is more important to stop the President from keeping campaign promises than it is important to some to help the country.

What it reminded me of, as I thought back—and I have been here 14 years. Never expected to be here this long. I feel like I am kind of going to a scary movie. Get into it and I am sorry I went, but I can’t leave until I see how it turns out. I want to make sure that we get on a proper footing here.

I know in the 14 years that I have been here, I have not seen either party work so hard to prevent the other party’s President from being successful.

As I majored in history, I have never stopped studying history. American history is my favorite. I have tried to think back. When was the last time, if there ever was a time before, when one party worked so hard to prevent another party’s President from being successful and helping the country?

I think it probably goes back to John Quincy Adams’ days. John Quincy Adams, he was the first son of a former President to be elected President, and he did not get a majority of the vote. It ended up that he didn’t get a majority of the electoral college vote.

It was thrown here to the House of Representatives to decide, under the Constitution. Henry Clay, so beloved, and respected here in the House of Representatives, threw his support to John Quincy Adams.

I have studied John Quincy Adams, read a very thorough biography. I liked it. I chose it because it incorporated more of John Quincy Adams’ own journals, where he kept calling him JQA. John Quincy Adams, apparently, kept more of a journal than any President we have ever had. He started very young, and he went until the last few weeks of his life when he could no longer see to write.

I didn’t know until I read that, for example, that his last night at home before he came to the House floor to give a speech against the war with Mexico, because he was concerned that that would perpetuate slavery longer, that the reason he had run for the House of Representatives after being President was to try to do what William Wilberforce had done in England, and that was to prevent the other party from getting to power.

Wilberforce got it totally outlawed 3 days before he died in 1833. In 1830, that is what Adams thought he was supposed to do. That is why he ran for Congress.

The night before, he had a massive stroke. The next day, when he tried to stand up and speak against war with Mexico, he couldn’t see.

He couldn’t see. He couldn’t see. He couldn’t see. He could hear. He asked his precious wife if she would mind reading him any of William Wilberforce’s sermons. She chose one. She read it for him, and he finally dozed, listening to William Wilberforce’s sermon the last night he slept at home, before he had his massive stroke on the House floor here in the Capitol.

In 1824, John Quincy Adams was still a man of integrity. He was always a man of integrity. Some feel like it is possible that he was the smartest President he had ever had. Certainly, he was one of the top-educated Presidents we have ever had. He spoke a number of languages.

One thing he had in common with our current President, he is the only other President to have had a wife who was not born in America. Much like President Trump’s wife, John Quincy Adams’ wife spoke multiple languages, very fluent. She herself was brilliant. So we share that with the current First Lady.

John Quincy Adams even wrote some history books in German. His favorite foreign language was French. He was an amazing guy. He knew he was a man of integrity, and when studying his life, you figure out that he was a man of integrity.

He asked Henry Clay for his support. Henry Clay threw his support behind John Quincy Adams for President. That got him the votes in the House to win the Presidency.

When it came time to pick Cabinet members, President-elect Adams said that he believed the person who would make the best Secretary of State would be Henry Clay.

Those people who were close to him, who loved him, said, yes, he was right. He didn’t make a deal with Clay. He appointed Henry Clay to be Secretary of State.

If he appointed Henry Clay to be Secretary of State, it will look like he cut a deal with Clay in return for his support for him for President, which gave him the election. If he appointed Henry Clay to be Secretary of State, people would think he made an illegal deal.

He said: He is the best person for the job. I didn’t make any kind of deal with him. He threw his support behind me. I never mentioned Secretary of State to him. I never mentioned making him a Cabinet official, but I think he would be the best Secretary of State. People know I am a man of integrity. I wouldn’t do an illegal deal to be elected President, so they just need to get over it. He is the man who loved him, said, yes, he was right. He didn’t make a deal with Clay. He appointed Henry Clay to be Secretary of State.

He must have cut a deal with Henry Clay for his support for him for President. People who know me will know that I never made a deal, promised him Secretary of State in return for throwing his House support behind me. That is just a lie, and I am not going to be prevented from appointing the best man for Secretary of State by my fear about what somebody might think.

So he appointed Henry Clay to be Secretary of State, and people got really upset. There must have been a deal. He must have cut a deal with Henry Clay. In return for Henry Clay’s support that won him the Presidency, Henry Clay gets to be Secretary of State.

Anyway, apparently, there was no deal, but people thought there was. People felt like: This looks terrible. It looks like he made a deal. He must have made a deal. We know Adams is an honest guy, so if he made a deal with Clay, he probably would have kept his end of the deal.

There was no deal, but there were so many in the opposition party who were
As we know from the old adage, those who refuse to learn from history are destined to repeat it. Of course, I also grew up learning there is a corollary to that, that those who do learn from history will find new ways to screw up. We have seen both of those play out in this country. I am hoping it will come together, and we will be able to pass some of the critical legislation to secure our border and to get some infrastructure built so we don’t give a country to our children and grandchildren that has infrastructure crumbling and so much debt that they can’t afford to rebuild the infrastructure. We already know that we are the first generation in American history that didn’t have as our driving goal to give a country to our children better than we had it.

For Adams, there was a tariff that he couldn’t get much of anything done. There were even cases of Members of this House who were of the opposition party, the Democratic Party, there were Democrats who had already written and sponsored bills they desperately wanted to get passed. When John Quincy Adams threw his support behind the bills because he thought they were a good idea, the person who wrote the bill, sponsored the bill, withdrew his support. He did not want John Quincy Adams to get credit for passing some important bill.

He had some great ideas. He wanted a national observatory. He felt like it would be good to have a uniform system of weights and measurements. That had not happened. He wanted to create a new currency for the country. He wanted to have a code, a systemized national bankruptcy law.

Bankruptcy is mentioned in the Constitution. There were finally some laws passed before he was President, but it wasn’t a uniform national bankruptcy law as it needed to be.

He had some great ideas, but they weren’t passed because people did not want him to get credit. They were willing to hurt the country to prevent John Quincy Adams from having a great victory.

That is what went through my mind. Somebody may be able to find a case in which one party did everything it could to prevent a President from having any big sweep.

It is a little late. President Trump got a great tax bill. It wasn’t as good as I had hoped it would be, but it was helpful to the country overall. He got that passed, signed into law.

Hopefully, we are going to vote on the Mexico-Canada trade agreement. It is better than NAFTA was. Hopefully, we will get that done, and we won’t keep harming the country by failing to bring that for a vote.

For Adams was a tariff that was passed. That was about the biggest piece of legislation passed during his 4 years, but it didn’t even get enacted until Andrew Jackson took over as President.

So Adams, a man of integrity, was accused of making an illegal deal with Henry Clay to get himself elected President. The country suffered for 4 years. Those who despised John Quincy Adams, they were able to hurt the country for 4 years just to keep John Quincy Adams from having a major victory.

It is important to learn from history. As we know from the old adage, those mad about it, they just decided they were not going to let John Quincy Adams accomplish anything as President.

He was elected in 1824, sworn in, in 1825. His term was 1825 to 1829. He was defeated by Andrew Jackson and is feated fairly easily because people thought he had cheated to win by making a deal he didn’t make with Henry Clay.

During those 4 years—anyone can do the math—Adams couldn’t get much of anything done. There were even cases of Members of this House who were of the opposition party, the Democratic Party, there were Democrats who had already written and sponsored bills they desperately wanted to get passed. When John Quincy Adams threw his support behind the bills because he thought they were a good idea, the person who wrote the bill, sponsored the bill, withdrew his support. He did not want John Quincy Adams to get credit for passing some important bill.

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The debts continue to skyrocket, over $23 trillion now. We really need to come together on these important issues.

With regard to the President’s effort to try to secure the border, I continue to believe with all my heart, the most compassionate, caring thing we could do for the people of Mexico—and I was talking to the Ambassador from Guatemala yesterday. I sure like him. Guatemala of course, was the first country to immediately recognize Jerusalem as the capital of Israel, as it was 3,000 years ago, and should be and is today, and will be for the future. Guatemala had the courage to back us up on that. I am happy to see GPNP [Guatemala's President Jimmy Morales] think they are a good idea, the per-
Mr. Krikorian wondered whether the killing of the 14-year-old girl would receive much mention as the death of an illegal immigrant teen in Border Patrol custody this week.

There was a teen who died from an apparent flu.

That case prompted reporters to question Mr. Trump about what steps he would take.

"The antborder agents are quick to blame the Border Patrol for deaths that are out of their control, but rationalizes the crimes committed by people who would be removed if the law were enforced. There really is a double standard here."

"The D.C. area has long had a large Central American population, making it one of the top destinations for families and unaccompanied alien children involved in the surge. Prince George's, Fairfax, and Montgomery Counties are among the top 10 locations."

"More than 5,660 unaccompanied alien children have been placed with sponsors in Prince George’s County over the past 5 years, topping Fairfax at about 5,200 and Montgomery at about 4,300."

"The unaccompanied alien children have strayed schools and, security experts say, created a breeding ground for gang recruitment."

"Most of the Central Americans coming across the border are not criminals, but gangs have used this flow of people across their border to bring their members into the U.S., and others who weren't gang members in Central America have become gang members here," Mr. Krikorian said.

So it would really help if we could come together and the President wouldn't have to be building the wall without any help from a Democrat-controlled House.

It is a shame they want to do all they can to try to prevent the President from protecting the country, but we ought to learn a lesson from the damage that was done between 1825 and 1829 during the Presidency of John Quincy Adams, and we ought to come together, get the border secure.

Let's not have any amnesties until the border is secure, then we can talk about them, debate them. But every time we talk about amnesty—I got a picture this week from a friend on the border, a 6-year-old and an 8-year-old, unaccompanied children, yet we are told: Oh, no. We are doing this DACA amnesty because the children were brought into the United States by their parents, and so these children were drug into the United States without their choices, and so we need to give them legal status.

And yet you have got a 6-year-old and an 8-year-old that are coming in, as my friend across the aisle said yesterday: Well, they don't come in without their parents. The parents weren't with them. The parents weren't with them, forcing them.

We also have been hearing that, since there is so much fuss made about allowing people to stay that had children with them, the children have now become a negotiable commodity. I have been here when children were passed back and forth between different adults—you know, who is going to claim these kids—and they are waiting for the border patrolmen to get down to them so they can answer the questions.

But the drug cartels have figured out, the gangs have figured out—gangs are often paid to bring people in illegally, and the gangs get paid by the drug cartels because, as we know, every inch of the border of the United States is controlled by some drug cartels, so the gangs make money, the drug cartels make money by bringing people in. And since they have learned they have a better chance of staying in if they bring somebody's kid with them, then more kids are coming in now.

But it is interesting I am wondering how the debates will go when we say, well, here is a person we want to give amnesty to because their parents dragged them into America, even though there were no kids with them. Well, so the gangs brought them in.

Anybody in the drug cartel brings in a child, that means we are supposed to give them amnesty?

At some point, we have got to secure the border. It is the most compassionate thing we can do. Mexico will become a great economy in the world, once we stop the top 10 Central American people of Mexico. Central America will have a better standard of living. Heck, you might have United States citizens thinking maybe they would like to go to work in a vibrant economy in Mexico if and when we can help stop the drug cartels with all the money that they have got coming in.

Mr. Speaker, may I ask how much time I have left?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Texas has 3 minutes remaining.

Mr. GOHMBERT. Since we are going into Memorial Day weekend, I am thrilled Sergeant Derrick Miller has been released. I testified at two different hearings for him. I am thrilled he is released. He shouldn’t have been incarcerated.

Lieutenant Clint Lorance, hopefully that can be brought to an end and he can be released like American Taliban John Walker Lindh was.

But I want to finish by mentioning Ross McGinnis. I promised his father, Tom, I would never forget him, and I haven’t.

Ross was 19 when he was in Iraq, Ross loved the Army. Ross finished high school in Knox, Pennsylvania, joined the Army. He loved it, and his platoon sergeant said everybody loved Ross. Ross helped energize people.

Ross was a machine gunner up in the turret of a Humvee going through a village in Iraq. A grenade was projected into the bed of the Humvee, and Ross was the only one in a position to jump out and save himself. He yelled, “Grenade.” Ross saw the four people in the bed crouch. Ross knew they were going to die, so Ross jumped down, covered the grenade, and saved four people’s lives.

I went to Ross’ funeral, his graveside in Arlington Cemetery, because two of the four people Ross saved were my constituents.

Ross’ sergeant and the two others who made it back from Iraq for the funeral came up after the ceremony,
knight before Ross’ remains, put their hands on Ross’ remains, and as they told me, they thank God for Ross McGinnis, and they thank Ross for saving their lives.

We should thank God for all of those who were selflessly protecting us and thank the families of those that lost a loved one protecting us.

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

STATEHOOD FOR THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker’s announced policy of January 3, 2019, the Chair recognizes the gentlemanwoman from the District of Columbia (Ms. NORTON) for 20 minutes.

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, the House will not be in session next Monday, Memorial Day. That day has very special meaning for the 700,000 residents in the Nation’s Capital.

The District of Columbia is one of the oldest jurisdictions in the United States. That means that residents of the Nation’s Capital have fought and died in every war, including the war that the United States of America: the Revolutionary War.

I have come to the House floor today to particularly recognize, on Memorial Day coming, the denial of full participation in their government through statehood, for 218 years, only to the District of Columbia’s residents, but to our present Active-Duty servicemembers, our National Guard members, our reservists, our many veterans and their families who are residents of the District of Columbia.

Their service and sacrifice, along with that of Americans across the breadth of this land, but especially their sacrifice, is unparalleled and, therefore, deserves special mention: unparalleled because those who served, those who died, those who continue to serve to protect our country do so without full and equal rights in their own country.

Later, I will be speaking about what their sacrifices have meant to our country, but as I come to the floor, I start by paying special tribute to the sacrifices that the residents of the Nation’s Capital have made for 218 years.

I will be going, this coming week, with the Mayor of the District of Columbia and the ward council chair, with the entire government, to what is called the D.C. War Memorial. This pristine, beautiful memorial is dedicated to those who lost their lives in World War I.

It is the only memorial—indeed, it is the only edifice—on The Mall that is dedicated to people in one district, and for very good reason: because that district is our Nation’s Capital; because those whose names appear on that memorial—I think there are 400—so named, without full representation and died giving that kind of representation, the kind of democracy, the kind of democracy that others have.

Our country, of course, prides itself on its democratic traditions, but we must remember that the country was founded seeking democracy, not as a democracy.

When it was founded, only White men who had paid taxes were able to vote. That means that the majority then could not vote and did not have their democratic rights. So we have to, with some humility, approach our own standing as a democracy.

May I remind us all today that it was years after the Nation’s founding for women to get the right to vote.

When half the population didn’t have the right to vote, I am sure Members came to this House floor saying what a wonderful democracy it was. Well, it wasn’t.

What is important about our country is our aspiration to become the democracy that the Framers themselves hoped we would become even though they had created a constitution where an African American was counted as three-fifths of a man. That was a compromise.

They created this country knowing, believing, that those of us who sit in this House, in the Senate, and Americans throughout the country would make our democracy a real democracy over time.

It has taken 218 years, and still counting, for the District of Columbia and its residents to achieve statehood, including voting rights and all the rights that come with equal citizenship.

We are the only democracy in the world where the residents who live in the Nation’s Capital don’t have the same rights as everyone else in that country.

I am not pessimistic today. We are just 5 months into the new Congress, and we are already beginning to break ground with those old traditions.

In March, the House passed H.R. 1, as we call that. That is our all-democracy, pro-democracy bill, still trying to achieve full democracy throughout the United States. I will say a bit about H.R. 1 shortly.

It has findings, extensive findings for D.C. statehood, which means, since it passed by more than a majority, that most Members of the House are already on track and on the Record for D.C. statehood.

I am grateful that Speaker NANCY PELOSI 3 days into the new term issued a very powerful statement, the head of the House, endorsing statehood.

I am grateful to Senate Minority Leader CHUCK SCHUMER, who unveiled a sweeping proposal to bring democracy to our country. His proposal is interesting because it included only three issues: combating voter disenfranchisement through the Voting Rights Act, establishing national automatic voter registration laws; and the third one, support of D.C. statehood.

I think that says a great deal about what the priority of bringing full democracy to the Nation’s Capital means to the Nation.

I am grateful to Chairman ELIJAH CUMMINGS, the chairman of the House Committee on Oversight and Reform, who has announced that he will hold a hearing on D.C. statehood and will bring a bill to the floor this session.

It is worth hearing a few words from Speaker PELOSI, to show the commitment of our party to full democracy.

The Speaker said: “The right to vote and true equal representation is the foundation of our freedom and a core pillar of our democracy. For too long, the residents of the District of Columbia have served our Nation in uniform, paid taxes, and contributed to the economic power and success of our country while being denied the full enfranchisement that is their right.”

I am encouraged today because while it takes 218 votes to pass the D.C. statehood bill, already 5 months into this new majority, we have 204 cosponsors and 300 cosponsors are very, very proud of that very strong showing of support for democracy in the Nation’s Capital.

To elaborate a bit on the significance of being in H.R. 1, which documented findings for why the District of Columbia should have statehood, to put that in context, just look at the other matters that were in this enhancing democracy bill, because they didn’t have anything to do with D.C. statehood.

Yet, D.C. statehood is an enhancing democracy bill, which includes such matters as supporting the adoption of paper ballots to protect our election infrastructure from cyberattacks, increasing donor disclosure requirements, strengthening campaign oversight, expanding early voting and voting by mail, ending partisan gerrymandering, requiring all Presidential and Vice Presidential candidates to publicly disclose their tax returns until this year is complete. For decades, others have, of course.

You can see those issues are about enhancing democracy in the larger sense. It says everything about the priority of this Congress that H.R. 1 also includes making sure that the residents of the Nation’s Capital have the same and, indeed, equal rights with other Americans.

We are well on our way to nationalizing the fight to D.C. statehood, nationalizing the frustration, that we have faced and continue to face, that most residents, most Americans, think that those who live in their Nation’s Capital have the same rights they have. That is what I mean by the need to nationalize this important issue.

What polls show is that it is inconceivable to the average American that there would be any Americans who don’t have the same rights that they have. Of course, that is the case.

That is why, periodically, I come to the floor to make sure and remind the House of this anomaly, that we are the only country that does not give those
who live in its capital the same rights as others in their country.

I am heartened by the many national organizations that, as I speak, have come on to endorse statehood for the District of Columbia.

As I was literally, coming to the House floor, a staff member rushed behind me to add another one. It is up to 20.

I will bet by the time I get back to my office in the Rayburn Building, the number will be even beyond 20 because they have been coming on ever since we put out the word. They represent millions of people and can help Americans to know what they do not know.

There are the national organizations that by the time I came to the House floor had endorsed D.C. statehood: Common Cause, Public Citizen, National Active and Retired Employees Association, Sierra Club, People For the American Way, Inter-sect Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers, Planned Parenthood, Demand Justice, Indivisible, Americans for Democratic Action, Demos, NORML, NETWORK, Stand Up America, Democratic Neighborhoods, CWA, United Food and Commercial Workers, Democratic Coalition, National LGBTQ Task Force Action Fund, and Human Rights Campaign.

These are organizations whose numbers go into the many millions that can help us by making sure Americans know what many would be ashamed to find out, that they live in a country where people who live in their Nation’s Capital don’t have the same rights they have.

What a diverse city this is, about half Black, half White, many high-income people—yes, its share of poor people like every city—top 10 in economic growth, top 10 in economic growth, top 10 in economic growth, top 10 in economic growth, top 10 in economic growth, top 10 in economic growth, top 10 in economic growth, top 10 in economic growth, top 10 in economic growth, top 10 in economic growth, top 10 in economic growth, top 10 in economic growth, top 10 in economic growth, top 10 in economic growth, top 10 in economic growth.

And with only 6 months to live, allows people to take their own lives, with pharmaceuticals provided by a physician. That is not the case for every jurisdiction.

By the way, the majority of Americans support this right. But if you disagree with it, Congress can’t do anything about it other wise, only in the District of Columbia.

I could name several other bills. We were able to defeat all of these bills away except two. One is the marijuana commercialization act. We were able to save the ability to possess 2 ounces but not to do what those 10 states already do, which is to regulate it and tax it.

Marijuana should be regulated, not just sold. Why does the House not want that? Of course, to sell and legally tax marijuana, is that, people will smoking marijuana anyway.

We have six universities here. Do you think people aren’t smoking pot? The Republican priority has always been local control. That is their mantra. They even want the Federal Government is personal out of the business that the Federal Government must be in.

We have indicated that we would like that mantra to apply to the District of Columbia as well.

At the same time, we are on a dual track. At the same time that we are trying to get statehood, we have not gotten full control of our own city because the Congress, as I have just indicated, can intervene.

So, at the same time that we are trying to get statehood, which would do the whole thing, we are also trying to use the Home Rule Act simply to get what every other jurisdiction has: a local prosecutor, for example; the right to declare clemency for local residents, local control of local courts, etc.

So we are on two tracks: statehood, which would give us the whole set of rights that the rest of the country has; and using the Home Rule Act—and the District has had home rule since 1973—simply getting the kinds of rights that do not require statehood but that other jurisdictions have passed locally.

I have gotten three bills passed this term. I got them passed in the first 3 months. And note that, even when I was in the minority in the last Congress—I was voted the most effective Democrat in the Congress. The commentary noted that Norcross—does not have the final vote on the House floor.

I got back my vote in the Committee of the Whole. I now vote for the District of Columbia when the House meets in the Committee of the Whole.

And if this is believable, when the Democrats lost the House, Republicans took back even that vote, the DC vote in the Committee of the Whole, even though it had been approved by the courts of the United States. It was granted by the House; therefore, it could be taken away by the House. It was taken away by the House before.

And if this is believable, when the District of Columbia was personal to me because I am a native Washingtonian—indeed, a third-generation Washingtonian.

I cannot help but tell the story of my great-grandfather, a runaway slave from Virginia. He came to the District of Columbia where he still had slavery, when, of course, it didn’t have any home rule or statehood.

The District was being built. This Capitol building was being built. Work was being done on the streets, and people were anxious to hire anybody they could find. Richard Holmes got a job working on the streets of the District of Columbia.

And passed down to my family is what happened to Richard Holmes. Richard Holmes that continues to inspire me, even as I am inspired by our veterans as we approach Memorial Day.

Richard Holmes was working on the streets of the District of Columbia, where slave owners roamed the streets, because, after all, valuable property was lost if there was a runaway slave that could be identified.

A man walked up behind Richard Holmes and called out the name “Richard.” Richard Holmes kept digging. Then the slave owner went over to the straw boss and said, “That is my slave. I have come to take him back.” And the straw boss said, “Well, that man didn’t answer to that name,” and he let Richard Holmes stay.

I think Richard Holmes must have been a good worker, so he just wasn’t going to give him up. I don’t know that. All I know is that he did not give him up.

And the straw boss said, “Well, that was the name he gave.” And he let Richard Holmes stay.

I think Richard Holmes must have been a good worker, so he just wasn’t going to give him up. I don’t know that. All I know is that he did not give him up.

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taxes. But imagine paying Federal taxes when you don’t have anything to say about the amount of those taxes or anything else about those taxes.

Imagine being number one per capita in Federal taxes to support your country among the final vote on the House floor when those taxes are raised, when, for example, there has been a massive tax cut that went to the great benefit, as it turned out, of corporations and the very well-off.

For the District of Columbia, I could speak on that bill but I could not vote on that bill, even though I represent those who will pay the highest amount in taxes pursuant to that bill.

So taxation without representation is not simply a slogan for the people I represent. It has real meaning, as real for us as it did for the Framers. They were willing to risk treasonous acts in order not to pay taxes without representation.

As the United States stands, today as a Nation, we are in violation of treaties the United States has signed because we do not grant full and equal rights to the residents of our Nation’s Capital.

For example, our country, in 1977, signed the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights. The Human Rights Committee, which has oversight over that treaty, has since said that the United States’ delegation to the U.N. ‘...remains concerned that residents of the District of Columbia do not enjoy full representation in Congress, a restriction which does not seem to be compatible with article 25 of the Covenant.’ The covenant states that the United States has signed, in violation of all our country stands for and in violation of international law.

So, as this Memorial Day comes, I come to the floor simply to remind my colleagues of what it means for those of us who live in our Nation’s Capital. Even though on this Memorial Day we recall the Memorial Days that have gone ahead, commemorating the residents who have fought and died in every war, I believe we should particularly note the first African American general, who happened to be born and raised in the District of Columbia; the first African American Naval Academy graduate, born and raised in the District of Columbia; and the first African American Air Force general, who was born and raised in the District of Columbia; the first African American Air Force general, who was born and raised in the District of Columbia; the first African American Naval Academy graduate, born and raised in the District of Columbia; and the first African American Air Force general, who was born and raised in the District of Columbia.

I cite these African Americans because they served, all of them, when the District was a segregated city. And when I say the District was a segregated city, understand that this was a majority-White city for most of its 218 years as a city.

And yet African Americans and Whites have been treated in exactly the same way, as second-class and perhaps worse.

On Monday, the last Monday in May, Memorial Day will mean perhaps more to the residents of our Nation’s Capital than anywhere else, and particularly to our veterans who are still living here. We cannot help but remember that in World War I the District lost more lives than three States.

And, this Memorial Day, 2019, as I remember at our casualties, I speak on this House floor for every resident, for every veteran, and, I believe, for every American when I say all Americans, those who live, those who are called to serve, and those who continue to serve, are entitled to full and equal rights.

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

LEAVE OF ABSENCE
By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:
Ms. JACKSON Lee (at the request of Mr. HOYER) for today on account of business in the district.
Mr. JEFFRIES (at the request of Mr. HOYER) for today on account of commencement address.

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

The motion was agreed to: according (at 1 o’clock and 41 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until tomorrow, Friday, May 24, 2019, at 11 a.m.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES ON PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS
Under clause 2 of rule XIII, reports of committees were delivered to the Clerk for printing and reference to the proper calendar, as follows:

Ms. JOHNSON of Texas: Committee on Science, Space, and Technology. H.R. 1716. A bill to direct the Secretary of Commerce, acting through the Administrator of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, to conduct coastal community vulnerability assessments in all States, and for other purposes: with an amendment (Rept. 116-81). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Ms. JOHNSON of Texas: Committee on Science, Space, and Technology. H.R. 988. A bill to provide for a study by the Ocean Studies Board of the National Academies of Science examining the impact of ocean acidification and other stressors in estuarine environments, with amendments (Rept. 116-82 Pt. 1). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union. (Rept. 116-83). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Ms. KAPTUR: Committee on Appropriations. H.R. 2940. A bill Making appropriations for energy and water development and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2020, and for other purposes (Rept. 116-90). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union. (Rept. 116-91). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union. (Rept. 116-92). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. VISCLOSKY: Committee on Appropriations. H.R. 2968. A bill Making appropriations for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2020, and for other purposes (Rept. 116-84). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

DISCHARGE OF COMMITTEE
Pursuant to clause 2 of rule XIII, the Committee on Natural Resources discharged from further consideration. H.R. 988 referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

CONSENSUS CALENDAR
Under clause 7 of rule XV, the following motion was filed with the Clerk:
Motion No. 3, May 23, 2019 by Mr. SCHRADER on H.R. 693

PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS
Under clause 2 of rule XII, public bills and resolutions of the following titles were introduced and severally referred, as follows:

By Mrs. McBRATH (for herself and Mr. STEUBE): H.R. 2908. A bill to exempt from the calculation of monthly income certain benefits paid by the Department of Veterans Affairs and the Department of Defense; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mrs. NAPOLITANO (for herself, Mr. LOWENTHAL, Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia, Mr. HUFFMAN, Mr. ROUDA, Mr. CARBAJAL, and Mr. GARAMENDI): H.R. 2909. A bill to direct the Secretary of the Interior, after consultation with the Secretary of Agriculture, the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency, and the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency, to clarify the use of certain taxes and revenues; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois (for himself and Mrs. WALORSKI): H.R. 2910. A bill to extend the program of block grants to States for temporary assistance for needy families and related programs through September 30, 2019; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Ms. HOULAHAN (for herself, Mr. CisNerO, and Ms. STREPANIK): H.R. 2941. A bill to direct the Secretary of Defense and the Secretaries of the military departments to encourage female members who separate or retire from the Armed Forces during fiscal year 2020 to participate in the Women’s Health Transition Training pilot program of the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans’ Affairs, and in addition to the Committee on Armed Services, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. Cisneros (for himself and Ms. Houlahan): H.R. 2942. A bill to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to carry out the Women’s Health Transition Training pilot program through at least fiscal year 2020, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans’ Affairs, and in addition to the Committee on Armed Services, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. Cisneros: H.R. 2943. A bill to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to make all fact sheets of the Department of Veterans Affairs in English and Spanish; to the Committee on Veterans’ Affairs.

By Mr. Cisneros: H.R. 2944. A bill to extend title 10, United States Code, to establish a public-private exchange program for the acquisition workforce; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. Bishop: H.R. 2945. A bill to provide for the indefinite duration of certain military land withdrawals, to improve the management of land currently subject to such withdrawals, to make the management of such lands more transparent, and for other purposes; to the

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Committee on Natural Resources, and in addition to the Committee on Armed Services, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. LIPIŃSKI (for himself and Mr. SMITH of New Jersey):

H.R. 2954. A bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to require States to provide non-discrimination on the basis of earned income for purposes of the work opportunity credit, to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. PALAZZO (for himself and Mr. RYAN):

H.R. 2951. A bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to require that an officer to serve on active duty under section 12301b of that title is treated as the same as other orders to serve on active duty to determine the eligibility of members of the uniformed services for early retirement pay; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. PALMER (for himself, Mr. BIGGS, Mr. LOUDERBACK, Mr. FLORES, Mr. POSEY, Mr. GIBBS, Mr. BABIN, Mr. WESTERMAN, Mr. STEWART, Mr. ROUZER, Mr. PALAFARO, Mr. LAMBRON, Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota, Mr. GROTHMAN, Mr. DUNCAN, Mr. BAIRD, Mr. HICE of Georgia, Mr. BICK, Mr. GORMERT, Mr. MEADOWS, Mr. WALKER, Mr. GARTZ, Mr. CONAWAY, Mr. BROOKS of Alabama, Mr. DUNN, Mr. GOSAR, Mr. MITCHELL, Mr. DAVIES, Mr. ROE of Tennessee, Mr. NORMAN, Mr. WEBER of Texas, Mr. ALLEN, Mr. CRAWFORD, Mr. WRIGHT, Mr. DENHAM, Mr. KINZING of Iowa, Mr. BUDD, Mr. YOHO, Mr. WALBERG, Mr. MCCINTOCK, Mr. DAVIDSON of Ohio, Mr. HIGGLERMAN, Mr. CLOUD, Mr. JOHN of Tennessee, and Mr. BERGMAN):

H.R. 2955. A bill to prevent the issuance of grants to entities that impose an unreasonable condition on discrimination against an air carrier operating pursuant to a contract with a Government agency, including United States Immigration and Customs Enforcement, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mr. CALVERT (for himself, Mr. REED of New York, Ms. MALVEAUX, and Mr. SOLOMON):

H.R. 2956. A bill to require the Secretary of Agriculture to place in Arlington National Cemetery the remains of an American veteran who died as a result of suicide and to maintain an appropriate memorial for such veteran; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. FLETCHER of California:

H.R. 2957. A bill to prevent prisoners who have been convicted of terrorism related offenses from being eligible for early release, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Ms. CHU of California (for herself, Mr. DEUTCH, Mr. LOWENTHAL, and Mrs. NAPOLITANO):

H.R. 2958. A bill to improve the recruitment and retention of school-based mental health services providers by low-income local educational agencies; to the Committee on Education and Labor.

By Mr. SWALWELL of California:

H.R. 2959. A bill to remove assault weapons and large capacity ammunition feeding devices from circulation, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. LARSEN of Washington (for himself, Mr. COOK, Mr. COLE, Mr. CARPENTER, Mr. RAUL of California, Mr. McGovern, Mr. GALLEGO, Ms. PALAZZO, Mr. MOONEY of West Virginia, Ms. MOORE, Mr. GOMEZ, Mr. MURPHY, Mr. SOTO):

H.R. 2961. A bill to reaffirm that certain land has been taken into trust for the benefit of the United States; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. WRIGHT:

H.R. 2962. A bill to amend chapter 1 of title 23, United States Code, to condition the receipt of certain highway funding by States on the enactment of certain laws to prevent the use of United States aid to enforce immigration systems; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mr. WRIGHT:

H.R. 2963. A bill to amend title 21, United States Code, to require States to provide notification of the use of automated traffic enforcement systems, to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois (for himself and Mr. REED):

H.R. 2964. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to include foster care taxpayers as members of the groups for purposes of the work opportunity credit; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois (for himself, Mr. WALORSKI, Ms. BASS, and Mr. BACON):

H.R. 2965. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide for a refundable adoption tax credit; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois (for himself, Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHI):

H.R. 2966. A bill to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to provide formula grants to States to improve higher education opportunities for foster youth and homeless youth, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and Labor.

By Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois:

H.R. 2967. A bill to provide greater support for grandfamilies and older caretaker relatives; to the Committee on Education and Labor, and in addition to the Committees on Education and Labor, Energy and Commerce, and Financial Services, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as shall fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. SOOTO:

H.R. 2969. A bill to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 1401 1st Street North in Winter Haven, Florida, as the "Althea Margaret Daily Mills Post Office Building"; to the Committee on Oversight and Reform.

By Ms. ADAMS (for herself and Mrs. HARTSELLODGERS):

H.R. 2970. A bill to direct the Secretary of the Army to place in Arlington National Cemetery a monument honoring Army Security Agency veterans of World War II, the Korean conflict, and the Vietnam Era, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs, and in addition to the Committee on Armed Services, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. BIGGS:

H.R. 2971. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to increase and expand the deduction for qualified business income; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. BRINDISI (for himself and Mrs. WALKORSKI):

H.R. 2972. A bill to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to improve the communication of the Department of Veterans Affairs relating to services available for women veterans, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. BROOKS of Alabama (for himself, Mr. KING of Iowa, Mr. MCCINTOCK, and Mr. GORASH):

H.R. 2973. A bill to require the Director of U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement to submit annual reports regarding certain demographic information on aliens arrested; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. CARTWRIGHT (for himself, Ms. BROWNLEY of California, and Mr. JACKSON):

H.R. 2974. A bill to improve the financial literacy of secondary school students; to the Committee on Education and Labor.
H.R. 2975. A bill to protect a woman's ability to determine whether and when to bear a child or end a pregnancy, and to protect a health care provider's ability to provide reproductive health care services, including abortion services; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Ms. JUDY CHU of California (for herself and Mr. KATKO):

H.R. 2976. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide authority to postpone certain deadline by reason of State declared disasters or emergencies; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. CICILLINE (for himself, Mr. AGUILAR, Mr. ALLRED, Mr. AXNIS, Mr. BARRAGÁN, Mr. BASS, Mrs. BEATTY, Mr. BEatty, Mr. BROWN of Montana, Mr. BROWN of Maryland, Ms. BLumenauer, Mr. Brown of Pennsylvania, Mr. BRINDISI, Ms. BROWN of New York, Ms. BROOKS, Mr. BROOKS of Texas, Ms. BROWN of Washington, Ms. BROWNLY of California, Mr. CABRAJAL, Mr. CARDENAS, Mr. CARSON of Indiana, Mr. CASTEN of Illinois, Ms. CASTOR of Florida, Ms. CASSIDERS, Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Mr. CLAY, Mr. COHEN, Mr. CONNOLLY, Mr. COOPER, Mr. Cox of California, Mr. CRIST, Mr. Crow, Mr. SUCOZZI, Mr. CUMMINGS, Mr. MORELLI, Mrs. DAVIS of California, Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois, Ms. DeFazio, Mr. DEGETTE, Ms. DeLARUSO, Mr. DELBENE, Mr. DELGADO, Mrs. DEMING, Mr. DEMING, Mr. DeUTCH, Ms. DENGEL, Mr. DENTON, Mr. DENTON, Mr. ESPELIER, Mr. ESCOBAR, Mr. ESPELITAT, Mrs. FLETCHER, Mr. FOSTER, Mr. FRANKEL, Mr. FRAZIER of Georgia, Ms. SCANLON, Mr. GOMEZ, Mr. GREEN of Texas, Mr. GRIJALVA, Ms. HAALAND, Mr. HASTINGS, Mrs. HAYES, Mr. HECK, Mr. HIGGINS of New York, Mr. HILL of California, Mr. HIMS, Mr. NORTON, Mr. HORSPORD, Ms. HOULAHAN, Ms. JACKSON Lee, Ms. JayAPAL, Mr. JARDINES, Mr. JOHNSON of Texas, Ms. KAP'TUR, Ms. KELLY of Illinois, Mr. KHANNA, Mr. KILMER, Mr. KIND, Mrs. KIRKPATRICK, Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHI, Mr. KRUPIN, Mr. KRUPIN, Mr. KUSTER of New Hampshire, Mr. LARSH of Washington, Mrs. LAWRENCE, Mr. LAWSON of Florida, Ms. LEE of California, Mrs. LEE of Nevada, Mr. LEVIN of Michigan, Mr. LEWIS, Mr. TED LIEU of California, Ms. LOFGREN, Mr. LOWE, Mrs. LOWE, Mr. LUCAS of Missouri, Mr. MALIA of New York, Mr. SEAN PATRICK MALONEY of New York, Mrs. MATSU, Mrs. McBATH, Ms. McCOLLUM, Mr. McEACHIN, Mr. MCEACHIN, Mr. MCELROY, Mr. MEDINA, Mr. MOULTON, Ms. MURCASEL-Powell, Mr. NADLER, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Mr. O'HALLERAN, Ms. Omar, Mr. PAINTE, Mr. PAPEL, Mr. PETZSCHER, Mr. PETERS, Ms. PINGREE, Mr. POCAN, Ms. PRESSLEY, Mr. PRYCE of North Carolina, Mr. QUIGLEY, Mr. RASKIN, Mrs. Rice of New York, Mr. RICHMOND, Mr. RODA, Mr. RUPPERSBERGER, Ms. SANCHEZ, Mr. SARABIA, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. SCHEIDER, Mr. SCHIFF, Mr. SCHNEIDER, Mr. SCHNEIDER, Ms. SCHRIER, Mr. SERRANO, Ms. SHALALA, Mr. SIES, Mr. SMITH of Washington, Mr. SOTO, Ms. SPENCER, Ms. SWALWELL of California, Mr. TAKANO, Mr. THOMPSON of California, Ms. TURS, Mr. TURON, Ms. TLAIB, Mr. TONKO, Mrs. TÖRÖK of California, Mrs. TRAHAN, Mr. HUFFMAN, Mr. GARAMENDI, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mrs. PORTER, Mr. CASE, Ms. OCAÑO-CORTEZ, Mr. GALLEGO, Mr. BRENDAN F. BOYLE of Pennsylvania, Mr. GARCÍA of Illinois, Ms. SHERRILL, Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia, and Mr. GREGORY.

H.R. 2975. A bill to protect a woman's ability to determine whether and when to bear a child or end a pregnancy, and to protect a health care provider's ability to provide reproductive health care services, including abortion services; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Ms. JUDY CHU of California (for herself and Mr. KATKO):

H.R. 2976. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide authority to postpone certain deadline by reason of State declared disasters or emergencies; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. CICILLINE (for himself, Mr. AGUILAR, Mr. ALLRED, Mrs. AXNIS, Mr. BARRAGÁN, Mr. BASS, Mrs. BEATTY, Mr. BEATTY, Mr. BROWN of Montana, Mr. BROWN of Maryland, Ms. BLumenauer, Mr. Brown of Pennsylvania, Mr. BRINDISI, Mr. BROWN of Maryland, Ms. BROWNLY of California, Mrs. BUSTOS, Mr. BUTTERFIELD, Mr. NEGUINE, Mr. ALLRED, Ms. ADAMS, Mr. AGUILAR, Mr. ALFIERI, Mr. BEATTY, Mr. BERA, Mr. BEYER, Mr. BLUMENAU, Ms. BLUNCK ROCHESTER, Mr. BOWEN of North Carolina, Mr. BROWN of Maryland, Ms. BROWNLY of California, Mr. CABRAJAL, Mr. CARDENAS, Mr. CARSON of Indiana, Mr. CASTEN of Illinois, Ms. CASTOR of Florida, Ms. CASSIDERS, Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Mr. CLAY, Mr. COHEN, Mr. CONNOLLY, Mr. COOPER, Mr. Cox of California, Mr. CRIST, Mr. Crow, Mr. SUCOZZI, Mr. CUMMINGS, Mr. MORELLI, Mrs. DAVIS of California, Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois, Ms. DeFazio, Mr. DEGETTE, Ms. DeLARUSO, Mr. DELBENE, Mr. DELGADO, Mrs. DEMING, Mr. DEMING, Mr. DeUTCH, Ms. DENGEL, Mr. DENTON, Mr. DENTON, Mr. ESPELIER, Mr. ESCOBAR, Mr. ESPELITAT, Mrs. FLETCHER, Mr. FOSTER, Mr. FRANKEL, Mr. FRAZIER of Georgia, Ms. SCANLON, Mr. GOMEZ, Mr. GREEN of Texas, Mr. GRIJALVA, Ms. HAALAND, Mr. HASTINGS, Mrs. HAYES, Mr. HECK, Mr. HIGGINS of New York, Mr. HILL of California, Mr. HIMS, Mr. NORTON, Mr. HORSPORD, Ms. HOULAHAN, Ms. JACKSON Lee, Ms. JayAPAL, Mr. JARDINES, Mr. JOHNSON of Texas, Ms. KAP'TUR, Ms. KELLY of Illinois, Mr. KHANNA, Mr. KILMER, Mr. KIND, Mrs. KIRKPATRICK, Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHI, Mr. KRUPIN, Mr. KRUPIN, Mr. KUSTER of New Hampshire, Mr. LARSH of Washington, Mrs. LAWRENCE, Mr. LAWSON of Florida, Ms. LEE of California, Mrs. LEE of Nevada, Mr. LEVIN of Michigan, Mr. LEWIS, Mr. TED LIEU of California, Ms. LOFGREN, Mr. LOWE, Mrs. LOWE, Mr. LUCAS of Missouri, Mr. MALIA of New York, Mr. SEAN PATRICK MALONEY of New York, Mrs. MATSU, Mrs. McBATH, Ms. McCOLLUM, Mr. McEACHIN, Mr. MCEACHIN, Mr. MCELROY, Mr. MEDINA, Mr. MOULTON, Ms. MURCASEL-Powell, Mr. NADLER, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Mr. O'HALLERAN, Ms. Omar, Mr. PAINE, Mr. PAPEL, Mr. PETZSCHER, Mr. PETERS, Ms. PINGREE, Mr. POCAN, Ms. PRESSLEY, Mr. PRYCE of North Carolina, Mr. QUIGLEY, Mr. RASKIN, Mrs. Rice of New York, Mr. RICHMOND, Mr. RODA, Mr. RUPPERSBERGER, Ms. SANCHEZ, Mr. SARABIA, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. SCHEIDER, Mr. SCHIFF, Mr. SCHNEIDER, Mr. SCHNEIDER, Ms. SCHRIER, Mr. SERRANO, Ms. SHALALA, Mr. SIES, Mr. SMITH of Washington, Mr. SOTO, Ms. SPENCER, Ms. SWALWELL of California, Mr. TAKANO, Mr. THOMPSON of California, Ms. TURS, Mr. TLAIB, Mr. TONKO, Mrs. TÖRÖK of California, Mrs. TRAHAN, Mr. HUFFMAN, Mr. GARAMENDI, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mrs. PORTER, Mr. CASE, Ms. OCAÑO-CORTEZ, Mr. GALLEGO, Mr. BRENDAN F. BOYLE of Pennsylvania, Mr. GARCÍA of Illinois, Ms. SHERRILL, Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia, and Mr. GREGORY.
By Mr. GOSAR (for himself, Mr. B ABIN, Mr. B RIGHETI, Mr. DESJARLAIS, Mr. D RAPER, Mr. NORMAN, Mr. PETERSON, Mr. G AETZ, Mr. C OOPER, Mr. C RISAFITTI, Mr. L EONARDI, Mr. NORMAN, Mr. M CAFFERTY, Mr. T HOMPSON of Mississippi), 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. GREEN of Tennessee (for himself and Mr. T HOMPSON of Mississippi): H.R. 2989. A bill to amend title 1 of the Social Security Act to create a new tax credit for certain uses of funds provided under the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, to amend the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 to extend such credit, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. FOSTER (for himself, Mr. C ASTEN of Illinois, Ms. HERRERA BEUTLER, and Mr. GONZALEZ of Ohio): H.R. 2988. A bill to amend the United States Energy Storage Competitiveness Act of 2007 to establish a research, development, and demonstration program for grid-scale energy storage systems, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology.

By Mr. FOSTER: H.R. 2987. A bill to amend the National Security Act of 1947 to require the appointment by the President of the Assistant to the President for National Security Affairs to be made by and with the advice and consent of the Senate; to the Committee on Armed Services, in addition to the Committees on Foreign Affairs, and Intelligence (Permanent Select), for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. GOODEN (for himself, Mr. S CAHILL, Mr. WRIGHT, Mr. W EBER of Texas, Mr. WALKER, Mr. GARTZ, Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania, Mr. BARIN, Mr. TAYLOR, and Mr. JOHNSON of Louisiana): H.R. 2988. A bill to ensure State and local compliance with all Federal immigration detainers on aliens in custody, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and Labor, and in addition to the Committee on Education and Labor, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. A., for himself, Mr. BARIN, Mr. B RUD, Mr. D ESSJARLAIS, Mr. D RUCK, Mr. GIBBS, Mr. GOMER, Mr. NORMAN, Mr. PERRY, Mr. CLINNIKENMARK, Mr. WALKER, and Mr. GIBBS): H.R. 2989. A bill to amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to provide that any alien who has been convicted of a felony or who is deportable, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. GIBBS of Alabama, Mr. BROOKS of Alabama, Mr. RODIA, Mr. HUFFMAN, Mr. CHAHAL, Mr. VARGAS, Mr. LOWENTHAL, Mrs. DAVIS of California, and Ms. BONAMICI): H.R. 2990. A bill to amend the National Security Act of 1947 to require the appointment of the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to ensure that each wheelchair, furnished to a veteran because of a service-connected disability, restores the maximum achievable level of mobility in daily life, employment, and recreation, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans’ Affairs.

By Mr. LEVIN of California (for himself, Mr. PETERS, Mr. PORTER, Mr. ROUDA, Mr. HUFFMAN, Mr. CHAHAL, Mr. VARGAS, Mr. LOWENTHAL, Mrs. DAVIS of California, and Ms. BONAMICI): H.R. 2995. A bill to amend the Nuclear Waste Policy Act of 1982 to prioritize the acceptance of high-level radioactive waste or spent nuclear fuel from certain civilian nuclear power reactors, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. LEWIS (for himself, Mr. P ASHER, Mr. B EYER, Mr. S HERMAN, Mr. HUTCHINSON, Mr. B RIGGS, Mr. C RIMALDI, Mr. G IBBS, Mr. G OHMERT, Mr. C HAFFEY, Mr. C HEN, Mr. A YIN, Ms. J AYAPAL, Mr. S ARBANES, Mr. F INCKENAUER, Mrs. A XNE, Mr. V ELA, Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania, Mr. B ABIN, Mr. L EVIN of Michigan, Ms. K APTUR, Mr. L EVIN of Michigan, Ms. C LARK of Massachussetts, and Mr. E SPAILLAT): H.R. 3001. A bill to authorize the Office of Noise Abatement and Control in the Environmental Protection Agency, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committees on Transportation and Infrastructure, and Financial Services, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Ms. NEAL: H.R. 3002. A bill to provide for the carriage of certain television broadcast stations, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. NORTON: H.R. 3003. A bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to increase the maximum limit on the number of special masters allowed in the United States Court of Federal Claims, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Ms. OMAR (for herself, Mr. TRAHO, Mr. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. T LAIR, Mr. F RASSET, and Ms. O CASIO-COPETT): H.R. 3004. A bill to amend the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971 to prohibit criminal corporations from making disbursements of funds in connection with a campaign for election for Federal, State, or local office; to the Committee on House Administration.

By Mr. PETERS (for himself, Mr. HUNT, Mr. VARGAS, Mrs. DAVIS of California, and Mr. L EVIN of California): H.R. 3005. A bill to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 13308 Midland Road in Poway, California, as the “Ray Chavez Post Office Building”; to the Committee on Oversight and Reform.

By Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota, Mr. M ARSHALL, Mr. R ODNEY DAVIS of Illinois, and Mr. L EESBACK: H.R. 3006. A bill to establish an annual deadline of June 1st for small refiners to submit petitions for exemptions from the renewable fuel requirements under section 211(o) of the Clean Air Act (42 U.S.C. 7545); to provide for disproportionate economic hardship; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.
By Mr. POCAN:
H. Res. 401. A resolution recognizing the significance ofAsian/Pacific AmericanHeritage Month in May as an important time to celebrate the significant contributions ofAsianAmerican andPacific Islander to thehistory of the United States; to theCommittee on Oversight andReform.

By Mr. DeFAZIO (for himself, Mr. BISHOP of Georgia, Mr. BOWEN, Ms. BROWNLEY of California, Mr. CASE, Mr. DEUTCH, Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois, Ms. GABBAIRD, Mr. GAETZ, Mr. GRIJALVA, Ms. KHANNA of Oklahoma, Ms. LEE of California, Ms. MATSUI, Ms. MCCOLLUM, Ms. MOORE, Mr. MOULTON, Mr. NADLER, Ms. NORTON, Mr. ROYBAL-ALLARD, Ms. PINGREE, Mr. PRICE of North Carolina, Ms. SCHARSKOWSKY, Mr. POCAN, Ms. SHERILL, Ms. STEVENS, Mr. VEJLE, and Mr. YOUNG):

H. Res. 402. A resolution recognizing the significant milestone ofSenior Corpsvolunteers serving50,000,000 hours in 2018; to theCommittee onEducation andLabor.

By Mr. GALLEGO:
H. Res. 403. A resolution honoring and recognizing the significant contributions as a result of the 50th anniversary of the Apollo 11 Mission; to theCommittee onScience,Space,and Technology.

By Mr. GONZALEZ of Texas:
H. Res. 404. A resolution commemorating the 50th anniversary ofthe Apollo 11 Mission, and supporting the week of July 16 through July 22 as theApollo 11 Mission Week; to theCommittee onScience,Space, and Technology.
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 Mrs. McBATH:
H.R. 2938.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8 of the Constitution.
By Mrs. NAPOLITANO:
H.R. 2939.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Amendments to the Constitution.
By Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois:
H.R. 2940.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8, Clause 1 of the United States Constitution, "to provide for the common Defence and general Welfare of the United States."
By Ms. HOULAHAN:
H.R. 2941.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8, of the U.S. Constitution
By Mr. CISNEROS:
H.R. 2942.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8, of the U.S. Constitution
By Mr. CISNEROS:
H.R. 2943.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8, of the U.S. Constitution
By Mr. BISHOP of Utah:
H.R. 2945.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article IV, Section 3, Clause 2
By Mr. LIPINSKI:
H.R. 2946.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8, Clause 18
"To make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department of Office thereof."
By Mr. GARRAIAL:
H.R. 2947.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
"The constitutional authority of Congress to enact this legislation is provided by Article I, section 8 of the United States Constitution which provides Congress with the power to lay and collect Taxes, Duties, Imposts and Excises in order to provide for the general Welfare of the United States."
By Mr. RUTHERFORD:
H.R. 2948.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8 of the United States Constitution.
By Mr. ENGEL:
H.R. 2949.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8 of the U.S. Constitution
By Ms. DEAN:
H.R. 2950.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8 of the United States Constitution.
By Ms. BARRAGAN:
H.R. 2951.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I Section 8 of the United States Constitution.
By Mr. RYAN:
H.R. 2952.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I of the Constitution and its subsequent amendments and further clarified and interpreted by the Supreme Court of the United States.
By Mr. RYAN:
H.R. 2953.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
"The Congress enacts this bill pursuant to Section 8 of Article I of the United States Constitution."
By Mr. PALAZZO:
H.R. 2954.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8, of the Constitution provides Congress authority to raise and support Armies and to provide and maintain a Navy.
By Mr. PALMER:
H.R. 2955.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8, of the Constitution provides Congress authority to raise and support Armies and to provide and maintain a Navy.
By Mr. CALVET:
H.R. 2956.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article IV, Section 3, Clause 2 of the U.S. Constitution.
By Mr. BYRNE:
H.R. 2957.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8, Clause 18
By Ms. JUDY CHU of California:
H.R. 2958.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Art. 1, Sec. 8: "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."
By Mr. SWALWELL of California:
H.R. 2959.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8, Clause 1, and 18
By Mr. LARSEN of Washington:
H.R. 2961.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
As described in article 1, section 1 "all legislative Powers herein granted shall be vested in a Congress of the United States, which shall consist of a Senate and House of Representatives."
By Mr. WRIGHT:
H.R. 2962.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8
By Mr. WRIGHT:
H.R. 2963.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I of the Constitution and its subsequent amendments and further clarified and interpreted by the Supreme Court of the United States.
By Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois:
H.R. 2964.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I of the Constitution and its subsequent amendments and further clarified and interpreted by the Supreme Court of the United States.
By Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois:
H.R. 2965.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I of the Constitution and its subsequent amendments and further clarified and interpreted by the Supreme Court of the United States.
By Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois:
H.R. 2966.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I of the Constitution and its subsequent amendments and further clarified and interpreted by the Supreme Court of the United States.
By Mr. SOTO:
H.R. 2967.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article 1, Section 8 of the United States Constitution.
By Ms. ADAMS:
H.R. 2970.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Clause 1 of Section 8 of Article I of the United States Constitution and Amendment XVI of the United States Constitution.
By Mr. BIGGS:
H.R. 2971.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I of the U.S. Constitution.
By Mr. BRINDISI:
H.R. 2972.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8 of the U.S. Constitution.

By Mr. BROOKS of Alabama:
H.R. 2973.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article 1 Section 8
By Mr. CARTWRIGHT:
H.R. 2974.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article 1, Section 8, Clause 3 of the United States Constitution
By Ms. JUDY CHU of California:
H.R. 2975.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Clause 1 of Section 8 of Article 1 of the United States Constitution
By Mr. CICILLINE:
H.R. 2976.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article 1—Section 8. 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.
By Mr. CICILLINE:
H.R. 2977.
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. CONOLLY:
H.R. 2978.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article 1, Section 8 of the United States Constitution
By Mr. CONOLLY:
H.R. 2979.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article 1, Section 8, Clause 18 of the United States Constitution.
By Mr. CRAWFORD:
H.R. 2980.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article 1, Section 8, Clause 3 of the United States Constitution.
By Mr. MCCUMMINGS:
H.R. 2981.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article 1, Section 8
By Mr. CUNNINGHAM:
H.R. 2982.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article 1, 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."
By Mr. DEFAZIO:
H.R. 2983.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8, Clause 3 relating to the power to make all laws necessary and proper for carrying out the powers vested in Congress
By Mr. DeSaulnier:
H.R. 2984.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article 1, Section 8
By Mr. ESTES:
H.R. 2985.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article 1, 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."
By Mr. FOSTER:
H.R. 2986.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
This bill is enacted pursuant to the power granted to Congress under Article I, Section 8, Clauses 1 and 18 of the United States Constitution.
By Mr. FOSTER:
H.R. 2987.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
This bill is enacted pursuant to the power granted to Congress under Article I, Section 8, Clauses 1 and 18 of the United States Constitution.
By Mr. GOODEN:
H.R. 2988.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article One, Section Eight, Clause 18
By Mr. GOSAR:
H.R. 2989.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article, section 8, clause 4, (the Naturalization Clause) which gives Congress sovereignty over immigration. In Chirac v. Lessee of Chirac (1817), the Supreme Court found "that the formulation of policies pertaining to the entry of aliens and the right to remain here" is entrusted to Congress. Congress has become as firmly imbedded in the legislative and judicial tissues of our body politic as any aspect of our government."
Finally, in Sessions v. Dimaya (2018), when discussing the aggravated felony definition in section 101(a)(43)(F) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (INA), Justice Neil Gorsuch issued an opinion stating, "Congress remains free at any time to add more crimes to its list. It remains free, as well, to write a new residual clause that affords the fair notice lacking here. Congress might, for example, say that a conviction for any felony carrying a prison sentence of a specified length opens an alien to removal. Congress has done almost exactly this in other laws ...".
By Mr. GREEN of Tennessee:
H.R. 2990.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8 of the U.S. Constitution
By Mr. GRULLALVA:
H.R. 2991.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
U.S. Const. art. I, §§1 and 8
By Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota:
H.R. 2992.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8 of the United States Constitution
By Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania:
H.R. 2993.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
The Congress enacts this bill pursuant to Article I Section 8 of the United States Constitution.
By Mr. KING of Iowa:
H.R. 2994.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article 1, Section 8
By Mr. LEVIN of California:
H.R. 2995.
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 3 of the United States Constitution.
By Mr. LEWIS:
H.R. 2996.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
This bill is enacted pursuant to the power granted to Congress under Article I of the United States Constitution and its subsequent amendments, and further clarified and interpreted by the Supreme Court of the United States.
By Mr. LOEBSACK:
H.R. 2997.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8 of the United States Constitution.
By Mrs. LOWEY:
H.R. 2998.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8, Clause 3
By Mr. LUJAN:
H.R. 2999.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article 1, Section 8
By Mr. MCCLINTOCK:
H.R. 3000.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Section 8 of Article 1 of the Constitution
By Mr. NEAL:
H.R. 3002.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
The constitutional authority on which this bill rests is in the power of Congress to regulate commerce as enumerated in Article I, Section 8.
By Ms. NORTON:
H.R. 3003.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
clause 18 of section 8 of article I of the Constitution.
By Ms. O'MARA:
H.R. 3004.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article, Section 1
By Mr. PETERS:
H.R. 3005.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8
By Mr. PETERSON:
H.R. 3006.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article 1, Section 8, Clause 3 of the U.S. Constitution.
By Mr. POE:
H.R. 3007.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article 1, Section 8 of the United States Constitution.
By Mr. RICE of New York:
H.R. 3008.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article 1, Section 8
By Miss RICE of New York:
H.R. 3009.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8,

1. 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 Defense and general Welfare of the United States; but all Duties, Imposts and Excises shall be uniform throughout the United States;

2. To borrow money on the credit of the United States;

3. To regulate Commerce with foreign Nations, and among the several States, and with the Indian Tribes;

4. To establish Post Offices and Post Roads;

5. To promote the Progress of Science and useful Arts, by securing for limited Times to Authors and Inventors the exclusive Right to their respective Writings and Discoveries;

6. To constitute Tribunals inferior to the supreme Court;

7. To provide for the Punishment of counterfeiting the Securities and current Coin of the United States;

8. To establish uniform Rule of Naturalization, and uniform Laws on the subject of Bankruptcies throughout the United States;

9. To coin Money, regulate the Value thereof, and of foreign Coin, and fix the Standard of Weights and Measures;

10. To establish an uniform Rule of Naturalization, and of the Weight and Measure of all Goods, Merchandise, and Wares, imported into a Port of the United States in Argosy, Sloop, or other Vessel not entitled to a Prize of War;

11. To provide for calling forth the Militia to execute the Laws of the Union, suppress Insurrections and repel Invasions;

12. To provide for organizing, arming, and disciplining, the Militia, and for governing such Part of them as may be employed in the Service of the United States, reserving to the States respectively, the Appointment of the Officers, and the Authority of training the Militia according to the discipline prescribed by Congress;

13. To provide for organizing, arming, and disciplining, the Militia, and for governing such Part of them as may be employed in the Service of the United States, reserving to the States respectively, the Appointment of the Officers, and the Authority of training the Militia according to the discipline prescribed by Congress;

14. To exercise exclusive Legislation in all Cases whatsoever, over such District (not exceeding ten Miles square) as may, by Cession of particular States, and the acceptance of the Congress, become the Seat of the Government of the United States, and to exercise like Authority over all Places purchased by Congress of the States, or the Territories of any other Foreign Power, which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vest-
Mr. GARAMENDI.
Ms. S. CHRIER, Ms. S. CANLON, Ms. BARRAGÁN, Mr. SMITH of Missouri.

Mr. SMITH of Missouri, Mr. CONNOLLY, Mr. RASKIN, Mr. POCAH, Ms. ESPAILLAT, and Mr. THOMAS of California.

Mr. ROUDA of California, Mr. Goode, Mr. MEADOWS, Mr. BURCHETT, and Mr. MCCCLINTOCK.

Mr. WEBER of Texas.

Mr. TRONE, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Mr. CONNOLLY, Mr. RASKIN, Mr. POCAH, Ms. ESPAILLAT, and Mr. THOMAS of California.

Mr. PHILMUTTER and Ms. NORTON.

Mr. PHILMUTTER and Ms. NORTON.

Mr. SMITH of Missouri, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, and Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia.

Ms. WILSON of Florida, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, and Mr. BROWN.

Mr. BROWN.

Mr. BROWN of Maryland, Mr. CICILLINE, and Ms. LEE of California.

Mr. BROWN of Maryland.

Mr. BROWN of Maryland, Mr. M. DEMING, Mrs. MCBATH, Mr. SCHIFF, and Mr. CHABOT.

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Mr. SCHIFF, and Mr. CHABOT.
The Senate met at 9:30 a.m., on the expiration of the recess, and was called to order by the Honorable THOM TILLIS, a Senator from the State of North Carolina.

PRAYER
The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.
Eternal God, who rules the raging of the sea, we come to You with our imperfections, depending on Your promises to keep us from stumbling or slipping. Speak to us as we seek to be Your instruments during these challenging times. Let Your infinite wisdom provide for the deepest needs of our Senators. Give them strength from Your celestial bounty to manage the minutes and hours of this day in a way that pleases You. Lord, let the presence of Your peace sustain them as they face the myriad difficulties of the work You have called for them to do. Call forth from them their best as they seek a closer walk with You.
We pray in Your Holy 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 to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mr. GRASSLEY).
The legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,

To the Senate:
Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable THOM TILLIS, a Senator from the State of North Carolina, to perform the duties of the Chair.

CHUCK GRASSLEY,
President pro tempore.

Mr. TILLIS thereupon assumed the Chair as Acting President pro tempore.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME
The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER
The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

MEMORIAL DAY
Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, Monday, of course, is Memorial Day. Americans will take time out of our ordinary routine and busy lives to remember the men and women who paid the ultimate price for the security of our Nation and the liberty we cherish. We mourn every young American whose sacrifice has furthered the cause of our founding ideals, and we acknowledge in a special way the Gold Star families they leave behind—parents, spouses, and children whose grief is only matched by the facts of a grateful Nation.

As President Reagan said one Memorial Day, across the river at Arlington: “Today is the day we put aside to remember fallen heroes and to pray that no heroes will ever have to die for us again.”

So while this day is a day for honoring and remembering, in particular, our fallen heroes, it is natural that our thoughts also turn to the brave men and women who are currently serving. I am thinking of the service men and women who are defending our country overseas and especially those engaged in combat in Afghanistan and Syria, all those stationed in the Middle East who are threatened by Iran, and those holding the line in Asia against the threats from North Korea.

We are tremendously grateful for our military’s efforts these last 18 years to keep America safe from terrorism and their ongoing work to combat al-Qaeda, fight ISIS, and to help stabilize Afghanistan.

Of course, I am particularly mindful of the members of the Kentucky National Guard and the many soldiers of Kentucky-based Active-Duty units who are deployed in harm’s way.

In light of the recent intelligence, we are also keenly aware of the critical role our military is playing at this very moment to deter Iranian aggression.

The administration engaged Members of Congress earlier this week to brief us on the growing threat and detail the steps the administration is taking to address it.

I am grateful our U.S. military has already taken proven steps to improve the posture of our forces so they are ready to defend our service members, military vessels, and diplomatic facilities and deter attacks by Iran or its proxies all across the region.

Nobody wants a conflict with Iran. We have heard clearly from the President and his senior advisers that the administration’s objective is to deter Iran from engaging in threatening acts that increase the risk of such a conflict.

We all know that, particularly when dealing with hostile actors, peace is a function of strength. So it is essential that even amid other partisan political disagreements, we remain one unified Nation. America must give Iran no reason—no reason—to misjudge our resolve.

Whatever disputes my colleagues may have with the administration about other issues, I hope we can avoid politicizing any differences about this
particular threat and work together to keep America safe.

I also want to mention the American diplomats who are also hard at work overseas. We know that many of them, too, are stationed in harm’s way, as we remember from repeated Iranian-backed attacks over the past month on the US Embassy in Baghdad or the murder of Ambassador Chris Stevens in Benghazi.

We are grateful for the talent and the hard work they have deployed—often, hand in hand with our military—to advance our interests, preserve peace, prevent miscalculation, and deter conflict. I know I speak for all of my colleagues when I say I hope their efforts are needed.

SENATE LEGISLATIVE AGENDA

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, on a different matter, as I stated, the Senate will not adjourn this week until we have voted on legislation to deliver long, overdue relief funding for communities that have been hit hard by natural disasters.

None of my colleagues need to hear me recite yet again why action in this area is such an important priority and why it is so desperately needed. It is a shame that this overdue subject has been allowed to languish for so long due to extraneous questions and, frankly, partisan small-ball.

Wildfire victims in the Western States don’t want to hear about House Democrats’ various disagreements with the White House on a variety of issues. They simply want the relief they need and have been waiting for.

The same goes for the flooded Midwest, the hurricane-ravaged Southeast, and the Kentuckians I myself represent. They don’t want to hear about more Washington difficulties. They want an outcome.

And, of course, everyone is well aware that we have an ongoing humanitarian crisis on our southern border and that our Federal Government needs more resources to deal with it. Even the New York Times editorial board wrote a few weeks ago:

As resources are strained and the system buckles, the misery grows. Something needs to be done. Soon.

That is the New York Times.

The editorial went on:

[The program that deals with unaccompanied minors is expected to run out next month. ... Democrats need to find a way to provide money for adequate shelter.]

That is the New York Times.

And here was the title of the editorial, believe it or not: “Congress, Give Trump His Border Money.” That is in the New York Times.

So on all these matters, it is past time—way past time to bring these negotiations to a close.

I thank Chairman SHELBY and all of our colleagues whose leadership has brought us to the brink of a bica-

meral solution this close to the finish line—this close. I implore our counterparts in the House and my colleagues in this Cham-

ber to quickly resolve the last few issues and produce compromise legislation today. We need to do this today because, one way or another, the Senate is not leaving without taking action. We are going to vote this week, and I sincerely hope we will be voting toward a negative-趟iated solution that could become law for the American people.

TOBACCO-FREE YOUTH ACT

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, earlier this week, Senator KAIN and I introduced new legislation to raise the national minimum age for purchasing tobacco products to 21. Now, it has generated some attention that Senators from Kentucky and Virginia—States with some connection to tobacco farming and production—are sponsoring this legislation, but, as I said Monday, Kentucky farmers don’t want their children forming nicotine addictions in middle school or high school any more than anyone else.

Well, it turns out a lot of people across the country feel the same way we do. We have already seen more than a dozen experts, advocates, and public health leaders come to rally around our legislation. One such organization said that the proposal would “support smoking prevention among a population that is particularly susceptible to addiction, whose brains are still developing, among whom nicotine use can have long-term developmental harms.”

When you consider the design of our approach, it is hardly surprising that leading voices in this area are lining up with enthusiasm. It is practical. It is within our reach, and it can become law. Our legislation simply works from the foundation of existing law. We take the existing mechanisms that are in Federal statute today to enforce the 18-year minimum standard and replace “18” with “21.” It is simple, it is straightforward, and it builds on what we know works.

Not only does this approach streamline implementation for addressing a widely acknowledged public health crisis, but it also preserves the freedom of individual States to go even further in their efforts to protect vulnerable youth. Yet it ensures States cannot enact anything less protective than the Federal T21 standard.

As I said earlier in the week, all youth below the age of 21 deserve the same protections from the public health crisis of nicotine addiction. Anyone who actually reads our bill will see that our intentions are clear and above reproach. Partisan griping will not save lives, nor will it prevent even more middle schoolers from yielding to potentially deadly addiction. As one advocate put it, “Every extra day it takes to put this important legislation into effect is an opportunity for thousands more kids to access a tobacco product that can damage their developing brains.”

Now is the time for us to join together in a bipartisan manner and actually get a result that our Nation’s youth so obviously need. In just 3 days since introduction, I have been encouraged by the support the Tobacco-Free Youth Act has received. I look forward to working with each of our colleagues to make it a reality and fight back against the scourge of addiction among America’s young people.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. (Mrs. HYDE-SMITH). Without objection, it is so ordered.

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Democratic leader is recognized.

DISASTER RELIEF

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, there is a lot of partisan squabbling that goes on around here. We all know that. Some of it is to be expected. After all, our parties have real disagreements about how we deal with the disaster relief that is ready to go.

But there are a few issues that are too important to get caught up in the typical partisan back-and-forth—a few fundamental responsibilities that we must fulfill as a governing body.

One of those responsibilities where there has always been bipartisan agreement has been disaster relief. Hurricanes, fires, and floods don’t hit only Republicans or only Democrats. They hit Americans of all stripes. We must come together to provide relief for everybody.

After holding up disaster relief on behalf of the President, who demanded we shortchange Puerto Rico, Republicans finally came around a few weeks ago and agreed with a disaster relief bill that would provide relief to everyone.

Let me repeat. We have an agreement right now on where and how to provide relief for Americans in the Midwest, in the South, in the West, and in the Territories. Chairman SHELBY and Vice Chairman LEAHY have worked in good faith to reach that compromise. The House will accept it. Chairman LOWEY and Ranking Member GRANGER also have agreed to this disaster relief package. So there is a package of disaster relief that is ready to go.

Unfortunately, that agreement has become entangled with extraneous issues. However important these other issues may be, we have an obligation to get this disaster relief package over the finish line before the congressional Memorial Day work period.

Ranking Member LEAHY and I would like to make it clear to my friend the
Republican leader that Senate Democrats are ready to pass the bipartisan disaster relief package that has already been agreed to and written.

We should leave out extraneous issues. There are many. Everyone wants to put in their own thing. Leave them for another day.

Democrats are willing to work hard to expedite consideration of that agreement. We are ready to work with our Republican colleagues to pass it as quickly as possible.

I understand that there is some discussion going on in the House, but if we can’t come to an agreement this morning on the extraneous issues that the House is discussing, we should set those issues to the side. We should pass the disaster agreement as is and return to those unrelated issues at a later date. The people of the Midwest, of the South, of the West, and of the Territories have waited long enough. They have waited long enough.

There are millions of Americans still recovering from having their homes destroyed, their crops devastated, their property burnt. They have waited for relief for too long. They are clamoring for it. They have said to Congress: Put aside your differences and get something done. The plan that I outlined will do just that—put aside the differences and get something done.

Whether it is the President or Members of the House or Senate—Democrat or Republican—who want to add extraneous issues, step aside at least for this time. Let’s get it done. Let’s not delay any longer.

INFRASTRUCTURE

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, on infrastructure, yesterday, as everyone knows, Speaker PELOSI and I met with the President and a group of other Senators and Congress Members to discuss the prospects for a bipartisan infrastructure bill.

We went to the meeting with high hopes. The President, 3 weeks earlier, had said he would be willing to do a $2 trillion infrastructure bill and tell us how we would pay for it. Unfortunately, it was a very short meeting. The President walked out after a few minutes with the paltry excuse that he would not work to get things done for Americans unless Congress abdicated its constitutional duty to provide oversight of the executive branch.

His motives were transparent. He knows darn well that these investigations should and will go forward. He had nothing to say on infrastructure. It was typical of the President. He boasts that he wants to do something and then does nothing at all. This administration has become an erratic, helter-skelter, get-nothing-done administration. Even on infrastructure, where there is usually bipartisan agreement, he couldn’t even come to the table and talk. He let a提案or temper tantrum and walk out.

Presidents throughout our history have worked with the other party while being investigated. They know—every President knows—it is a fact that Congress will do oversight. Some of it will not be pleasant for any President. President Obama didn’t like oversight; President Bush didn’t like oversight; President Clinton didn’t like oversight; President Reagan didn’t like oversight. But none of them, Democrat or Republican, said: I am going to stop the government from functioning. I am going to refuse to help those Americans who need help in one way or another because I don’t like Congress fulfilling its constitutional responsibility.

The bottom line is simple. The President was merely looking for any excuse however inegalant, however transparent, to wriggle out of working with Democrats on a much needed infrastructure bill.

Nothing about yesterday’s meeting at the White House changes the fact that we need infrastructure demands in our country. Nothing about yesterday’s meeting changes the fact that a substantial investment in infrastructure can boost our economy, put millions of Americans to work, create green jobs and green energy sources, and meet the ever-growing demands of the new 21st century.

We came to the meeting with the President with serious intentions to work with him on a large bipartisan infrastructure proposal with ideas on how to craft one. We talked about what needs to be done: repairing and rebuilding our old roads and bridges, water and sewer, building a power grid so that we can bring clean energy from the parts of the country blessed with wind and sun to other parts of the country in need of energy, dealing with infrastructure in a way that matters for all of the rural and inner city homes that don’t have it, creating green jobs, encouraging electric and other kinds of vehicles that will reduce the output of carbon into the air, and creating much more energy-efficient homes and schools.

There are many demands. It was a comprehensive proposal. The President might not agree with all of it, but we were there, prepared to roll up our sleeves, work, and come up with a plan.

Unfortunately, the President had no plan. Despite his promise 3 weeks earlier that he would have a plan, he had none. Two nights before, he had said: Well, let’s not discuss infrastructure until we discuss USMCA and NAFTA. Then, that morning, he didn’t even take a seat. He stood up, obviously agitated, and said that the investigations were wrong and stalked out.

We left the meeting disappointed in both the President’s decision and demeanor. But America can be assured that Democrats will try to find ways to move the ball forward on this important issue of roads, bridges, broadband, and power—with or without the President.

Democrats believe in infrastructure, plain and simple. We believe that our infrastructure is an urgent priority of the country and this Congress. We believe we need to rebuild existing infrastructure, remove these shorts, and sewers. We need to build the infrastructure of tomorrow, such as wind, solar, a new power grid, and broadband for rural and inner city America.

We believe our next investment in infrastructure must be substantial. We believe we can pay for it without asking the middle class to shoulder the burden.

We believe a new 21st century infrastructure program is one of the very best ways to create millions of long-term, good-paying jobs, to boost our economy, and to help combat climate change.

So I say to my Republican colleagues in the Senate: Despite the President’s unwillingness to work on anything that benefits the American people, according to him, let’s move forward on an infrastructure bill. Let’s put together a large, strong, well-funded, and clean infrastructure bill.

Members of both sides should want the opportunity to work on something that will benefit every constituency in every State in America. Members should want to tell the American people that they are working to bring jobs to their States, broadband to rural and underserved urban communities, to work together to improve the economy and the environment with a clean, green infrastructure bill. There is no reason why the Senate should not pursue a bipartisan infrastructure bill.

Congress has taken the lead before. Congress can take the lead again, no matter what the President does. Just because President Trump doesn’t want to lead doesn’t mean that our work on infrastructure is over—not by a long shot.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. THUNE. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

HEALTHCARE

Mr. THUNE. Madam President, if you have a leak in your sink or a dripping pipe in the bathroom, you generally fix it yourself or call a plumber to fix the problem. You don’t look at your otherwise functioning house and decide to razie it to the ground because of the plumbing issue. But that is basically what Democrats want to do with our healthcare system.

Our healthcare system certainly isn’t perfect, but our system also has plenty of positive things going for it: high-
quality care, choice, access to innovative technology and treatments, and most Americans are pretty satisfied with their health insurance. So a logical thing to do would be to fix the problems with our system and to preserve what is working, but that is not what they want to do.

Democrats want to destroy our current system and replace it with a single, one-size-fits-all, government-run program known as Medicare for All.

What will that mean for Americans? Paying more and waiting longer for worse care.

Medicare for All is estimated to cost $32 trillion or more over 10 years. That is more money than the Federal Government has spent in the last 8 years, combined, on everything. One Medicare expert estimates that doubling the amount of individual and corporate income tax collected would not be enough to cover the cost of Medicare for All. I don’t know about the Democrats, but I don’t know too many families who can afford to have their tax bills double.

Yet it is not just higher taxes. Medicare for All would eliminate Americans’ healthcare choices.

Doesn’t the one-size-fits-all government healthcare plan? Too bad. You will not have any other option. Private and employer-sponsored healthcare will be a thing of the past. Your only choice will be the government’s plan.

Your treatment choices will also be limited. If the government will not want to pay for a particular cancer treatment, for example, you will be out of luck. There will be no switching of an insurer to a better carrier. Unless you have tens or hundreds of thousands of dollars lying around to cover that treatment option entirely out-of-pocket, you are going to go without.

Then, of course, there are the long wait times that are a hallmark of socialized medicine. Patients in Canada and the United Kingdom, both of which have government-run healthcare systems, face tremendous wait times for care. It can take up to a year to get a medical procedure in Canada—one of the reasons you hear so many stories about Canadians coming to the United States for care. Imagine having to wait a year for your child to get a needed surgery. That is the kind of thing that parents can look forward to under Medicare for All.

As I said earlier, there are, undeniably, parts of our healthcare system that can be improved, and the Republicans are, in fact, currently working on legislation to increase access to affordable medicine and to address the issue of surprise billing, but the solution is not to destroy our current system and force people to pay more for less choice and worse care.

The Democrats’ ideology has outrun their common sense. The Republicans are committed to preserving America’s healthcare system and preserving Americans’ healthcare choices. I hope the Democrats will abandon their plan for government-controlled healthcare and switch their focus to helping us.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

Mr. Kaine. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum be suspended.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

ABORTION

Mr. KAINE. Madam President, I rise to speak about the recent uptick in State efforts to criminalize abortion.

These proposals, which have been passed in eight States just this year people who call themselves pro-life, but there is common ground among so many of us. For example, Americans with many different views on abortion overwhelmingly believe that Roe v. Wade should remain the law of the land.

People understand that, whatever they think about abortion for themselves and their own families, they do not believe the State should make the decision for every woman. Women should be able to make their own decisions about pregnancy, contraception, and abortion without State interference, and appropriate regulation of abortion, just as of other medical procedures, especially late in a pregnancy when a fetus could survive independently, is allowable as long as the life and health of the mother receive careful protection.

In addition to the support for Roe v. Wade, there is common ground based on data about strategies that work, and I want to offer a common-ground perspective on this issue. There is a way to dramatically reduce abortion in this country that both pro-life and pro-choice should embrace. It is a strategy of compassion. Let me start with a noteworthy fact that is almost never mentioned.

During the last 25 years, which is the time I have been in elected office, the abortion rate in this country has been cut in half. This is remarkable. You never hear this discussed. By 2015, during the Obama administration, the abortion rate in the United States was at its lowest level since Roe v. Wade became law. In fact, if you were to just measure it by the data, you could argue that the Obama administration’s years were the most pro-life period since Roe v. Wade.

Why has this happened?

While there are a number of reasons, the most important one is this: The rate of unplanned pregnancies is decreasing. Teen pregnancies are decreasing. If the number of unplanned pregnancies goes down, the abortion rate goes down. There is a direct connection between unplanned pregnancies and the abortion rate.

So here is the strategy that should unite everyone: Reduce the number of unplanned pregnancies. Could anyone be against that? Reduce the number of unplanned pregnancies.

The good news is that we know how to do it. When women have better access to affordable healthcare, better access to contraception and better access to comprehensive sex education, the number of unplanned pregnancies goes down, and the number of abortions drops. We know that more women have access to healthcare and contraception today than in the past. The passage of the Affordable Care Act and the 36 States that have expanded Medicaid have provided millions of women with healthcare, so many of whom didn’t have it before, including preventive care and contraception access.

Comprehensive sex education for young people also equips them with information that is necessary to avoid unplanned pregnancies. Some young people decide to delay becoming sexually active, and that is great. Some make better choices about contraception to avoid pregnancy, and that is helpful. So education is a key factor as well. Whatever we call ourselves—pro-choice, pro-life, or anything—if we want to keep reducing unplanned pregnancies and, thereby, reducing the abortion rate, guess what. We know just how to do it: Make sure kids get comprehensive sex education so they can make more responsible choices and keep working to expand healthcare, including access to contraception for women. This is the compassionate way to bring down the abortion rate. It supports women, trusts their decisions, and succeeds in reducing unplanned pregnancies and, thereby, reducing the abortion rate.

Yet here is something that puzzles me. The GOP legislators all across this country have generally opposed, quite bitterly, those proven strategies, and so few have a grasp of the pro-life community. The GOP Party lacks the Affordable Care Act every step of the way, and it now stands squarely behind the effort to repeal the act entirely and...
strip healthcare away from millions of women.

The GOP fights against contraception access. Many in the GOP fight against comprehensive sex education. Instead, they push abstinence-only sex education curricula that doesn’t work. If the GOP succeeds in killing the ACA and in reducing contraception access, the number of unplanned pregnancies will increase, and the abortion rate will increase. How is that pro-life?

The GOP could go further. They are embracing a different strategy—making women and doctors criminals. This is the key unifying cruelty to these recent State laws. GOP-controlled States are racing to see who can have the cruelest criminal laws—a complete ban on abortion at 8 weeks of pregnancy. No, how about a complete ban on abortion at 6 weeks of pregnancy? In Alabama, there is a ban from the second trimester begins, from the second there is a fetus in utero, and there are no exceptions to someone who is the victim of rape or incest. 

Think about that. Alabama forces a 13-year-old who was raped or was the victim of incest to bear a criminal child under pain of criminal prosecution and punishment—imprisonment—for the doctor.

Wait. Let’s get tougher still. In Georgia, women who terminate pregnancies could receive life in prison under a bill that was recently signed by the Georgia Governor. There is some confusion here. Prosecutors argue about whether the technical language would make it possible for a woman who has an abortion to a first-degree murder charge. The sponsor of the bill, now that it has been signed, is backpedaling, saying he only intended for women to be prosecuted under a separate criminal abortion statute that carries a maximum sentence of 10 years. He apparently believes that subjecting women to 10-year prison sentences rather than to life sentences for murder is merciful and lenient. No women have been able to cast the constitutional right to make her own healthcare decisions should be threatened with a prison sentence on even of one day.

The GOP could go further. A Texas bill filed last month would have allowed the death penalty—capital punishment—for a woman who seeks an abortion. The bill failed, but the bill wasn’t a surprise from the party whose President admitted during his campaign that a woman who has an abortion must suffer a punishment.

So the GOP’s strategy is for more criminal laws, more prosecutions, and more sentences—put more women in prison, and put more doctors in prison. We are waking up to a criminalization of the world—five times higher than Canada’s and 70 percent higher than Russia’s. Guess what. So many of these GOP proposals would push us even further, and the next big group going behind bars could be women and doctors.

These criminal laws don’t bring about a culture of life. These criminal laws don’t bring about a culture of compassion. They succeed only in demonizing women, robbing them of their dignity, and intruding upon the most private aspects of their lives, and they demonize the doctors who care for these women.

Do Americans want a society that labels women’s healthcare choices as criminal? No.

Is there any proof that criminal penalties for abortion will reduce unplanned pregnancies? No.

Is there any proof that criminal penalties for abortion will reduce the number of abortions? No.

That is what I mean about the choice we face as a society. We can pursue a path of compassion toward women and be secure in the knowledge that better health and contraception access and comprehensive sex education will reduce unplanned pregnancies and abortions, or we can pursue the path of criminalizing women’s decisions with the false claim that this strategy will have the effect of reducing unplanned pregnancies and abortions.

I have focused most of my attention on the issue of unplanned pregnancies. Of course, some planned pregnancies end in birth. And often, these pregnancies involve severe maternal or severe fetal health issues that are emotional and tragic for all involved. Certainly, compassion toward these families and not criminal prosecution is the right answer. But instead of using a compassionate strategy to reduce unplanned pregnancies or do we criminalize women’s decisions?—is the fundamental difference between the Nation’s two political parties on this very important issue right now.

I am firmly in the camp of compassion. If we support women and trust women, we can keep making significant progress toward a goal we should all share: fewer unplanned pregnancies and fewer abortions.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Illinois.

Mr. DURBIN. Madam President, let me say how much I agree with the Senator from Virginia. I endorse completely what he said. I would make one amendment. Instead of just the compassion approach versus the criminal approach, it is the commonsense approach versus the criminal approach as well.

I do believe that the point has been made and demonstrated by what my colleague said here and what he has said in previous meetings that when we invest in family planning and sex education and good healthcare for women, we have fewer unplanned pregnancies and fewer abortions, period. Those policies that militate against that just increase the likelihood of abortion.

Let me also add something that I think pro-life and pro-choice should agree to come to terms with in unity. How in the world can we live in a country—the United States of America—with all its wealth and all its expertise, and have in the last 25 years the worst incidence of maternal mortality in civilized countries around the world? More women are dying in the United States giving birth today than 25 years ago. Whether you are pro-life or pro-choice, wouldn’t you agree that it should be a high priority of our government—both parties—to reduce maternal mortality here in the United States?

I might add that infant mortality is still unacceptable in the United States. That is it.

Could we agree, pro-life and pro-choice, to come together behind those two?

I am a cosponsor of a bill introduced by Congresswoman Robin Kelly of Illinois that she aptly entitles the “MOMMA Act,” which will try to deal with maternal mortality issues, particularly as they relate to women of color. And the irony, the surprise is that when you read the data, the incidence of maternal mortality among women of color does not track with poverty and education. It is a racial issue for reasons that are hard to explain, but she addresses it, and I have joined her in that effort.

The other point I would like to make is this: My colleague from Virginia has talked about efforts in State legislatures that have gone to extremes. What I call the Alabama two-step is the second step in that process.

We spend our time day after day, week after week putting men and women on the bench who were proposed by the Trump administration and promoted as quickly as possible by the Republicans in the Senate who, frankly, are waiting for the day when they will have a chance to endorse, approve these statutes my colleague has described, which are extreme by any definition. That, to me, is problematic and troublesome for us as a nation, that we are moving toward that possibility.

I see that the Senator from South Dakota is on floor, and I believe he has a request to make.

I would like to ask unanimous consent, after his request, to be recognized again.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The request is granted.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from South Dakota.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT AGREEMENT—S. 151

Mr. THUNE. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that at 12:45 p.m. today, the Senate proceed to legislative session to consider Calendar No. 94, S. 151; I further ask that the committee-reported substitute amendment be agreed to, the bill, as amended, be ordered to committee-reported substitute amendment be agreed to, the bill, as amended, be read a third time, and the Senate vote on passage of the bill, as amended, with no intervening action or debate; finally that, if passed, the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?
Mr. DURBIN. Madam President, I see another colleague on the floor, so I will make my comments brief.

We had a briefing this week in a room in the Capitol that the public is not allowed to enter—it is called the SCIF. It was a briefing that is given to Members of the Senate of top-secret, classified information. It related to the situation in which we now find ourselves in relation to Iran.

It was troubling to hear the comments being made by the leaders of the Trump administration—the Secretary of Defense and the Secretary of State, as well as military leaders and leaders in the Obama administration, to stop the development of nuclear weapons in Iran.

What President Obama succeeded in doing over many years of diplomatic effort was to come to the table with Iran—an enemy of the United States on many fronts—and to reach an agreement where there would be international inspectors with free access to Iran to make certain they did not develop weapons. We sent a message to the world that Iran with nuclear weapons would be a danger to the region, a danger to our ally Israel, and even a danger to the United States.

The coalition put together by President Obama was nothing short of remarkable. You wouldn’t be surprised to learn the coalition included the United Kingdom, our traditional ally, but it also included Germany, France, the European Union, Russia, and China. Russia and China. All came to the table and agreed on it.

Did it work? International inspectors came and reported to Members of Congress over and over that there were no locked doors, no areas where access was denied, and that they could say with virtual certainty that Iran was living up to the terms of this agreement.

So what did this President, President Trump, decide to do? He canceled U.S. participation in the agreement. Why? Why would he believe that the development of nuclear weapons in Iran is in the best interest of anyone? Yet he did. He followed that with even more provocative efforts in relation to Iran when it came to categorizing the Revolutionary Guard as a terrorist organization—a step that moved even closer to provocation and confrontation. And then, of course, we decided to send our own military closer in to Iran itself. A carrier group was dispatched to that region.

What is behind all this? Why is it that we are escalating the situation with Iran? The President has been equivocal in trying to explain it, but his National Security Advisor, John Bolton, has not. John Bolton is a hawk. His position and his posture when it comes to military confrontation was so controversial—an issue, when he was appointed to the position of Ambassador to the United Nations because of statements he had made. Now he is the top national security advisor to the President of the United States. He has written articles pleading for confrontation with Iran on a military basis.

Rumors fly out of the Pentagon—this morning’s Washington Post suggestion that we are already sending 10,000 more to include joint operations into the region; a rumor 2 weeks ago that there was a contingency plan for 120,000 American troops. I might add that the Secretary of Defense, in my office this morning, denied both of these, but the fact is, 18 years ago we were sent in to destroy did not exist. We are still there today, 18 years ago. We were given information by the Bush administration and particularly Vice President Cheney about the danger of Iraq to the United States of America, where a vote came to the floor, and the Senate approved an invasion of Iraq.

I remember that night. I remember it well. Twenty-three of us—one Republican and twenty-two Democrats—joined together to vote no. It may have been the most important and maybe the best vote I believe I ever cast as a Member of the Senate.

It was a foreign policy mistake to invade Iraq. What followed was a tragedy. We have spent billions and billions of American taxpayers’ dollars in that country. We have lost over 4,000 American lives in Iraq, and over 30,000 or 40,000 came home with serious injuries, including many in the Senate, Senator TAMMY DUCKWORTH. We have paid so dearly for that mistake.

The weapons of mass destruction we were sent in to destroy did not exist. What was told to the American people about the danger of Iraq was false. We are still there today, 18 years later, as we are in Afghanistan—the two longest wars in the history of the United States of America. Is there anyone who believes when we voted on the floor that we were voting for the longest war in the history of the United States?

Now this administration, the Trump administration, is tempted to draw us into another war in the Middle East. The question is whether Members of the Senate and the House of Representatives will abide by the constitutional responsibility and demand that the American people, through our voices, have something to say about this decision.

If the American people are ready for a war in Iraq, I would be shocked. As I travel around the State of Illinois and other parts of this country, I find no sentiment for the United States to engage in another war at this moment in our history. I also find most people believing that the provocative and confrontational efforts of the Trump administration are drawing us nearer to that day.

So we leave now for a week. We will be back, but what will happen in the 7 or 8 days we are gone? I worry about that based on the briefings we have been given and the deliberate study of John Bolton and others in this administration to move us into war.

We should not invade Iran. We should not engage in another invasion in the Middle East. We should not subject America’s young men and young women to the possibility of military service in another war that can go on indefinitely. There are better ways to deal with this. Let’s rely on diplomacy and direct negotiation. Let’s work with our allies to bring more information here and to stop activity which we know Iran is engaged in which is objectionable. It can be done short of invasion, short of military force, and short of war.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Oregon.

Mr. MERKLEY. Madam President, I give heartfelt thanks to my colleague from Illinois for bringing the experience of his service in the Senate and his deliberate study of the challenges of international affairs to bear on the gravity of the current situation where a policy has brought us to the brink of conflict and we have no confidence that there is wise judgment being exercised at this moment to ensure that there is not a war.

I thank him for sharing the journey that he has been a part of and that this Chamber has been part of and ringing the alarm bell that at some moment, we have two key foreign policy advisors—our Secretary of State and our National Security Advisor—who prefer weapons over agreements, who have driven a strategy of maximum pressure designed to make life extraordinarily difficult in Iran, to undo all the international work of the previous years to end the nuclear program in that country, and who are talking as if a conflict somewhere—maybe an Iranian militia in Iraq—should be a trigger to a massive war, which is why we are so worried about leaving this Chamber for even a day.

I thank him for raising his voice and sharing his experience.

TRIBUTE TO LOUIE RECKFORD

Mr. MERKLEY. Madam President, I come to the floor because I am losing a key member of my foreign policy team who has wrestled with the issues of the Middle East and who has been engaged in the dialogue and conversation about a smart policy to end nuclear proliferation.
I can tell you that it is always, for any Senator, a moment that one has a conflicted heart when a man or a woman on their team who has contributed so much and has become part of the family, the Senate family, is ready to take another challenge away from these Chambers to develop their skills and to take their experience to a new extended conversation. It is a bitter-sweet moment.

We are proud of what our team members have contributed and proud of what they are going to contribute as they go off to a new responsibility.

Today, that member of my team is Louie Reckford. Louie, seated behind me, first came to my office in the fall of 2013 as part of that semester’s intern class, and it wasn’t long before he stood out, distinguished himself, and, thus, when we were hiring a deputy scheduler the following March, Louie’s name was at the top of the list, and he formally became a part of our team.

So for more than 5 years now, he has contributed. He has never stopped distinguishing himself, taking on one task and another and another and another and another and another—floor, committee and here on the floor.

Over the last 3 years, he has been an invaluable member of my correspondence and foreign policy team, first as legislative correspondent and later as legislative aide. On top of sending out 181,000 pieces of constituent mail, mail from local businesses and more, making sure that every detail was right. His attention to detail and to turn-around time made a very positive impression with all who contacted our office.

Mr. LEAHY. Madam President, the Appropriations Committee staff was working until midnight last night, as they do so often, on the disaster supplement. We know that in January the House sent us a disaster supplemental appropriations bill to help communities across the Nation. These communities were dealing with the deadly aftermath of hurricanes, floods, earthquakes, and volcanoes.

It has been my experience over the years that normally disaster bills sail through both Chambers of Congress. Every Member knows that one day it will be his State or her State that needs help recovering from a disaster.

I well remember when we had a terrible hurricane in Vermont; it was created the most damage in generations in our State. The day after the devastation, I went with our Governor and the head of our National Guard in a helicopter to survey the damage. For many towns, the only way they were safe was through a helicopter. The bridges were like a child’s toy, twisted and gone. The roads totally disappeared. Houses were upside down in the river.

It was heartbreaking, but as we were going through, one email after email. My Senate colleagues, many of them Republicans, said “Vermont stood with us when we had”—and they named the disaster. “We will stand with you.” That is what we do. It doesn’t make any difference whether you are a Republican or a Democrat; if there is a disaster, you stand together.

What I cannot understand is that in my 44 years here—it was different this time. When we brought up a disaster supplemental appropriations bill in January of this year, the President of the United States came out swinging against it. Why? Because the bill contained assistance for Puerto Rico. Puerto Rico had been hit by 2 back-to-back, category 5 hurricanes, and apparently providing assistance to 3 million Americans in need was a step too far for him. He did not want to provide aid to these Americans. “Not one more dime for Puerto Rico” he was reported to have said—shocking words for somebody in the highest office in the land, especially after they had nearly unprecedented back-to-back hurricanes.

From the beginning, I have said what my Republican colleagues and Democratic colleagues have always said. It is a role of the Federal Government to stand by all Americans in times of need. It should not matter whether you are a Georgia peach farmer, a California small business owner, or a child living in San Juan. If your community is dealing with a natural disaster, you are an American, and the American community will stand with you. That is what I have always fought for.

Thank you, Madam President.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Vermont.

So here we are, 5 months later—5 months of negotiations, 5 months of talks—and we finally reached a deal on a disaster aid bill that helps all—all Americans. We don’t pick and choose. It is a good deal. It addresses the need from Alabama to California and many States in between. But 5 months is too long to wait. It is far too long for the communities who are trying to rebuild their homes and their towns, so we have to act now.

The President has asked that we add $4.5 million to the disaster supplemental bill to address the issues that we face at our southern border. I agree with the President that some of this money is badly needed. We don’t dispute that. But everyone in this Chamber, Republicans and Democrats, knows that under this President, anything to do with immigration is controversial; it is going to be hotly debated. We have been working night and day to strike down the President’s request. When we finished in the middle of last night, we were close, but we are not there yet.

I hope in the next few weeks we can resolve our remaining differences, but if we cannot reach agreement on the President’s request. When we finished in the middle of last night, we were close, but we are not there yet.

I have been hurt, and Americans have to take on a new challenge away from the family, the Senate family, is ready to have said—shocking words for some-
HONORING SERGEANT VERDELL SMITH

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Madam President, yesterday, Tennesseans were really filled with a bittersweet pride as President Trump awarded posthumously the Public Safety Officer Medal of Valor to a heroic Tennessean, Sergeant Verdell Smith.

His watch with the Memphis Police Department ended on June 4, 2016. On that day, an armed gunman stole a car and led Memphis police on a chase into the downtown area. Officer Smith responded to the call and worked quickly to clear streets from the gunman’s vehicle. Just as valor lived in the hearts of the fallen, so does their sacrifice ennable the hearts of every Tennessean. As a former member of our Armed Forces, we thank them continually for the service they provided and the sacrifices that they and their families make on behalf of this Nation and freedom.

Yesterday, members of the Armed Services Committee—of which Madam President and I are each a member of this committee—completed our first steps in ensuring that this year’s National Defense Authorization Act fully funds our military needs to defend against the threats that we face on land, by sea, in air, and of course in the cyber realm. Our proposed $750 billion national defense budget will more than support this goal and includes a much-needed and well-deserved pay increase for our military men and women.

MEMORIAL DAY

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Madam President, as I reflected on Sergeant Smith’s story, I began to think about Memorial Day and the ways we honor the valor of every soldier who has made that ultimate sacrifice. One of the first official Memorial Day observances was in 1868, and it was just over the Potomac River in Arlington National Cemetery. If you have not been there to honor those who have given the ultimate sacrifice, I encourage you to do that.

In 1868, individuals gathered to honor those who had lost their life in the Civil War, and they gathered to decorate the graves of the fallen, both the Union and Confederate soldiers. This set a precedent for what would become a national day of unity. Think about that, a national day of unity, of mourning, and of remembrance. As the years went by, Americans took greater steps to memorialize the fallen and those who have exercised valor and have chosen to make that ultimate sacrifice.

After World War I, observances were expanded to honor those who fell in all American wars. Finally, it was in 1971 that Congress declared Memorial Day to be a national holiday. Since then, each year, at the end of May, cities across the Nation have lowered their flags to half-staff as a silent reminder of the cost of the freedom the fallen provided.

Just like Sergeant Smith, the fallen warriors we honor this Memorial Day made a choice to serve this Nation. They knew it wouldn’t be easy. They knew it would be dangerous or even deadly, but they knew that it would be worth it because it would be a step in preserving freedom and freedom’s cause. It is this choice—and the choice to serve bravely and selflessly on behalf of a grateful nation—that we remember, as we deliberate legislation supporting our Armed Forces.

Memorial Day marks the conclusion of Military Appreciation Month, which has provided each of us an opportunity to unite and reflect upon the heroic courage of those members of our Armed Forces. We thank them continually for the service they provided and the sacrifices that they and their families make on behalf of this Nation and freedom.

Mr. CORTEZ MASTO. I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDENT. Without objection, it is so ordered.

END MASS DEPORTATION ACT

Ms. CORTEZ MASTO. Madam President, I take to the floor today to urge my colleagues to halt the President’s inhumane deportation regime. This administration is targeting immigrants who are deeply woven into our communities, and this inhumane approach must end.

For 30 years, David Chavez-Macias, who was born in Mexico, lived in Reno, NV. He worked for a local supermarket during the week and went to church on Sundays. He raised four children, and he tried to follow the law. He paid his taxes and hired attorneys to help him become an American citizen. In 2013, he was pulled over for turning left as the street light changed. That traffic stop brought him to the attention of immigration enforcement.

The previous administration had permitted Mr. Chavez-Macias to stay with his family. After all, he had a heart condition that required regular treatment, and he had been a hard-working community member for decades. Under President Trump, David was deported to Mexico, ripping him from his family.

Now, as a granddaughter of immigrants, I understand how much immigrants like David contribute to American communities, and as a native Nevada—a State where one in five schoolchildren have an undocumented parent—I know how deeply communities are hurt when we drive out long-time members. That is why I am introducing the End Mass Deportation Act to keep the Trump administration from pursuing people like David. This bill will make sure we are not indiscriminately targeting people for deportation who have contributed to their communities for decades.

Just days after taking office, President Trump issued an Executive order that changed our immigration enforcement priorities. He gave ICE the green light to aggressively pursue anyone without papers, not just people who had committed serious crimes or posed a threat to our public safety. My bill rescinds this cruel and counterproductive order.

Now, the Trump administration is deporting people who have lived in the United States—sometimes for decades—by playing the rules, providing for their family’s, starting businesses, and contributing to their communities. In Nevada, almost 90 percent of undocumented residents have been in the United States for more than 5 years. These are people who own their own homes. They are people who pay billions of dollars in taxes each year. Their children are citizens, legal permanent residents, and Dreamers. They are our neighbors, our coworkers, and our friends. The impact of this policy on American families has been profound. Since President Trump signed his Executive order, arrests of immigrants without criminal records have tripled.

The End Mass Deportation Act would make the administration focus our law enforcement resources where they should be: on people who pose a legitimate threat to our communities. Historically, prosecutorial discretion was used to take into account the circumstances of an individual’s case, like parents who have U.S. citizen children and strong ties to the community or individuals who have served in our military. As a former prosecutor, I understand what an important law enforcement tool this is.

The President’s mass deportation order ends that prosecutorial discretion in our immigration system, taking
valuable time and resources away from pursuing criminals and other security threats. Even worse, the order makes us all less safe because it discourages people without documentation from turning to police to report crime.

Put yourself in the shoes of an undocumented worker who is the victim of domestic violence or someone without papers exploited at the hands of an unscrupulous boss. When those crimes go unreported, our neighborhoods suffer.

Listen, I recognize that we have a broken immigration system, but the way to fix it isn’t to persecute people like David whose biggest offense is a traffic ticket. We need to pass comprehensive immigration reform, but until we do and until we can come together in a bipartisan way, we must rescind these Executive orders that are not moving this debate forward in a useful way. Let’s reverse this administration’s cruel and dangerous policy. I am the first to tell you—and I see it every single day in my State—immigrants enlarge our vision of who we live with, work with, and worship with. By passing the End Mass Deportation Act, we will remind all Americans that every immigrant enriches the fabric of our Nation and will provide the sense of security that every family with undocumented members needs to thrive. I urge my colleagues to support this act.

I yield the floor. I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. WICKER. Madam President, in a few moments, the Senate will vote on the Telephone Robocall Abuse Crime and Enforcement Act. The shorthand name for that is the TRACED Act. I rise in strong and optimistic support of this legislation at this time. I thank the leadership on both sides of the aisle for working to bring this bill to a vote.

Last month, the people of my State of Mississippi received over 50 million robocalls. That is just in the State of Mississippi, with about 3 million citizens. That is more than 17 robocalls for every man, woman, or child in my State—50 million. Imagine what it is around the country. It is billions and billions.

Some robocalls are legitimate. When we get a reminder from a doctor's office that our appointment is coming soon or when a school activity is canceled, those are welcome. But many are not. Most are not.

Billions and billions of robocalls are scams targeting the most vulnerable members of our society. These abusive robocalls have plagued Americans for years. Studies show that in my part of the country, the Southeastern United States, they are particularly abusive and pervasive, costing consumers billions of dollars each year and costing our economy billions of dollars each year.

Many of these illegal robocalls use what is referred to as neighbor spoofing, where robocallers somehow manage to use a local number and a local area code in the hope that recipients will be more likely to pick up the phone. The result is many Americans don’t answer those phone calls. They just let it ring and see if there is a message. But Americans also miss important calls because of scammers and because this has been hijacked by the extraordinary networks used by these scammers and illegal violators of the law.

The TRACED Act will help. It goes after abusive and illegal robocallers by giving consumers, companies, and law enforcement tools to fight the people taking advantage of the system. The bill will help the Federal Communications Commission, or the FCC, to crack down on violators, require phone companies to authenticate calls, and require the FCC to consider when and how to make call-blocking services available to customers.

Perhaps the most important part of the TRACED Act is that law enforcement will now join the battle. Under the authority of the U.S. Attorney General, the bill will get law enforcement fully engaged in the fight to prevent and prosecute robocall violations. The American people are ready for this and are demanding this. We can give it to them in just a few moments when we vote on final passage.

The bill will task the Attorney General with providing Congress with the next steps we need to take to stay ahead of the pestilence of illegal robocalls.

I thank the bipartisan leadership in the Commerce Committee for moving this bill forward and the authors, Senator THUNE and Senator MARKEY, for their leadership on this important issue. I thank my ranking member, the Senator from Washington, Ms. CANTWELL, for her help in moving this legislation expeditiously through the legislative process.

I thank my partner, Senator THUNE from South Dakota. He and I have worked very hard to reach this moment where Democrats and Republicans can come together on an issue, which we all agree is something that we have to address in a very serious way.

So this question of robocalls and their role in American society, well, it is a daily deluge of calls that Americans experience. It is more than a nuisance in 2019. It is a consumer protection crisis.

Americans across the country face an epidemic of robocalls bombarding landlines and mobile phones. While our phones were once a reliable means of communication, they have been turned against us and are now mechanisms for scammers and fraudsters who wish to do us harm. The numbers are staggering.

In 2018, consumers received an estimated 48 billion robocalls—18 billion more than in 2017. That is 131 million robocalls per day—more than 5 million calls an hour, more than 1,000 calls per second in the United States, and nearly 500 million robocalls to Massachusetts residents alone.

The reality is that we no longer have confidence in our phones. What was once a trusted means of communication, our phone has become a tool for fraud, scams, harassment, and an avenue by which individuals with bad intent can access our homes, our purses, or our pockets at any time.

Caller ID is not trusted. Important calls go unanswered. Innocent Americans are defrauded. Our seniors, in particular, are targeted. Robocalls are a menace. But today, the U.S. Senate is saying loud and clear that robocall relief is in sight.

I am proud to partner with Senator JOHN THUNE from South Dakota on the Telephone Robocall Abuse Criminal Enforcement and Deterrence Act, or TRACED Act. Our legislation cracks down on scammers that now account for nearly one-half of all the robocalls in our country. It is an unbelievable number. One-half of all the robocalls are now being delivered by scammers trying to take advantage of innocent Americans.

Years ago, scammers needed expensive, sophisticated equipment to robocall and robotext consumers en masse. Today, they just need a
smartphone to target thousands of phones an hour at literally very little expense. So something has changed, and we know it has changed, and this is our opportunity here today to do something about it.

These new technologies allow illegal robocallers to conduct fraud anonymously, depriving both Federal regulators and consumers the ability to identify and punish the culprit. By passing this legislation today, we are sending a clear message to these fraudulent robocallers: Your days are numbered.

Stopping robocalls requires a simple formula, which we have included in the TRACED Act—authentication, No. 1; blocking, No. 2; and tougher enforcement, No. 3.

First, this bill requires telephone carriers to adopt call authentication technologies so that they can verify that incoming calls are legitimate or authentic before they reach consumers’ phones. This must be mandatory for every single phone carrier in the United States.

Second, the Federal Communications Commission must require callers to block unverified calls—fake calls—something the Commission has yet to do.

Third, we need to increase from 1 year to 3 years the time for the Federal Communications Commission to pursue penalties for robocallers that intentionally violate the rules. That is the recipe for success, and that is what the TRACED Act does.

This bill we will vote on today has enormous support across the country: 54 State and Territory attorneys general, all of the Commissioners at the Federal Communications Commission and at the Federal Trade Commission, major industry associations, and leading consumer groups endorse the legislation and argue that the TRACED Act is an essential weapon in combating the rise of illegal, fraudulent robocalls.

Senator THUNE and I are joined by over 80 of our colleagues in support of this bill. This is not a liberal or a conservative issue; it is an ‘everyone’ issue. It affects the elderly, the young, the small business owner, and the student. Our grandparents, our neighbors, our teachers, and our coworkers—today, no one is spared from this consumer protection pandemic.

Senator THUNE and I have worked together, but it would not have been possible without the great work of groups like the National Consumer Law Center, AARP, Consumer Reports, Consumer Federation of America, Consumer Action, the National Association of Attorneys General, USTelecom, CTIA, NTCA, and so, so many more. These groups joined the chorus of countless Americans who have raised their voices and called on Congress to pass this bipartisan, commonsense legislation, and we thank each and every one of them.

There are no blue robocalls. There are no red robocalls. All there are are robocalls attacking every home in our country and every person walking around with a wireless device on their person. This is something that we finally have a chance today to do something about—to pass meaningful legislation that will begin this process of curtailing this scourge of robocalls that is an abuse of every single American every single day of the year.

We thank everyone for all of their great work on this issue. Again, I thank my great partner, JOHN THUNE, and his staff for their partnership on this legislation. I thank my staff—Joey Wender, who is sitting out here on the floor; Daniel Greene; and, as well, Bennett Butler, who is sitting right behind me. They worked on a bipartisan basis with Republican staffers to craft this very important piece of legislation. Again, I thank Senator THUNE and I thank Senator WICKER for ensuring that America now has a chance to see that this body is going to work to begin an end to this epidemic. I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority whip Mr. THUNE, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. THUNE. Madam President, pretty much every American has had to deal with illegal robocalls. How many times have you answered the phone only to discover it is an automated message saying that you have won a contest that you never entered or asking you to provide personal information like your bank account or Social Security number? Illegal robocalls, I think we can all agree, are a major nuisance, and too often they are not just a nuisance. Scammers use these calls to successfully prey on vulnerable populations like elderly Americans who are sometimes less technologically savvy. Scammers target the kind of personal information that can be used to steal your money and your identity, and when scammers are successful, the consequences for their victims can be devastating.

Well, there are laws and fines in place right now to prevent scam artists from preying on Americans through the telephone. These measures have been insufficient. In many cases, robocall scammers simply build the current fines into the cost of doing business. On top of this, the Federal Communications Commission’s enforcement efforts are hampered by a tight time window for pursuing violators.

That is why I introduced the legislation before us today, the Telephone Robocall Abuse Criminal Enforcement and Deterrence Act, or the TRACED Act, along with my fellow Commerce Committee member, Senator MARKEY. The TRACED Act provides tools to discourage illegal robocalls, protect consumers, and crack down on offenders. It expands the window in which the FCC can pursue intentional scammers from 1 year to 3 years, and in years 2 and 3, increases the financial penalty for those individuals making robocalls from zero dollars to $10,000 per call to make it more difficult for robocallers just to figure fines into the cost of doing business.

It also requires telephone service providers to adopt new call verification technologies that would help prevent illegal robocalls from reaching consumers in the first place. And, importantly, it convenes a working group with representatives from the Department of Justice, the FCC, the Federal Trade Commission, the Department of Commerce, the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau, State attorneys general, and others to identify ways to criminally prosecute illegal robocalling.

Criminal prosecution of illegal robocalling can be challenging. Scammers are frequently based abroad and can quickly shut down shop before authorities have a chance to get to them, but we need to find ways to hold scammers criminally accountable. When scammers are successful, they can destroy people’s lives, and they should face criminal prosecution for the damage they do.

I am very pleased that the TRACED Act has attracted a tremendous amount of support from Members of both parties. In fact, 84 Senators have signed on as cosponsors of this bill. I am especially grateful to Senator MARKEY for partnering with me on this legislation. I appreciate Chairman WICKER and Ranking Member CANTWELL for prioritizing this bill as they have assumed the reins at the Commerce Committee.

I am also very pleased that this bill has attracted tremendous support from State governments and industry and consumer groups. All 50 State attorneys general support this bill, and it
has been embraced by the AARP, Verizon, AT&T, CTIA, USTelecom, NTCA, Consumer Reports, and a number of other organizations. It is also supported by all of the current Commissioners at the Federal Trade Commission and the Federal Communications Commission.

I think we all know that the TRACED Act will not prevent all illegal robocalling. I think we can all agree it is a big step in the right direction. It will make life a lot more difficult for scam artists and help ensure that more scammers face punishment for their crimes. I am excited the full Senate is voting on this bill today, and I hope that the House will quickly take it up so that we can get this legislation to the President’s desk.

Before I close, I would be remiss if I didn’t quickly thank several staff members whose tireless efforts helped get us here today. In my office, I recognize and thank Alex Sachtleben and Nick Rossi. I am thankful for their dedication and expertise. I thank Dan Ball and Crystal Tully, who serve on Chairman Wicker’s team at the Commerce Committee, Daniel Greene on Senator Mark Warner’s staff, John Branscombe and Shawn Bone on Ranking Member Cantwell’s staff. This truly was a team effort. I am glad that we have an opportunity to do something that in a very big bipartisan way will start putting feet forward that will help prevent calling that has become a scourge in the lives of so many Americans.

I yield the floor.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Massachusetts.

Mr. MARKET. Thank you, Madam President.

Again, I want to thank the Senator from South Dakota for his great leadership of this legislation. I think it is a start. It is a revolution in the telecommunications industry that we are going to be voting on here today.

I want to thank you so much for your great leadership.

One again, I thank Senator Wicker and Senator Cantwell for helping to bring this out here to let the American people know we are going to take action to stop this plague from affecting their families.

Thank you so much.

Mr. THUNE. I appreciate the comments from the Senator from Massachusetts and also his great work on this. It has been a team effort and a great leadership. He and I—although in many cases we represent different parts of the country, we all represent constituents who care deeply about this issue and want to see their Congress do something about it.

I want to thank the chairman and the ranking member of the committee. Madam President, I yield the floor.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will proceed to legislative session.

TELEPHONE ROBOCALL ABUSE CRIMINAL ENFORCEMENT AND DETERRENCE ACT

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will proceed to the consideration of S. 151.

The clerk will report the bill by title.

A bill (S. 151) to deter criminal robocall violations and improve enforcement of section 227(b) of the Communications Act of 1934, and for other purposes.

Section 1 of the bill, which had been reported from the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation, with an amendment to strike all after the enacting clause and insert in lieu thereof the following:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE

This Act may be cited as the “Telephone Robocall Abuse Criminal Enforcement and Deterrence Act” or the “TRACED Act”.

SEC. 2. FORFEITURE.

(a) In general.—Section 227 of the Communications Act of 1934 (47 U.S.C. 227) is amended—

(1) in subsection (b), by adding at the end the following:

“(4) CIVIL FORFEITURE.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—Any person that is determined by the Commission, in accordance with paragraph (3) or (4) of section 503(b), to have violated any provision of this subsection shall be liable to the United States for a forfeiture penalty pursuant to section 503(b)(1). The amount of the forfeiture penalty determined under this subparagraph shall be determined in accordance with subparagraphs (A) through (F) of section 503(b)(2).

(B) VIOLATION WITH INTENT.—Any person that is determined by the Commission, in accordance with paragraph (3) or (4) of section 503(b), to have violated this subsection with the intent to cause such violation shall be liable to the United States for a forfeitures penalty.

The amount of the forfeiture penalty determined under this subparagraph shall be equal to an amount of the forfeiture penalty determined under subparagraph (A) through (F) of section 503(b)(2).”;

(2) by striking subsection (h) and inserting the following:

“(h) TCPA ENFORCEMENT REPORT.—The Commission shall submit an annual report to Congress regarding the enforcement during the preceding year of this Act, and the results relating to robocalls and spoofed calls, which report shall include—

“(1) the number of complaints received by the Commission during the year alleging that a consumer received a robocall or spoofed call;

“(2) the number of citations issued by the Commission pursuant to section 227 during the year to enforce any law, regulation, or policy relating to robocalls or spoofed calls;

“(3) the number of notices of apparent liability issued by the Commission pursuant to section 503 during the year to enforce any law, regulation, or policy relating to robocalls or spoofed calls; and

“(4) for each notice referred to in paragraph (3)—

“(A) the amount of the proposed forfeiture penalty involved;

“(B) the person to whom the notice was issued; and

“(C) the status of the proceeding.”.

(b) APPLICABILITY.—The amendments made by this section shall not affect any action or proceeding commenced before and pending on the date of enactment of this Act.

(c) DEADLINE FOR REGULATIONS.—The Federal Communications Commission shall prescribe regulations to implement the amendments made by this section not later than 270 days after the date of enactment of this Act.

(2) voice service.—The term “voice service” means—

(A) any service that is interconnected with an eligible switched telephone network that furnishes voice communications to an end user using resources from the North American Numbering Plan or any successor to the North American Numbering Plan; or

(B) includes—

(i) transmissions from a telephone facsimile machine, computer, or other device to a telephone facsimile machine; and

(ii) without limitation, any service that enables two-way voice communications, including any service that requires internet protocol-compatible customer premises equipment (commonly known as “CPE”) and permits outgoing and incoming calls, whether one-way or two-way voice over internet protocol.

(b) AUTHENTICATION FRAMEWORK.—

(i) In general.—Subject to paragraphs (2) and (3), not later than 6 months after the date of enactment of this Act, the Federal Communications Commission shall require a provider of voice service to implement the STIR/SHAKEN authentication framework in the internet protocol networks of the voice service provider.

(ii) implementation.—The Federal Communications Commission shall not take the action described in paragraph (i) until the Commission determines that a provider of voice service, not later than 12 months after the date of enactment of this Act—

(A) has adopted the STIR/SHAKEN authentication framework for calls on the internet protocol networks of the voice service provider;

(B) has agreed voluntarily to participate with other providers of voice communications in the STIR/SHAKEN authentication framework; and

(C) has begun to implement the STIR/SHAKEN authentication framework.

(iii) is capable of fully implementing the STIR/SHAKEN authentication framework not later than 18 months after the date of enactment of this Act.

(3) implementation.—Not later than 12 months after the date of enactment of this Act, the Federal Communications Commission...
shall submit to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate and the Committee on Energy and Commerce of the House of Representatives a report on the determinations made under paragraph (2), which shall include—

(A) an analysis of the extent to which providers of a voice service have implemented the STIR/SHAKEN authentication framework, including whether the availability of necessary equipment and equipment upgrades has impacted such implementation; and

(B) an assessment of the efficacy of the STIR/SHAKEN authentication framework, as being implemented under this section, in addressing all aspects of call authentication.

SEC. 4. PROTECTIONS FROM SPOOFED CALLS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, and consistent with the call authentication framework under subsection (b), the Federal Communications Commission shall initiate a rulemaking to help protect a subscriber from receiving unwanted calls or text messages from a caller using an unauthorized North American Numbering Plan number,

(b) CONSIDERATIONS.—In promulgating rules under subsection (a), the Federal Communications Commission shall consider—

(1) the Government Accountability Office report on combating the fraudulent provision of misleading or inaccurate caller identification required by section 303(c) of division P of the Consolidated Appropriations Act 2018 (Public Law 115–114);

(2) the best means of ensuring that a subscriber or provider has the ability to block calls from a caller using an unauthorized North American Numbering Plan number;

(3) the impact on the privacy of a subscriber from unauthorized calls;

(4) the effectiveness in verifying the accuracy of caller identification information; and

(5) the availability and cost of providing protection from the unwanted calls or text messages described in paragraph (1).

SEC. 5. INTERAGENCY WORKING GROUP.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Attorney General, in consultation with the Chairman of the Federal Communications Commission, shall convene an interagency working group to study Government prosecution of violations of section 227(b) of the Communications Act of 1934 (47 U.S.C. 227(b)).

(b) STIR/SHAKEN.—In carrying out the study under subsection (a), the interagency working group shall—

(1) determine whether, and if so how, any Federal laws, including regulations, policies, and practices, or budgetary or jurisdictional constraints inhibit the prosecution of such violations;

(2) identify existing and potential Federal policies and programs that encourage and improve coordination among Federal departments and agencies and States, and between States, in the prevention and prosecution of such violations;

(3) identify existing and potential interagency policies and programs that encourage and improve coordination among Federal departments and agencies and States, and between States, in the prevention and prosecution of such violations; and

(4) consider—

(A) the benefit and potential sources of additional resources for the Federal prevention and prosecution of criminal violations of that section;

(B) whether to establish memoranda of understanding regarding the prevention and prosecution of such violations between—

(i) the States;

(ii) the States and the Federal Government; and

(iii) the Federal Government and a foreign government;

(C) whether to establish a process to allow States to request Federal subpoenas from the Federal Communications Commission; and

(D) whether extending civil enforcement authority to the States would assist in the successful prevention and prosecution of such violations;

(5) whether increased forfeiture and imprisonment penalties are appropriate, such as extending imprisonment for such a violation to a term longer than 2 years;

(6) whether regulation of any entity that enters into a business relationship with a party under section 227(b) of the Communications Act of 1934 (47 U.S.C. 227(b)) is appropriate, including whether such a party should be subject to a forfeiture penalty under section 503 of that Act.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the committee-reported substitute amendment is agreed to.

The committee-reported amendment in the nature of a substitute was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will read the title of the bill for the third time.
MEMORIAL DAY

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, this is the weekend before Memorial Day, and we will be honoring the brave men and women who have served our Nation and who gave their lives to protect the very freedoms that we enjoy today. 

Ronald Reagan said, "Freedom is never more than one generation away from extinction. We didn’t pass it to our children in the bloodstream. It must be fought for, protected, and handed on for them to do the same."

Our Nation is incredibly fortunate and grateful to have had no shortage of those who are ready to lead that fight. Throughout our history, brave men and women have answered the call to serve our country. Whether we answered the call nearly 250 years ago to fight for our independence or in recent years to combat the global threat of terrorism, all of them are our heroes.

I have always had tremendous admiration for our servicemembers—something instilled in me from an early age because of my dad’s military service. He was a B–17 pilot in the Army Air Corps and flew with the Hell’s Angels in the Second Bomber Group out of the 8th Air Force in World War II. On his 26th mission over Germany, after leaving the base in Molesworth, England, and flying over the English Channel to Germany, he was shot down and captured as a prisoner of war. By the grace of God, he survived the Nazi prison camp where he was interned for the last 4 months of the war.

My dad went on to serve in the Air Force for 31 years and retired from what we affectionately called a full-bird colonel. Both during and after his service, he was an unashamed patriot and demonstrated every day to us, his children, and family, what it meant to selflessly serve your country. 

While my dad made it home after the war, many of his friends and comrades did not. Like the great soldiers before them, and many after, they laid down their lives in service to our country and for the values we embrace as a nation.

This Memorial Day, we remember the fallen and thank them for the ultimate sacrifice to preserve our way of life. We mourn their loss and celebrate the great gift they have bestowed upon us and the freedoms they protected.

Since last Memorial Day, we have lost some incredible servicemembers who call Texas home. In December, we said goodbye to Richard Overton, the 103-year-old World War II veteran. At the ripe old age of 112, he had a lot of wisdom to share, including a few unlikely tips for living a long life, such as drinking a lot of coffee and smoking cigars.

Richard Cole, the 103-year-old World War II veteran, was part of the Doolittle Raiders. He and his brothers in arms carried out a strike on facili-

ties and military installations in Tokyo, against enormous odds, providing a desperately needed morale boost after the attack on Pearl Harbor.

Just last week, we said farewell to another member of the Greatest Generation, 100-year-old Bill Hayes. Colonel Hayes was one of the last living Pearl Harbor veterans and spent nearly four decades serving in the U.S. Army. In February of last year, Congress and signed by the President designated for Texas to fund projects that will improve resiliency and help us prepare for future storms. But as Texans who continue to recover from Hurricane Harvey and other disasters that continue to battle the impacts of severe weather.

This Memorial Day, we remember the fallen and thank them for the ultimate sacrifice to preserve our way of life. We mourn their loss and celebrate the great gift they have bestowed upon us and the freedoms they protected.

In April, we mourned the loss of Richard Cole, the 103-year-old World War II veteran who was part of the Doolittle Raiders. He and his brothers in arms carried out a strike on facilities and military installations in Tokyo, against enormous odds, providing a desperately needed morale boost after the attack on Pearl Harbor.

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Today, in advance of this holiday weekend, I would like to say thank you to the men and women stationed across my State and the veterans who call Texas home.

On behalf of a grateful nation, thank you to all the brave men and women who lost their lives while fighting for our freedoms. We will never forget your service or your sacrifice.

DISASTER RELIEF

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, on another matter, we were all hoping that the Senate would soon be able to vote on a disaster aid bill that would send funds to States throughout the South-

east and Midwest that continue to bat-
tle the impacts of severe weather.

When a hurricane, tornado, wildfire, or whatever the case may be, hits your State, securing funds to help with re-

covery becomes priority No. 1. I know because after Texas was hit by Hurricane Harvey in 2017, I worked with the entire bipartisan Texas delega-
tion to secure funding that would help both with the immediate after-

maths and long-term recovery and re-
buidling efforts.

We received tremendous support from our colleagues here in Congress, as well as President Trump, in making sure that Texas communities had the fund-
ings and resources they needed. Our State has made a great deal of progress since Hurricane Harvey hit, and most Texans have returned to some sense of normalcy, but the recovery process is not over.

In February of last year, Congress appropriated more than $28 billion in community development block grants for disaster recovery, with roughly $12 billion intended specifically for mitiga-
tion purposes. About $4 billion of that was designated for Texas to fund projects that will improve resiliency and help us prepare for future storms. But as Texans who continue to recover from Hurricane Harvey have learned, getting a disaster relief bill passed in Congress and signed by the President doesn’t mean the check is in the mail.

It has now been 15 months since that bill was signed, and Texas haven’t seen a penny of it. Despite numerous attempts to get the funding untangled from the redtape at the Office of Man-

agement and Budget, we are still wait-
g...
MEMORIAL DAY

Mr. BLUMENTHAL. Mr. President, I am very proud to be in this Chamber. I am always enormously grateful to be in this body, but especially so at the beginning of this Memorial Day weekend, when we celebrate the patriotism and dedication of our brave men and women in uniform—patriots who serve our country in so many different ways, as teachers and firefighters and police—and the values that bring us together always as Americans. What we share is a dedication to the rule of law, basic standards of which are the foundation of the United States. Communities across the country need this money for disaster recovery and mitigation, and they are simply tired of waiting for Congress to act. I am hopeful that any agreement will include this shot clock provision, which will allow communities impacted by disaster to get the funds needed for recovery and mitigation, and get to the Texans who desperately need it.

Communities across our country need this money for disaster recovery and mitigation, and they are simply tired of waiting for Congress to act. I am hopeful that any agreement will include this shot clock provision, which will continue to negotiate in good faith so we can reach a compromise and reach a result soon.

I yield the floor.

Mr. BLUMENTHAL. Mr. President, I recently introduced a bill that would require the Office of Management and Budget to provide funds appropriated by Congress within 90 days. This change would apply not only to this particular block of funding but to any funds appropriated by the Office of Management and Budget.

I recently introduced a bill that would require the Office of Management and Budget to release funds appropriated by Congress within 90 days. This change would apply not only to this particular block of funding but to any funds appropriated by Congress.

I have faith that those who are negotiating this disaster relief bill, including this shot clock provision, will continue to negotiate in good faith so we can reach a compromise and reach a result soon.

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Mrs. SULLIVAN. Mr. President, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Connecticut.

Memorial Day

Mr. BLUMENTHAL. Mr. President, I am very proud to be in this Chamber. I am always enormously grateful to be in this body, but especially so at the beginning of this Memorial Day weekend, when we celebrate the patriotism and dedication of our brave men and women in uniform—patriots who serve our country in so many different ways, as teachers and firefighters and police—and the values that bring us together always as Americans. What we share is a dedication to the rule of law, basic standards of which are the foundation of the United States. Communities across the country need this money for disaster recovery and mitigation, and they are simply tired of waiting for Congress to act. I am hopeful that any agreement will include this shot clock provision, which will allow communities impacted by disaster to get the funds needed for recovery and mitigation, and get to the Texans who desperately need it.

I yield the floor.

The Women's Health Protection Act

The Women's Health Protection Act protects a woman's constitutional right to access an abortion. It is a right that is absolutely central to her economic well-being, her mental and physical health, and her freedom—no matter where she lives, no matter what her ZIP code is, no matter what her income, race, or religion is. And it is true of men, as well, that regardless of where we live or who we think we are, those rights are critical to our lives too.

The Women's Health Protection Act is designed to protect the healthcare providers—some of the real heroes of women's healthcare, who are delivering the best care they can, the care their patients need, and who are unafraid and medically unnecessary requirements. These so-called protections for women that States have enacted relating to the width of hallways in clinics or admitting privileges or waiting periods are a pretext. They are a disguise, a ruse to restrict women's rights to healthcare.

Under the Women's Health Protection Act, no State—none—can restrict women's healthcare by judging the width of hallways or doctors' privileges so any of those supposed protections, which are really pretenses. And those pushing unconstitutional restrictions will no longer be able to disguise their morally repugnant efforts as protecting women's healthcare, when, really, they want to take it away.

The attack on women's rights that we saw last week in Alabama was only the most extreme and restrictive of a long line of actions—demagogic and horrific actions—in our State legislatures around the country. But they have created fear, and they have created disparate effect, so that women are apprehensive and anxious. And they should be.

They are angry, and that is absolutely right. We all should be angry. We all have a responsibility to stand up and fight back, because these laws cannot stand in our country.

We will fight them in the courts. We will fight them in the statehouses, and we will fight them here in the Senate and in the House, as we are doing with the Women's Health Protection Act.

These radical and unconstitutional extreme measures violate the rights of American women and the rights of American women and all women's healthcare. They are a disregard for a woman's right to privacy and for a woman's right to control her body, which is against the fundamental guarantee of our Constitution in the right to be let alone from unwarranted and illegal Government interference.

We have had enough of the dangerous and deadly attacks on women. We have had it with the meddling politicians who are getting between women and their own personal healthcare decisions. We are really tired, tired of women and the men of America need to hear and that is absurd, and medically unnecessary requirements. These so-called protections for women that States have enacted relating to the width of hallways in clinics or admitting privileges or waiting periods are a pretext. They are a disguise, a ruse to restrict women's rights to healthcare.

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women no longer fear that their rights will be imperiled regardless of where they live and where they come from.

We will not be silent. We will not stop fighting. We will not give up, and we are not going away.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The floor is yield the floor

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Maine.

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

(The remarks of Senator COLLINS and Senator SMITH pertaining to the submission of S. 1657 are printed in today's Record under "Submitted Resolutions").

Ms. SMITH. I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Maryland.

PRESIDENTIAL PARDONS

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, media outlets have begun reporting that President Trump is looking into granting pardons to certain military personnel who have been convicted of committing war crimes in both Iraq and Afghanistan. If these reports are true, I find this to be most troubling.

I have an article here that appeared CNN that says:

The idea of pardons of accused service members who have not yet gone to trial and been convicted is raising the most concern from some military law experts.

The United States' global influence is due, in large part, to its reputation for upholding human rights and adhering to humanitarian law and the law of armed conflict, otherwise known as the law of war. As Stephen Preston, a former general counsel of the Department of Defense, wrote in the Department of Defense's Law of War Manual:

The law of war is part of who we are...the laws of war have shaped the U.S. Armed Forces, the Department of Defense's Law of War Manual:

The principles of the law of war are the foundation of the law of war under the stresses of combat is adaptability, proportionality, humanity, and military necessity, humanity, proportionality, and military necessity. These principles are pillars of America's moral standing in the world that allow our military to be the most lethal fighting force against our adversaries but also the most respected and revered by our citizens of the world.

The principles of the law of war are aligned with the constitutional values that our Founding Fathers set forth and that all generations of U.S. military service members have sworn an oath to uphold and defend against all enemies, foreign and domestic.

Department of Defense policy states that "each member of the armed services has a duty to: (1) comply with the law of war when good faith; and (2) refuse to comply with clearly illegal orders to commit violations of the law of war." By virtue of their oath and training, members of the U.S. military are accountable for their individual and collective actions through the Uniform Code of Military Justice.

The U.S. Government is also obligated to implement and enforce the law of war as required by our Nation's own domestic laws, policies, regulations, orders, and by the multiple treaties we have with other countries.

U.S. military members who are investigated and convicted of violating the law of war, through the prescribed Department of Defense investigative and judicial procedures, have violated international and domestic laws and have failed to uphold their oath and professional ethics. Whether it was My Lai during Vietnam or Abu Ghraib in Iraq, we have seen how horrific acts committed by a small group of rogue actors can strategically diminish America's global standing, moral leadership, and strengthen our enemies.

We Americans combat extremism, tyranny, and autocracy to preserve our way of life. Under no circumstance is adapting to the behaviors of our worst adversaries ever justified—even if we willfully allow our institutions or the individuals within them to deviate from the laws and standards of conduct that underpin our great Nation, then we lose our way, and the world loses its champion of righteousness and internationally recognized norms and values.

I do not believe anyone in this Chamber disagrees with the laws and values of this country. The matter at hand is whether we will hold people accountable who violate those laws and fail to act on behalf of America with honor. To me, the right answer is very clear: The United States will not willfully commit or condone war crimes, and we must bring those who do commit them to justice regardless of citizenship, affiliation, or background. That is what we stand for as a nation. Those are our values, and that is America's leadership.

Even in the fog of war—especially in the fog of war—we must endeavor to act with the moral clarity that distinguishes the United States of America as a shining city upon a hill.

With that, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Alaska.

THE ARCTIC

Ms. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, I have asked for a few moments on the floor today to speak about an issue I care about deeply. It is a part of the globe, a part of the world that, in my view, is truly evolving and is as dynamic an area as anywhere on planet Earth. This is the Arctic.

The Arctic is growing in prominence around the globe. Countries like China, India, and Germany have taken a keen interest in what happens in the far north.

I have had many colleagues ask me: Why should a Senator from Alaska care about the Arctic? I guess my rhetorical answer would be this: Well, why should China care about the Arctic? Why should Japan, Germany, and India care about the Arctic if they are paying attention to it, shouldn't we, as an Arctic nation that actually has territory in the Arctic, be interested and focused on this as well?

To be fair, we have made some good progress this year. I appreciate the administration working with us. I appreciate my colleagues here in the Congress who worked with us to ensure that we were able to advance appropriations for the first polar security cutter. This is significant news for the American Arctic. People have heard me say that we have about 1 1/2 icebreakers in the United States right now. We have the Polar Star, which breaks ice down in Antarctica, meeting our obligations there. We have the Polar Sea, which is tied up in Washington State and will probably never see service again. We have a medium-strength icebreaker, the Healey, which does a lot of fair-weather work. But for us, as an Arctic nation, it is important to have a fleet of icebreakers.

That is what we, as an Arctic nation, must be working toward, so a contract for the design and construction of the first polar-class icebreaker to be built in the United States in the past 40 years was awarded just last month. As a nation, we haven't seen work on an icebreaker in four decades now. That is a total of $20 million is also being provided for long lead time materials for a second polar security cutter. Hopefully, we will be talking about more than just one polar security cutter and we will one day have what this country, as an Arctic nation, should have, and that is a fleet.

But the Arctic is about more than just icebreakers. It is about the people who live there. It is about the environment. It is about the Arctic globe. The Arctic is a living and breathing place. I think some people, in their mind's eye, view the Arctic as a frozen wasteland, or perhaps it is a snow globe that just kind of sits up on a shelf and you don't touch it. But it is not. It is home to some 4 million people in the Arctic region. It is not highly populated, but there are people living, working, raising their families, subsisting, and engaging in commerce. It is an important place.

It is a good thing when officials at the highest levels get together to discuss the issues within the Arctic. That
is what happened earlier this month—actually May 6 and 7—at the Arctic Council Ministerial Meeting in Rovaniemi, Finland. The Foreign Ministers for each of the eight Arctic nations were in attendance. The significance of that is noteworthy. It was only the third time in the 30-plus-year history that all of the eight Ministers were gathered together. I was pleased to be a part of the U.S. delegation that was led by our Secretary of State, Secretary Pompeo. That was actually the fifth Arctic Council Ministerial Meeting that I have attended going back to 2011, when the ministerial was held in Nuuk, Greenland. At that point in time, it was then-Secretary of State Clinton. That marked the first time the U.S. Secretary of State attended such a meeting. So 2011—it wasn’t too many years ago that the United States had a Secretary of State attend.

The Arctic Council includes the eight Arctic nations: Canada, the United States, Russia, Finland, Sweden, Norway, Iceland, and Greenland. It also includes six permanent participant groups within the Arctic Council that represent the indigenous populations within the region. Four of those partially reside in Alaska, and those are the Aleut International Association, the Arctic Athabaskan Council, the Gwich’in Council International, and the Inuit Circumpolar Council. While only eight Arctic nations have voting rights, the permanent participants have a seat at the table, and they provide valuable input into the council’s discussions and deliberations. I think we really saw the impact of the permanent participants at this most recent ministerial.

The council also has 38 observers, including 13 non-Arctic nations—this goes back to China, as I mentioned earlier—13 intergovernmental and inter-parliamentary groups, and 12 nongovernmental organizations. The number of observers and the number of pending applications to be observers has grown considerably in the past several years. Again, it just goes to demonstrate the rest of the world’s interest in the Arctic.

Much of what we have seen reported after the ministerial that was held in Rovaniemi focused not on what happened but on what didn’t happen at the ministerial, which was that, for the first time there was no signed ministerial declaration.

I was not part of any of the Minister-level discussions that went on either prior to their convening in Rovaniemi or directly prior to the day of the ministerial itself, but the crux of the impasse there was language regarding climate change and how much of the declaration would actually reference it.

This has all been reported very widely in the media, but what has not been reported broadly were the areas of agreement that were highlighted at the ministerial. All eight nations signed a joint ministerial statement—not a declaration but a statement—which reaffirmed their commitment to maintain peace, stability, and cooperation in the Arctic. That is kind of a given. That is what we want to work for with each ministerial. But the joint statement recognized the diversity of the region and the rights of the Arctic indigenous people. It also reaffirmed the commitment to sustainable development and the protection of the Arctic environment.

In addition to that very short statement, there was a statement by the chair of the ministerial meeting—the Foreign Minister of Finland—that encompassed what would have been in a declaration had one been signed and noted many of the areas of agreement amongst all the Arctic nations. These were items such as the importance of the role of scientific research, along with traditional and local knowledge, the significance of the Arctic Environment Ministers’ Meeting, the Arctic Climate Change Update 2019 report, the outcomes from the Arctic Resilience Forum, the convening of the Second Arctic Science Ministerial. It encourages further work in adapting to climate change impacts, such as permafrost thaw, and responding to weather extremes, including the increased risk of wildfires.

Looking at the Foreign Minister’s statement, it was clear that there were many discussions on which there was cooperation and agreement within the Arctic Council and many areas of agreement on environmental issues as well.

Another topic reported in the news was comments by Secretary Pompeo the day before the ministerial that were pretty direct. They were pretty directed and were directed to Russian and Chinese activity in the Arctic. The Secretary’s remarks pointed to a reality, plain and unadorned, of a reality that today’s Arctic is not the Arctic we have known in generations past.

We all still want—I certainly want, as one who works hard on Arctic issues every day—we want those buzz words that are synonymous with the region to continue to apply today and well into the future, words like “cooperation,” “collaboration,” and calling the Arctic the “zone of peace.”

Greater access to the region and its resources, as we are seeing the ice that is receding from the shore—with greater opportunities for commercial transit, you have greater accessibility—is also bringing increased international awareness. You have seen not only a level of interest, but you have seen a level of investment activity and clearly competing interests that are presenting.

Some of this is great news. Fiber optic cable and satellite coverage are bringing traditional levels of connectivity to small, remote, and isolated communities, which is something the communities embrace. With these advances, we see impacts on the culture and on the values of the indigenous populations.

We are seeing opportunities for tourism. Cruise ships with thousands of passengers are pulling into small coastal commnuities, who are boosting their economy, but think about the impact when you have 1,000 people who may want to disembark into a community that doesn’t have the infrastructure. It dwarfs the local population and impacts the existing infrastructure there.

Then, of course, whether we like it or not, national security interests are now at the forefront of many of the discussions about the High North. Secretary Pompeo—again, his words were pretty direct. He said: “The region has become an arena for power and for competition. And the eight Arctic States must adapt to this new future.”

He also said that the Arctic Council no longer has the luxury to focus exclusively on scientific collaboration, cultural matters, and environmental research. He suggests that there is a new age of strategic engagement in the Arctic.

I don’t disagree with the Secretary that military and national security issues are much, much, much more prevalent now than they were only 10 years ago, and it kind of begs the question as to whether the Arctic Council should expand its portfolio and take on these issues. That was the discussion I participated in later that day in Helsinki at the Munich Security Conference that was focused on Arctic security.

When the Arctic Council was established in 1996, military and national security interests were specifically excluded from Council activities. They chose to focus on economic development and resilience, the environment, research, the cultures, and left off of the mission requirements, if you will, the issues of national security and military interest. I think that is problematic, why we haven’t seen such cooperation and collaboration coming out of the Arctic Council for these many years.

Yet, as was mentioned by the Foreign Minister from Finland in a follow-on discussion about the ministerial, it is not as if we can just place a “Do Not Disturb” sign on the Arctic—we are Arctic nations. It has changed. It is changing. Investment is happening. The activity is already occurring. So whether we are ready for it, whether we want it, whether we want to put out that “Do Not Disturb” sign or not, it is happening.

Russia is modernizing, and they are expanding their security posture in the region. Some say it is in a provocative manner; we can argue about that. But it is certainly a manner that suggests that they recognize the value of the region to their national interests, as well as the growing non-Arctic nation attention and access to the region.

China is also quite interested. During the same week as the Arctic Council
There is a level of engagement and not stepping it up in the Arctic, that residents are working to the benefit of the local community. We must ensure that we are addressing our challenges while ensuring that we are working to the benefit of the local residents. We cannot assume that if we are not stepping it up in the Arctic, that means nobody else is. That is absolutely and positively not the case. There is a level of engagement and activity, whether it is on the shore or in the waters.

We recognize there are plenty of opportunities in the Arctic, as we are seeing the impacts of climate change and what that means to an area that is becoming more exposed, but with those opportunities come very real challenges, and we have to address those as well. That includes environmental effects as we see a reduced sea ice cover and the need to develop rules of the road to provide transparency for the growing amount of investment in the Far North by both Arctic and non-Arctic actors alike.

One of the underreported events of the Roanville Ministerial was the signing of a memorandum of understanding between the Arctic Council and the Arctic Economic Council. This new agreement will provide a framework to enhance responsible economic development and build partnerships for issues of common interest and capacity building among Arctic inhabitants. Perhaps this is the first step in developing a framework for transparent Arctic investment and a new age of strategic engagement in the Arctic.

I was very honored to attend both the Arctic Council Ministerial in Finland, as well as the Arctic Circle Assembly in Shanghai. It is important to build relationships with our partners in the Arctic, but it is equally important to work together in a spirit of cooperation and mutually beneficial outcomes.

I also recognize Purdue University’s first marching band director, the late Paul Spotts Emrick, for his dedication to the band and his work to build the Purdue Marching Band into one of the most respected and recognized bands in the country.

I applaud Purdue University’s All-American Marching Band. Every year, the “Greatest Spectacle in Racing” attracts hundreds of thousands of fans to our State’s capital. Throughout the last century, Purdue University’s marching band has become an indispensable part of the annual festivities with their highly anticipated performance of traditional Indy 500 songs and other popular hits.

I commend the efforts and hard work put forth by the band’s nearly 300 members. Their dedication in rehearsal and on the field is evident when they take to the track at the famed Indy Motor Speedway this Sunday, welcoming spectators from around the world with familiar favorites, including the new customary performance of the classic “Back Home Again in Indiana.”

I especially commend the Purdue University marching band directors, past and present, whose work make this tradition possible. This year, the band will be led by the acclaimed Howard Sudders, Jay Gubik, director of bands, and Al Wright, chair director of bands and orchestras at Purdue University. I am sure that under his direction, the All-American band will do Indiana proud.

I also recognize Purdue University’s first marching band director, the late Paul Spotts Emrick, who initially directed the band when they were a part of the 1949-1950 season. He was a true visionary of the band and left a lasting legacy that continues to this day.

I applaud Purdue University’s marching band for each year dedicating themselves to sharing our Hoosier traditions and heritage with millions of viewers around the world. I extend my thanks to all who ensure that the tradition endures, and I look forward to another great performance this weekend from the Boilermakers. Go Boilers.

Mr. KAINE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

TRIBUTE TO MARY NAYLOR

Mr. KAINE. Mr. President, I rise, accompanied by an amazing public servant who is completing 29 years and 10 months of working in the U.S. Senate—Mary Naylor, my legislative director. She is angry with me right now for tricking her into this and walking into the Chamber and seeing my whole staff, but I wanted to just say a word to honor her.

When I came to the Senate—elected in 2012 and sworn in in January 2013—obviously, hiring a legislative director was a very important challenge that I was dealing with, and I had a number of people who wanted to do the job. There was a wonderful Senate staffer who was about to leave the Hill, and if there was life after the Senate. She wasn’t sure whether there was but was really excited to see that. Yet, as tough a negotiator as she was, she let me persuade her to stay for one more term after she had wanted to leave to do other things. She did a remarkable job for me in my first term and has done a remarkable job now into my second term in the Senate. She has been my legislative director since my first day in the body, but as I pointed out, she is now nearly 30 years into serving this institution.

Let me tell you some things about Mary. She is from Fargo, ND. She came to the Senate in 1989, which was right after she graduated with honors—Phi Beta Kappa—from Northwestern. She first became a legislative assistant for the late Senator Paul Simon in 1991. Then she eventually became the deputy chief of staff to Senator Kent Conrad of North Dakota. For her career in the Senate, she worked with Senator Conrad. When Senator Conrad became the Budget chairman in 2001, she became the Democratic staff director for the committee, and she remained in that position for 12 years until she became my legislative director in 2013.

Some highlights of her tenure with the Budget include 10 budget resolutions, the Simpson-Bowles Commission, walking us back from a fiscal cliff in 2011, and a C-SPAN debate—oh, my Gosh—a C-SPAN debut—in March 2008 when she testified before the Budget Committee on the fiscal year 2009 budget.
Mary Naylor played a critical role in the Affordable Care Act. With members of the Budget Committee, she helped to iron out the fiscal details of such a monumental bill, and she captivated a lot of my staffers in the office with tales of the high stakes parliamentary maneuvering to make sure the reconciliation component of the ACA complied with the Byrd rule.

One of the things that Mary does in my office that my staff loves is the parliamentary minute. At the end of every day, whenever I have gone back to Richmond, she will do a parliamentary minute and put an interesting problem or challenge on the table from the past and walk my legislative staff through how we should deal with it.

In 2011, the “Washingtonian” named Mary one of the 100 most powerful women in DC, and the “National Journal” named her among the top 14 women on the Hill.

Mary has helped me out in so many ways. She has learned more about aircraft carrier refueling than she ever thought possible and has helped me overcome now two bouts of the decommissioning of aircraft.

All of my staff understands that Mary really has been kind of the brains of the operation. She is in a league of her own. Every single bill of mine that has passed has her fingerprints on it, and I guess I am getting up to—I don’t know—over 40 or 50 bills. She comes up with the ideas. She makes my ideas a lot better. She builds supports for our proposals. She tells me when my ideas are bad, and she is almost always right—not always right. She is almost always right. She helps me on my committees and floor strategy. She recruits, trains, and advises all of the amazing policy staffers I have working with me and all who have worked with me over the years.

That is what Mary has done for me and the people of Virginia and Congress over the years.

The Trump tax bill pretended to cut taxes for the middle class. We know that the Trump tax bill, signed into law in 2017, cut taxes for the wealthy people in this country.

The TRACED Act makes a number of important changes to our laws that will make it easier to fight illegal robocalls.

Most important, the TRACED Act requires telecommunications carriers to implement what is known as SHAKEN/STIR technology to verify whether caller IDs that appear on incoming calls are authentic.

When fully implemented, this technology will be a major advance against the illegal spoofing of calls that have resulted in successful scams.

Combating illegal robocalls has long been a focus of the Senate’s Special Committee on Aging, which I chair, and on which the President of the United States serves.

Over the past 6 years, the Special Committee on Aging has held 22 hearings to examine scams that specifically target older Americans. Scams that we have highlighted include the IRS imposter scam, the Jamaican lottery scam, computer tech support schemes, grandparent scams, elder financial exploitation, identity theft, and the notorious drug mule scam.

The number and the kind of these scams are endless in their variety. The criminals are ruthless and relentless, and they will continue to come up with new ways to defraud Americans, particularly our senior citizens and block those unwanted, illegal robocalls. Fortunately, back then, telecommunications equipment could not easily be
used to disguise a caller ID to make it look like the call was coming from someplace other than its origin.

Unfortunately, technology today and particularly the emergence of the voice over internet protocol technology has changed all that to the point where consumers who have been ripped off because of the combination of the robocall and the disguising of the identity of the caller. For example, in 2015, we heard from the Auburn, ME, Police Department about a woman who lost $7,400 because she got one of these calls, and it was followed by another call that appeared to be the Auburn Police Department. That is what it was based on her caller ID. You. Yet, of course, it was nothing of the sort. But that was sufficient to make her think she really did have to pay what turned out to be $7,400 of her retirement savings, which she could ill afford to lose.

In 2017, we heard from an 81-year-old veteran from Portland, ME, Phillip Hatch, who was a victim of the IRS imposter scam. In these scams, what happens is the robocaller pretends to be an IRS agent, and will tell the person who answers the phone that the consumer owes thousands of dollars in back taxes and penalties and that if they are not paid immediately, they will either be arrested or a lien will be put on their home. They manage to panic people of all ages—particularly our seniors—into paying money they do not owe to the IRS.

Everyone should be aware that if you really do owe back taxes to the IRS, you will get a letter from the IRS. You won't be called up and threatened. But that, unfortunately, is what these con artists, these ruthless criminals, do.

Well, Mr. Hatch was induced to pay some $8,000 when he got a second call that appeared to be from the Portland Police Department telling him that if he did not pay up immediately, there was a warrant for his arrest—again, completely bogus. Mr. Hatch did not owe back taxes, much less penalties, but is in any way owed the money that made it look like it was from the Portland Police Department in this case—the Auburn Police Department in the previous case I described—that caused him to lose a substantial amount of money. His situation would have been even worse, if his son had not intervened. He would have lost even more.

This is a problem that is getting worse every day. Oddly enough, lately on my cell phones, I have been receiving robocalls that are in Chinese, which is really bizarre, I don't know whether they are targeting a Chinese-American population in some part of the Washington, DC, area, but that is what I have been getting lately. But all of us know how frequent, how annoying, and in many cases how dangerous these robocalls can be when they are conducted by these ruthless criminals.

Last year, the Federal Trade Commission logged an incredible 3.8 billion complaints about illegal robocalls. This year, industry sources estimate that nearly half of all mobile phone calls are fraudulent—nearly half. So this is a problem that deserves our attention. The American people are tired of these calls, and in one case, phones—off the hook—or their cell phones—and they want these calls stopped. We have to do all we can to give the regulators the important tools to help fight these illegal robocalls.

I am very pleased that we have taken an important step today and that the Federal Communications Commission is also acting to increase the protections for consumers. We should be able to rely on the veracity of our caller ID, including being able to pretend to be the Department of Treasury, the Auburn Police Department, and other law enforcement agencies. No wonder people pick up the phone when they see the Department of Treasury, the Auburn Police Department, or the IRS is calling, but, in fact, that is not who is calling; it is a relentless criminal who is trying to steal money from the consumer.

It is my hope that this important consumer protection bill, which builds on all of the 22 hearings our Aging Committee has held, will become law shortly and provide relief to American consumers.

Thank you, Mr. President.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Louisiana.

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. President, yesterday on the floor of our esteemed Senate, and I said: The Senate needs to do more. The Senate needs to do more.

I was very careful—and I want to reaffirm today—I was very careful not to say we are not doing anything. I talked about our important work on confirming judges. I think we are putting some very fine men and women on the Federal bench, who are going to make our country safer and better. I was also very careful to talk about the fact that after the logjam had been created on the appointments for the President's administration, we were finally able to break that logjam. We have started confirming some new advisers for the President.

I am very proud of the good work this body has done, but I did make the point that we need to do more. I talked about the fact that, in my judgment, there are many issues—if we think about them on my Democratic friends and my Republican colleagues have more in common than we don't, but we can't determine whether that is accurate unless we vote, unless we bring bills to the floor, unless we get bills in front of the committee and mark them up. That is our word, as you know, for amending a bill.

One of the bills I talked about yesterday was the need for bipartisan support for legislation to do away with the spurious, fraudulent robocalls the American people are getting, about which Senator COLLINS just spoke so eloquently. I said there would be bipartisan support. I believe it. I believe it even more today. I am very proud of the Senate because it passed a bill. Do you know how many people voted against it? One. One “no” vote. See what happens when Senators are allowed to be Senators?

There are other efforts that we can work on together. The cost of prescription drugs—I spoke about that yesterday. I don’t want to go into it more today.

I will give you another one, and I know this is controversial but I think it is less controversial than people realize—net neutrality, the importance of people being able to access the Internet freely without being blocked or without their speeds being throttled or without their being censored. That is a very, very controversial issue around here, but I still believe we share more in common than we don’t on that issue. I talk with my colleagues all the time. I say: We need to pass a bill. Do you know why? Because the business community and the consumers need some predictability in this area. What happens now is, if we have a Democratic President who gets control of the FCC, they pass one set of net neutrality rules, and then if we have a Republican President who gets control of the FCC, they pass a different set of net neutrality rules. The business community and the consumers are like ping pong balls. There is no predictability. There is no certainty. You can't plan. So everybody says: We need to pass a bill. Well, I am going to say it too. We need to pass a bill, but the only way to pass a bill is to pass a bill. And I think that is an area where we can work.

Another area—I understand how hard it is to fix our healthcare delivery system, but we ought to at least try. Our efforts in the last Congress to repeal and replace the Affordable Care Act did not work. We could not pass the bill. I think there is bipartisan support. I believed it. I believe it today. Many, many people, says: We need to pass a bill. Everybody says: We need to pass a bill. I think there is bipartisan support. I believe it. I believe it more today. I think there is bipartisan support for net neutrality because the American people are so tired of these calls from anywhere in the world that they are not paid immediately, they will either be arrested or a lien will be put on their home. They manage to panic people of all ages—particularly our seniors—into paying money they do not owe to the IRS.

Everyone should be aware that if you really do owe back taxes to the IRS, you will get a letter from the IRS. You won't be called up and threatened. But that, unfortunately, is what these con artists, these ruthless criminals, do.

Well, Mr. Hatch was induced to pay some $8,000 when he got a second call that appeared to be from the Portland Police Department telling him that if he did not pay up immediately, there was a warrant for his arrest—again, completely bogus. Mr. Hatch did not owe back taxes, much less penalties, but is in any way owed the money that made it look like it was from the Portland Police Department in this case—the Auburn Police Department in the previous case I described—that caused him to lose a substantial amount of money. His situation would have been even worse, if his son had not intervened. He would have lost even more.

This is a problem that is getting worse every day. Oddly enough, lately on my cell phones, I have been receiving robocalls that are in Chinese, which is really bizarre, I don't know whether they are targeting a Chinese-American population in some part of the Washington, DC, area, but that is
The motion was agreed to. The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill.

The bill clerk reads as follows:

A bill (H.R. 2157) making supplemental appropriations for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2019, and for other purposes.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. MCCONNELL. I ask unanimous consent that the Shelby-Leahy substitute amendment at the desk be agreed to; that Senator SHELBY or his designee be recognized to make a motion to waive any budget points of order; further, that if the motion to waive is agreed to, the bill, as amended, be read a third time and the Senate vote on passage with no intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

The amendment (No. 250) in the nature of a substitute was agreed to.

(The amendment is printed in today's Record under "Text of Amendments.")

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Texas.

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, pursuant to section 904 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 and the waiver provisions of the applicable budget resolutions, I move to waive all applicable sections of the act and applicable budget resolutions for purposes of H.R. 2157, as amended, and I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. SCHUMER. I announce that the Senator from Tennessee (Mr. Alexander), the Senator from West Virginia (Mrs. Capito), the Senator from Wyoming (Mr. Enzi), the Senator from Kansas (Mr. Moran), the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. Rounds), and the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. Toomey).

Further, if present and voting, the Senator from Tennessee (Mr. Alexander) would have voted "yea" and the Senator from West Virginia (Mrs. Capito) would have voted "yea."

Mr. SCHUMER. I announce that the Senator from Illinois (Mr. Durbin) is necessarily absent.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 84, nays 9, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 128 Leg.]

**YEAS**—84

Baldwin

Benet

Bennett

Blumenthal

Booker

Bosman

Brown

Burr

Cantwell

Cardin

Carper

Hirono

Hoeven

Hynes-Smith

Isakson

Johnson

Jones

Kaine

Kennedy

Klobuchar

Lankford

Leahy

Manchin

Mackey

McConnell

Menendez

Merkley

Murkowski

Murphy

Murray

Perdue

Peters

Portman

Reed

Roberts

Rubio

Sanders

Sasse

Schatz

Schumer

Scott (FL)

Scott (SC)

Shaheen

Shelby

Sinema

Smith

Stabenow

Sullivan

Tester

Thune

Tillis

Van Hollen

Warner

Whitehouse

Wicker

Wyden

Young

NAYS—9

Barrasso

Blackburn

Braum

Barrasso

Booker

Cornyn

Johnson

Brown

Carper

Hassan

Harris

Hawley

Hearn

Shaheen

Shelby

Sinema

Smith

Stabenow

Sullivan

Tester

Thune

Tillis

Van Hollen

Warner

Whitehouse

Wicker

Wyden

Young

NOT VOTING—7

Alexander

Capito

Durbin

Moran

Rounds

The PRESIDING OFFICER. On this rollcall vote the yeas are 84, the nays are 9.

Three-fifths of the Senators duly chosen and sworn having voted in the affirmative, the motion is agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will read the title of the bill for the third time.

The amendment was ordered to be engrossed and the bill to be read a second time.

The bill was read the second time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The bill having been read the second time, the question is, Shall the bill pass?

Mr. CORNYN. I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Tennessee (Mr. Alexander), the Senator from West Virginia (Mrs. Capito), the Senator from Wyoming (Mr. Enzi), the Senator from Kansas (Mr. Moran), the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. Rounds), and the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. Toomey).

Further, if present and voting, the Senator from Tennessee (Mr. Alexander) would have voted "yea" and the Senator from West Virginia (Mrs. Capito) would have voted "yea."

Mr. SCHUMER. I announce that the Senator from Illinois (Mr. Durbin) is necessarily absent.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The result was announced—yeas 85, nays 8, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 129 Leg.]

**YEAS**—85

Baldwin

Bennett

Blumenthal

Booker

Bosman

Brown

Burr

Cantwell

Cardin

Carper

Hirono

Hoeven

Hynes-Smith

Isakson

Johnson

Jones

Kaine

Kennedy

Klobuchar

Lankford

Leahy

Manchin

Mackey

McConnell

Menendez

Merkley

Murkowski

Murphy

Murray

Perdue

Peters

Portman

Reed

Roberts

Rubio

Sanders

Sasse

Schatz

Schumer

Scott (FL)

Scott (SC)

Shaheen

Shelby

Sinema

Smith

Stabenow

Sullivan

Tester

Thune

Tillis

Van Hollen

Warner

Whitehouse

Wicker

Wyden

Young

Barrasso

Blackburn

Braum

Barrasso

Booker

Cornyn

Johnson

Brown

Carper

Hassan

Harris

Hawley

Hearn

Shaheen

Shelby

Sinema

Smith

Stabenow

Sullivan

Tester

Thune

Tillis

Van Hollen

Warner

Whitehouse

Wicker

Wyden

Young

Alexander

Capito

Durbin

Moran

Rounds

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Tennessee (Mr. Alexander), the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. Rounds), and the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. Toomey).

Further, if present and voting, the Senator from Tennessee (Mr. Alexander) would have voted "yea" and the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. Rounds), and the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. Toomey).
The bill (H.R. 2157), as amended, was passed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Vermont.

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I thank my colleagues on both sides of the aisle for the work they’ve done though the final vote might be 5 months late, today is a good day for the Congress, for the Senate, for the American people, and for the Nation.

I have said from the beginning—a position I have taken in all of my decades in the Senate—that any disaster supplemental that passes this Chamber cannot pick and choose which American citizens to help in their time of need. We are all Americans. The American community bands together to support one another when disaster strikes, regardless of where we are from, what our politics are, or what our beliefs are. That is the American way, and it is the role of the Congress to make sure that it is done.

I am glad to stand on the Senate floor today, and I am glad to be here with my dear friend, the senior Senator from Alabama and the chairman of the Appropriations Committee, Senator Shelby, to support what is a bipartisan, bicameral disaster supplemental appropriations bill.

Think of what we have done. This bill will provide long overdue aid to the people of California, Georgia, Florida, Nebraska, Iowa, North Carolina, South Carolina, Hawaii, Texas, Missouri, Alabama, and Puerto Rico just to name a few. Some of these people—they are all American citizens—have been trying to put their lives back together for nearly 2 years—since August of 2017.

It provides $19.1 billion to help communities in these States and Territories to rebuild stronger than they were before. It includes more than $2.4 billion in community development block grants, more than $1.6 billion for the Federal Highway Administration to rebuild roads and bridges, and more than $3 billion to support our Nation’s farmers who lost their crops and livestock in the storms. It also provides more than $3 billion to rebuild our military’s storm-damaged infrastructure.

It has been no secret that how to help the American citizens of Puerto Rico has been at the heart of our dispute on disaster relief, but I am pleased to report that the bill provides much needed assistance to these Americans, including $605 million for the Nutrition Assistance Program, and $304 million in community development block grants to help the island meet the FEMA match requirements.

One thing that we learned when Tropical Storm Irene struck Vermont is that you have rebuild better than you were so you are stronger when you face the next storm. We have included language that requires FEMA to rebuild the island stronger and better than it was before to help mitigate the damage of a future storm. We did this in certain areas in Vermont, and it made all the difference in the world.

This is significant, as this will unlock billions of dollars that Congress had previously appropriated for Puerto Rico and other communities across the country that the Trump administration has held up in the Treasury.

We reached this agreement because the Republicans and the Democrats came together across the aisle. It is a strong bipartisan agreement. It reflects that we are one Nation in times of need and that all Americans can count on the American military’s storm-damaged infrastructure. We have to help those who are fleeing violence and persecution in their own countries. The President has requested $4.5 billion. Some of this money is badly needed. There is no dispute about that, and I will support the part that badly needs it.

Every single Chamber knows these are difficult issues that are often made more difficult given the President’s rhetoric and extreme policies. Difficult issues take time. Let’s lower the rhetoric, and let’s do as we have done here—work together. We have been working day and night to strike a compromise on the President’s request. We are close, but we are not there yet. Even as of late, late last night, we were still working on that. When we return, however, we can negotiate a bipartisan agreement to provide additional humanitarian assistance.

To reach this agreement today, many of the Senators—and I mentioned, of course, Senator Shelby, my friend, as chairman—and I, as vice chairman, worked together. So did many others, but none of us could do it without the dedicated staff that was involved. I could go home at 9 o’clock and 10 o’clock at night, but they were still there. I am talking about both the Republican and Democratic Appropriations staff. So I asked my Appropriations chief of staff, Chuck Kiefer, to give me a list.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the Record at the end of my remarks the list of names of both the Democratic staff and the Republican staff who worked so hard on this.

I said on a personal basis earlier that I remember when Tropical Storm Irene hit Vermont and how totally discouraged I was by the damage. Yet, within hours, I had texts and emails from Senators in this body—Republicans and Democrats alike. They said: When we were hit by a tornado, a flooding, by an earthquake—whatever it might have been—Vermont stood with us, and we will stand with Vermont.

That is what we are as the United States of America. The Senate did what it should do today. The Senate acted as the conscience of the Nation. We stood together to help all Americans.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the Record as follows:

LIST SUBMITTED FOR THE RECORD BY APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE VICE CHAIRMAN LEAHY OF STAFF FOR H.R. 2157, THE SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS ACT


Mr. LEAHY. I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Sergeant at Arms will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the Record the list for the quorum call as rescinded.

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, all week, Chairman Shelby and a number of our colleagues worked tirelessly to get a supplemental funding agreement for disaster relief over the finish line. He has prepared one thoughtful, good-faith compromise after another.

In fact, this has been going on for months now: compromise offer after compromise offer from Republicans—constant engagement and good-faith work. So I am pleased that, today, all of this hard work has at long last paid off. Thanks to the efforts from a number of our colleagues and thanks to the leadership of President Trump and his administration—and, I might add, the very kind of bipartisan spirit that has been extremely persistent in this effort over the last weeks and months—the Senate has now passed a compromise solution
for disaster funding, and we have sent it over to the House.

Regrettably, they are gone.

The President has indicated he supports it. So the Senate's bipartisan vote is a big step toward making law and addressing the needs of the communities across our Nation sorely need.

I am sorry that our House Democratic colleagues blocked commonsense efforts to include funding in this legislation for the ongoing humanitarian crisis down on the southern border. Despite days of negotiations, House Democrats insisted that we could not provide more funding for our overwhelmed agencies, which are running on fumes, without including other poison-pill policy riders. As a result, today's agreement omits those needed resources.

This wasn't money for the wall or even law enforcement. It was money so that the Federal Government can continue to house, feed, and care for the men, women, and children showing up along our southern border—money for agencies that are currently, literally, running on fumes.

This is money that is so uncontroversial—so uncontroversial—that even the New York Times published an editorial titled, "Congress, Give Trump His Border Money."

Even the New York Times blasted the "political gamesmanship [that] threatens to hold up desperately needed resources." That is what they called it—political gamesmanship.

Well, I am sorry to say their political gamesmanship did hold up these resources. Apparently, our House Democratic colleagues heard "President Trump" and the word "border" in the same sentence and decided they preferred no action at all to the sensible compromise that even the New York Times had called for.

It is quite bad that partisan spate has infected even such blindly obvious priorities as the humanitarian efforts on our own southern border. I am sorry that our Democratic friends have become so committed to "the resistance" that they are now to the left of the New York Times editorial board.

Nevertheless, we should celebrate the progress we are making today. The Senate passage of this legislation marks a huge step forward for communities across the United States that have gone far too long without receiving this Federal assistance to help them get back on their feet.

Finally, the millions of Americans who have grappled with nature's worst are closer to receiving the supplemental aid they urgently need for the western communities that are still sorting through the ashes of last year's record-breaking wildfires; our coastal states in the Southeast and Puerto Rico, where hurricane damages punched holes in homes, businesses, and critical infrastructure; the Deep South communities victimized by tornadoes; and for those still grappling with the floodwaters that have surged over farms and towns across the Midwest and in my own State of Kentucky.

So I am grateful and relieved that Chairman SHELBY, Senator LEAHY, and colleagues of ours, including Senators PERDUE, REID, SCOTT, RUBIO, ERNST, THUNE, BLUNT, Sasse, and others have brought us to this point with their tireless work on this subject.

I am grateful to the President for his leadership and focus on getting an outcome. I am glad we passed this legislation and sent it to the House. I urge our colleagues over in the House to support it.

**SETTING FORTH THE CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET FOR THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2020**

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I move to proceed to Calendar No. 78, S. 1332.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the motion.

Mr. President, I move a cloture motion to the desk for the motion to proceed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the motion.

Mr. President, I move a cloture motion to the desk for the motion to proceed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the motion.

Mr. President, I move to consider Calendar No. 224.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion. The motion was agreed to.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

**EXECUTIVE CALENDAR**

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 224. The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion. The motion was agreed to.

Mr. President, I send a cloture motion to the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion being presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

**CLOTURE MOTION**

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 Andrew M. Saul, of New York, to be Commissioner of Social Security for the term expiring January 19, 2025. (Reapportionment)


**LEGISLATIVE SESSION**

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I move to proceed to legislative session. The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion. The motion was agreed to.

Mr. President, I move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 157. The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion. The motion is agreed to.

The clerk will report the nomination.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

**CLOTURE MOTION**

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Andrew M. Saul, of New York, to be Commissioner of Social Security for the term expiring January 19, 2025. (Reapportionment)


**LEGISLATIVE SESSION**

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I move to proceed to legislative session. The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion. The motion was agreed to.
EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I move to executive session to consider Calendar No. 163.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion. The motion is agreed to.

The clerk will report the nomination.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Heath P. Tarbert, of Maryland, to be Chairman of the Commodity Futures Trading Commission.

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I send a cloture motion to the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Heath P. Tarbert, of Maryland, to be Chairman of the Commodity Futures Trading Commission.


LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I move to proceed to legislative session. The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion. The motion was agreed to.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I move to executive session to consider Calendar No. 198.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion. The motion was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Rossie David Alston, Jr., of Virginia, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Virginia.

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I send a cloture motion to the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Rylan T. Holte, of Ohio, to be a Judge of the United States Court of Federal Claims for a term of fifteen years.


LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I move to proceed to legislative session. The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion. The motion was agreed to.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I move to executive session to consider Calendar No. 40.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion. The motion was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Rossie David Alston, Jr., of Virginia, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Virginia.

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I send a cloture motion to the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Ryan T. Holte, of Ohio, to be a Judge of the United States Court of Federal Claims for a term of fifteen years.

Mr. MCCONNELL. I move to proceed to legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion.

The motion was agreed to.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. MCCONNELL, Mr. President, I move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 56.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion.

The motion was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Richard A. Hertling, of Maryland, to be a Judge of the United States Court of Federal Claims for a term of fifteen years.

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. MCCONNELL, Mr. President, I send a cloture motion to the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Richard A. Hertling, of Maryland, to be a Judge of the United States Court of Federal Claims for a term of fifteen years.


EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. MCCONNELL, Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of Calendar Nos. 247 through 251 and 253 through 286 and all of the nominations on the Secretary’s Desk in the Air Force, Army, Marine Corps, and Navy; that the nominations be confirmed; that the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate; that no further motions be in order; that any statements related to the nominations be printed in the RECORD; and that the President be immediately notified of the Senate’s action.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The nominations considered and confirmed are as follows:

IN THE ARMY

The following named Army National Guard of the United States officer for appointment in the Reserve of the Army to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., sections 12303 and 12211:

To be brigadier general
Col. Edward S. Smith

IN THE MARINE CORPS

The following named officers for appointment in the United States Marine Corps to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., section 624:

To be brigadier general
Col. Marcus B. Annibale
Col. Melvin G. Carter
Col. Robert C. Ridford
Col. Joseph A. Matos, III
Col. Jason L. Morris
Col. Thomas B. Savage
Col. Daniel L. Shipley
Col. James B. Welons
Col. Brian N. Wolford

IN THE ARMY

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Army to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C., section 601:

To be lieutenant general
Maj. Gen. Duane A. Gamble

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Navy to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C., section 601:

To be vice admiral
Rear Adm. Scott D. Conn

The following named officer for appointment as Chief of Staff of the Army and appointment in the United States Army to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C., sections 601 and 7033:

To be general
Gen. James C. McConville

The following named Air National Guard of the United States officer for appointment in the Reserve of the Air Force to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C., section 601:

To be lieutenant general
Maj. Gen. Marc H. Sasseville

The following named officer for appointment as Chief of Staff of the Army and appointment in the United States Army to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C., section 601:

To be lieutenant general

IN THE NAVY

The following named officer for appointment as Vice Chief of Naval Operations and appointment in the United States Navy to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C., sections 601 and 8033:

To be vice admiral
Adm. William F. Moran

The following named officer for appointment as Vice Chief of Naval Operations and appointment in the United States Navy to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C., sections 601 and 8035:

To be admiral
Vice Adm. Robert P. Burke

IN THE MARINE CORPS

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Marine Corps to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C., section 601:

To be lieutenant general
Lt. Gen. Herman S. Clardy, III

IN THE ARMY

The following named officers for appointment in the United States Army to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C., section 624:

To be major general
Brig. Gen. Peter B. Andrysiak, Jr.
Brig. Gen. Miguel A. Correa
Brig. Gen. Patrick J. Donahoe
Brig. Gen. Christopher T. Donahue
Brig. Gen. Scott L. Efflandt
Brig. Gen. Michael R. Fenzel
Brig. Gen. David J. Francis
Brig. Gen. Bradley T. Gerick
Brig. Gen. Lonnie G. Hibbard
Brig. Gen. David M. Holland
Brig. Gen. Omar J. Jones, IV
Brig. Gen. Stephen J. Maranian
Brig. Gen. Matthew W. McFarlane
Brig. Gen. Christopher O. Mohan
Brig. Gen. Laura A. Potter
Brig. Gen. Thomas A. Pugh
Brig. Gen. John B. Richardson, IV
Brig. Gen. Kenneth T. Royar
Brig. Gen. Stephen G. Smith
Brig. Gen. Thomas H. Todd, III
Brig. Gen. Kevin Vereen
Brig. Gen. David Wilson

IN THE AIR FORCE

The following named Air National Guard of the United States officer for appointment in the Reserve of the Air Force to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., sections 12203 and 12212:

To be brigadier general
Col. Tracy D. Smith

To be general

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Air Force to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C., section 601:

To be lieutenant general

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Air Force to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C., section 601:

To be major general
Brig. Gen. Kenneth A. Nava

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Air Force to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C., section 601:

To be brigadier general
Col. Frank W. Roy

IN THE ARMY

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Army to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., sections 12203 and 12211:

To be general

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Army to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C., section 601:

To be lieutenant general

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Army to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C., section 601:

To be major general
Brig. Gen. David J. Mikolaities

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Army to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C., section 601:

To be brigadier general
Col. Bradley J. Cox

IN THE MARINE CORPS

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Marine Corps to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C., section 601:

To be lieutenant general
Lt. Gen. John J. Broadmeadow

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Marine Corps to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C., section 601:

To be lieutenant general
Lt. Gen. Brian D. Beaudreault

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Marine Corps to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C., section 601:

To be major general
Brig. Gen. Rodney L. Faulk
Brig. Gen. Deborah L. Kotulich
Brig. Gen. Frederick R. Maiocco
Brig. Gen. Gregory J. Meszaros
Brig. Gen. Joe D. Robinson
Brig. Gen. Alberto C. Rosende
Brig. Gen. Kevin C. Wulfhorst

To be brigadier general
Col. Timothy E. Brennan
Col. Cary J. Cowan, Jr.
Col. Christopher J. Dziubek
Col. Jeffrey M. Farris
Col. Robert E. Guidry
Col. Michelle A. Link
Col. Laurence S. Linton
Col. Pamela L. McGaha
Col. Steven B. McLaughlin
Col. Joseph A. Papenfus
Col. Patricia R. Wallace
Col. David P. Warshaw
Col. Stuart E. Werner
Col. Wanda N. Williams

IN THE AIR FORCE

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Air Force to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C., section 601:

To be lieutenant general
Maj. Gen. David S. Nahom

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Air Force to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C., section 601:

To be major general
Brig. Gen. Rodney L. Faulk
Brig. Gen. Deborah L. Kotulich
Brig. Gen. Frederick R. Maiocco
Brig. Gen. Gregory J. Meszaros
Brig. Gen. Joe D. Robinson
Brig. Gen. Alberto C. Rosende
Brig. Gen. Kevin C. Wulfhorst

To be brigadier general
Col. Timothy E. Brennan
Col. Cary J. Cowan, Jr.
Col. Christopher J. Dziubek
Col. Jeffrey M. Farris
Col. Robert E. Guidry
Col. Michelle A. Link
Col. Laurence S. Linton
Col. Pamela L. McGaha
Col. Steven B. McLaughlin
Col. Joseph A. Papenfus
Col. Patricia R. Wallace
Col. David P. Warshaw
Col. Stuart E. Werner
Col. Wanda N. Williams

IN THE ARMY

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Army to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C., section 601:

To be vice admiral
Rear Adm. Sean S. Buek

IN THE NAVY

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Navy to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C., section 601:

To be brigadier general
Col. Jack M. Davis
PN658 AIR FORCE nomination of Christopher T. Atthearn, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of April 4, 2019.

PN620 AIR FORCE nominations (3) beginning ERIKA O. BERNARDO, and ending CARALYN A. MARIA, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of April 11, 2019.

PN621 AIR FORCE nominations (5) beginning COREY T. BEALS, and ending CHRISTOPHER R. WILLIAMS, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of April 11, 2019.

PN622 AIR FORCE nomination of Daniel W. Schieder, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of April 11, 2019.

PN623 AIR FORCE nominations (43) beginning DEBORAH J. ANGELES, and ending KERI SALAS, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of April 11, 2019.

PN659 AIR FORCE nomination of Douglas P. Wickert, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of April 11, 2019.

PN654 AIR FORCE nominations (52) beginning ALEXANDER A. ADELYEY, and ending DESHAH R. YAZZIE, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of April 29, 2019.

PN655 AIR FORCE nominations (4) beginning DONALD W. EATON, and ending DAVID M. MAURER, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of April 29, 2019.

PN656 AIR FORCE nominations (2) beginning DANIEL R. CANADA, and ending DOUGLAS N. SCHNEEKLOTH, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of April 29, 2019.

PN709 AIR FORCE nomination of Tann S. Jones, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of May 2, 2019.

THE ARMY

PN569 ARMY nomination of Theodore W. Kleinsener, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of April 4, 2019.

PN570 ARMY nomination of Robert W. Hughes, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of April 4, 2019.

PN571 ARMY nomination of Larry R. Jordan, Jr., which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of April 4, 2019.

PN572 ARMY nomination of Kontrina S. Park, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of April 4, 2019.

PN573 ARMY nomination of Marcus L. Jordan, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of April 4, 2019.

PN574 ARMY nominations (3) beginning ROBERT M. HUDSON, and ending JAMES D. SIEGEMUND, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of April 4, 2019.

PN575 ARMY nominations (4) beginning JOHN E. CAVANAGH, and ending W. FREY F. RYAN, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of April 4, 2019.

PN577 ARMY nominations (154) beginning JAMES R. ACHENBACH, and ending KEITH B. WEBER, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of April 4, 2019.

PN578 ARMY nominations (50) beginning KEITH A. ARCHIBALD, and ending FRANK L. WITTSBERGER, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of April 4, 2019.

THE MARINE CORPS

PN629 MARINE CORPS nomination of Michael W. Andreeff, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of April 11, 2019.

THE NAVY

PN680 NAVY nomination of David M. Rozielle, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of April 11, 2019.

PN681 NAVY nomination of Tony L. Dedmond, Jr., which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of April 11, 2019.

PN682 NAVY nomination of Ray G. McCulloch, II, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of April 11, 2019.

PN685 NAVY nomination of Cory J. Cousins, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of April 11, 2019.

PN686 NAVY nomination of Damon L. Augustin, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of April 11, 2019.

PN687 NAVY nomination of Paul J. Stambaugh, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of April 11, 2019.

PN688 NAVY nomination of Brentone E. Wells, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of April 11, 2019.

PN689 NAVY nomination of Andrew E. Radbill, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of April 11, 2019.

PN690 NAVY nomination of Richard B. Piske, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of April 11, 2019.

PN691 NAVY nomination of William L. W. Alp, III, and ending MIKE S. HAMILTON, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of April 11, 2019.

PN692 NAVY nominations (2) beginning TIMOTHY S. ADAMS, and ending DENNIS R. TURNER, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of April 11, 2019.

PN693 NAVY nominations (44) beginning CAROL A. ANDERSON, and ending ABDUL R. WILLIS, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of April 11, 2019.
and appeared in the Congressional Record of March 5, 2019.

PN550 NAVY nomination of Patrick H. O’Mahoney, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of March 26, 2019.

PN561 nominations (3) beginning GUY W. JENSEN, and ending VENITA M. SIMPKIN. These nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of April 1, 2019.

PN562 nomination of Marissa A. Mayor, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of April 4, 2019.

PN563 NAVY nomination of Adam C. Hancock, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of April 4, 2019.

PN564 NAVY nomination of John J. Eastman, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of April 4, 2019.

PN636 NAVY nomination of Terence B. McAdoo, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of April 11, 2019.

PN627 NAVY nomination of Donald A. Sinitskin, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of April 11, 2019.

PN628 NAVY nominations (45) beginning ROBERT H. BATTLE, and ending KEITH E. WILBER, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of April 11, 2019.

PN689 NAVY nomination of Riley E. Walls, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of April 29, 2019.

PN690 NAVY nomination of Benjamin D. Adams, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of April 29, 2019.

PN691 NAVY nomination of Jessica M. Miller, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of April 29, 2019.

PN692 NAVY nomination of Frank R. Bittner, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of April 29, 2019.

PN693 NAVY nomination of David M. Groves, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of April 29, 2019.

The clerk will report the nominations en bloc.

The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the nominations en bloc?

The nominations were confirmed en bloc.

The nominations were confirmed en bloc.

The nominations were confirmed en bloc.

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The nominations were confirmed en bloc.

The nominations were confirmed in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD of March 5, 2019; PN550 NAVY nomination of Patrick H. O’Mahoney, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD of March 5, 2019.

PN550 NAVY nomination of Patrick H. O’Mahoney, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD of March 5, 2019.

PN561 nominations (3) beginning GUY W. JENSEN, and ending VENITA M. SIMPKIN. These nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD of April 1, 2019.

PN562 nomination of Marissa A. Mayor, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD of April 4, 2019.

PN563 NAVY nomination of Adam C. Hancock, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD of April 4, 2019.

PN564 NAVY nomination of John J. Eastman, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD of April 4, 2019.

PN636 NAVY nomination of Terence B. McAdoo, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD of April 11, 2019.

PN627 NAVY nomination of Donald A. Sinitskin, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD of April 11, 2019.

PN628 NAVY nominations (45) beginning ROBERT H. BATTLE, and ending KEITH E. WILBER, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD of April 11, 2019.

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PN690 NAVY nomination of Benjamin D. Adams, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD of April 29, 2019.

PN691 NAVY nomination of Jessica M. Miller, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD of April 29, 2019.

PN692 NAVY nomination of Frank R. Bittner, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD of April 29, 2019.

PN693 NAVY nomination of David M. Groves, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD of April 29, 2019.

The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the nominations en bloc?

The nominations were confirmed en bloc.

The nominations were confirmed en bloc.

The nominations were confirmed en bloc.

The nominations were confirmed in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD of March 5, 2019; PN550 NAVY nomination of Patrick H. O’Mahoney, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD of March 5, 2019.

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PN693 NAVY nomination of David M. Groves, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD of April 29, 2019.

The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the nominations en bloc?

The nominations were confirmed en bloc.

The nominations were confirmed en bloc.

The nominations were confirmed in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD of March 5, 2019; PN550 NAVY nomination of Patrick H. O’Mahoney, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD of March 5, 2019.
Timothy Ryan Harrison, and ending Rachel Lynne Vanderberg, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of April 10, 2019.

Thereupon, the Senate proceeded to consider the nominations en bloc.

Mr. McCONNELL. I ask unanimous consent that the Senate vote on the nominations en bloc with no intervening action or debate; that if confirmed, the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table en bloc; that the President be immediately notified of the Senate’s action; that no further motions be in order; and that any statements relating to the nominations be printed in the Record.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The question is, Will the Senate adjudge and consent to the Fitzpatrick, Byrnes, Brink, Daigle, Klimow, Gunter, and Gilmore nominations and all nominations on the Secretary’s Desk in the Foreign Service en bloc?

The nominations were confirmed en bloc.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the en bloc consideration of the following nominations: Executive Calendar Nos. 167 and 215.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The clerk will report the nominations en bloc.

The bill clerk read the nominations of John Barsa, of Florida, to be an Assistant Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development and Richard C. Parker, of North Carolina, to be an Assistant Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development.

Thereupon, the Senate proceeded to consider the nominations en bloc.

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate vote on the nominations en bloc with no intervening action or debate; that if confirmed, the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table en bloc; that the President be immediately notified of the Senate’s action; that no further motions be in order; and that any statements relating to the nominations be printed in the Record.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The question is, Will the Senate adjudge and consent to the Barsa and Parker nominations en bloc?

The nominations were confirmed en bloc.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to legislative session for a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

TRIBUTE TO ALVIN H. PERRY

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, today it is my high honor to pay tribute to a genuine Kentucky hero. As a member of the greatest generation, Alvin H. Perry of Wilmore, KY, personifies the greatest values of our Nation. In the Second World War, he fought with the Allied forces of freedom to defeat one of the greatest evils the world has ever known. In doing so, Alvin earned the lasting admiration of his countrymen and the gratitude of the free world.

To commemorate the 75th anniversary of D-day, the largest amphibious invasion in world history, the French Republic will express its thanks and respect to Alvin in a special way. At a ceremony in Wilmore, the Consul General of France responsible for Kentucky Guillaume Lacroix will present Alvin, now 95, with his nation’s highest distinction: the Legion of Honor Medal.

The American and French people share a unique bond of friendship. As our consequential ally during the War of Independence, our two countries stood shoulder-to-shoulder in the pursuit of liberty and equality. Years later, millions of American soldiers would fight in France to defend those same principles. More than 100,000 of them would make the ultimate sacrifice there, and tens of thousands of our heroic fallen rest in French soil forevermore.

There is perhaps no better display of this brotherhood among nations than the events during Operation Overlord. On the beaches of Normandy and across the French countryside, American forces once more came to the defense of our friends and our shared ideals. It was during the Battle of Normandy that PFC Alvin Perry and his 331st Infantry Regiment, 53rd Infantry Division, took their first steps onto the European continent fighting for the liberation of France.

During the battle, Alvin was wounded, struck with a bullet in his shoulder. He was unable to receive proper medical attention with other members of his unit, was later captured by the enemy. Alvin spent the following 10 months as a prisoner of war near Munich, where he endured brutal conditions and forced labor in a Nazi camp. He struggled each day, relying upon aid parcels for survival. But through all his hardships, Alvin never faltered or resigned to defeat. At long last, it was the sight of an Allied tank that finally meant liberation for this brave soldier. It also marked the end of his wartime service. Like his father and brother who also served in uniform, Alvin bravely defended our democracy and our American way of life.

When Alvin returned home to Kentucky, he was adored with the Prisoner of War Medal, the Purple Heart Medal, the Good Conduct Medal, and the World War II Victory Medal for his intrepid service in France. Now, after more than seven decades, Alvin will add another well-deserved decoration.

Originally founded by Napoleon Bonaparte in 1802, the National Order of the Legion of Honor is bestowed only on those who render the highest levels of service to the French Republic and its people. Recipient Alvin joins a distinguished membership that includes Secretary of State Colin Powell, General George C. Patton, and First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt.

Our Nation’s veterans deserve our utmost respect and gratitude, and I am grateful for the chance to honor this particular hero. So, it is my sincere privilege to congratulate Alvin for receiving this impressive distinction. Through his service and sacrifice, he has made us all quite proud. I ask my Senate colleagues to join me, the people of Kentucky, and the French Republic in thanking Alvin Perry for his service to the cause of human freedom.

VOTE EXPLANATION

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I was necessarily absent from votes number 128 and number 129 due to the birth of my granddaughter, Josephine Emily Durbin. Had I been present, I would have voted yea to waive the Budget Act with respect to the emergency spending to help the States and Territories impacted by storms and other natural disasters. I would have voted yea on passage of H.R. 2157, as amended by the Shelby-Leahy substitute amendment, as well.

NDAA

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, Democrats continue to propose thoughtful, effective solutions to the humanitarian crisis at our southern border.

In February, after the President finally ended his government shutdown, I helped write an omnibus appropriations bill that included $564 million for inspection equipment at ports of entry to detect lethal narcotics and $414 million for humanitarian assistance at the border.

In the past week, I and a number of my colleagues are reintroducing a comprehensive bill to address the root causes of the humanitarian crisis coming out of the Northern Triangle. Our bill cracks down on cartels and traffickers, provides for in-country processing so that refugees can seek protection without making a dangerous northbound journey, expands third-country resettlement in the region, and eliminates immigration court backlogs.

I note with regret that the President and his political appointees in the Department of Defense have other priorities. They continue to take from our military and ignore our military's
NOMINATIONS

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, once again, our Republican colleagues are spending another week rubberstamping President Trump’s extreme nominees.

Daniel Collins, nominated to a California Ninth Circuit seat, received a vote over the objection of both of California’s Senators.

Before this week, a judicial nominee had never been confirmed over the objection of both home State Senators. Mr. Collins’s confirmation marked the sixth time it has happened this year.

This Republican Senate has effectively killed the blue slip for circuit court nominations. This is a precedent that could come back to haunt each of our States. My Republican colleagues who are voting repeatedly to override home State Senators’ objections may come to regret those votes someday.

I opposed the Collins nomination. I agree with Senators Feinstein and Harris that Collins has “a history of talking strong litigation positions for no reason other than attempting to overturn precedent and push legal boundaries.”

I am particularly troubled by his extensive representation of the tobacco industry and his inadequate recusal commitment when it comes to matters involving his former tobacco industry clients.

The district court nominees scheduled for votes this week also have a long history of advancing extreme ideological views.

When it comes to abortion, North Carolina district court nominee Kenneth Bell once wrote in an op-ed, “There is no middle ground.” Missouri district court nominee Stephen Clark has spent much of his legal career litigating against reproductive rights and access to contraceptives.

Utah district court nominee Howard Nielson wrote a memo for the Justice Department’s Office of Legal Counsel, arguing that the Geneva Conventions, which prohibit torture, do not apply to civilians captured abroad.

DC district nominee Carl Nichols has advanced extreme views of Executive power, including arguing that Presidents and Presidential aides have absolute immunity from congressional process.

I opposed these extreme nominees, and I regret that the Senate’s advice and consent process has become an exercise in Republican rubberstamping. This institution can and should do better.

ALBERTO CURAMIL

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President I want to bring to the Senate’s attention the story and the example of Alberto Curamil, an environmental activist who is a member of the indigenous Mapuche people in Chile’s Araucania region. The Mapuche are Chile’s largest indigenous group, and since the 1800s they have struggled to protect their culture, territory, rivers, forests, and water, timber, oil, gas, and minerals they have struggled to protect their culture.

Several years ago, during a prolonged drought in Chile, the Ministry of Energy announced a plan for two large hydroelectric projects in Araucania, without consulting the Mapuche people who live there. The projects would reportedly divert more than 500 million gallons of water for power generation, severely limiting water flow and damaging the ecosystem of the Cautín River on which many of the Mapuche people depend for survival.

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Mr. President, I was necessarily absent but, had I been present on May 16, 2019, would have voted no on rollover vote No. 116, the confirmation of Jeffrey A. Rosen, to be Deputy Attorney General. Mr. President, I was necessarily absent but, had I been present, would have voted no on rollover vote No. 123, the confirmation of Howard C. Nielson, Jr., of Utah, to be United States District Judge for the District of Utah.

Mr. President, I was necessarily absent but, had I been present, would have voted no on rollover vote No. 124, the confirmation of Stephen R. Clark, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Wisconsin.

Mr. President, I was necessarily absent but, had I been present, would have voted no on rollover vote No. 125, the confirmation of Stephen R. Clark, to be United States District Judge for the District of Arizona.

Mr. President, I was necessarily absent but, had I been present, would have voted no on rollover vote No. 126, the confirmation of Stephen R. Clark, to be United States District Judge for the District of Utah.

Mr. President, I was necessarily absent but, had I been present, would have voted no on rollover vote No. 127, the confirmation of Steven C. Mathis, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of Texas.

Mr. President, I was necessarily absent but, had I been present, would have voted no on rollover vote No. 128, the confirmation of Michelle L. Davis, to be United States District Judge for the Southern District of Ohio.

Mr. President, I was necessarily absent but, had I been present, would have voted no on rollover vote No. 129, the confirmation of John F. S emissions to those like Mr. Curamil who environmental Prize helps to call atten- each year the prestigious Goldman En- his people and the natural environment produce it in a public trial and provide against Mr. Curamil, they should Chile. like Russia but not democracies like tries with authoritarian governments suspet is a flagrant and vindictive tion by the Chilean Ministry of Energy, successful challenge to the unlawful deci- risk.

The attempts to intimidate and si- nations that enable human rights defend- their leaders. The Chilean authorities increasing targeting activists who are criminal charges and aggressive civil cases painted as criminals, facing trumped-up legal battle.

Chile’s police have intervened vio- lently on the side of private companies, intimidating Mapuche communities. The UN Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples warned that the government and police are increasingly targeting activists who are campaigning to protect their land from mining, logging, and dams. The Inter- American Court of Human Rights has condemned the Chilean Government for applying anti-terrorism laws against Mapuche communities. According to Amnesty International, “Although violence against defenders is a constant in the region, little is known about what is happening in Chile, especially in relation to the historical context of criminalization and stigmatization of the Mapuche and their leaders. The Chilean authorities have an obligation to guarantee conditions that enable human rights defend- ers to carry out their work and to es- tablish the truth for environmental defenders and Indigenous leaders who face constant criminalization and stigmatization.”

Again, these circumstances are not unique to Chile. Similar confrontations are occurring in many countries. But Mr. Curamil’s receipt of the Goldman Environmental Prize should cause ev- eryone to pay attention, and to ask, Should not the Chilean Government act as a defender of a dialogue that recognizes the legitimate rights of its indigenous population, that ensures they are con- sulted in a timely and meaningful way, as the law requires, about decisions that affect them, and that their views are properly reflected in those deci- sions? Is that not the government’s re- sponsibility? To listen to its citizens who have traditionally been ignored and whose way of life is threatened and to find creative, sustainable solutions? In 2018, Chileans should take pride in. Like the Europeans should take pride in. Like the Africans should take pride in. Like the Americans should take pride in. Like the Asians should take pride in. Like the Australians should take pride in. Like the Canadians should take pride in. Like the South Africans should take pride in. Like the Russians should take pride in. Like the Portuguese should take pride in. Like the Mexicans should take pride in. Like the Canadians should take pride in. Like the Koreans should take pride in. Like the Vietnamese should take pride in. Like the Turks should take pride in. Like the Egyptians should take pride in. Like the Indians should take pride in. Like the Indians should take pride in.
the confirmation of Carl J. Nichols, of the District of Columbia, to be United States District Judge for the District of Columbia.

Mr. President, I was necessarily absent but, had I been present, would have voted no on rollcall vote No. 126, the confirmation of Kenneth D. Bell, of North Carolina, to be United States District Judge for the Western District of North Carolina.

BUDGET ENFORCEMENT LEVELS

Mr. ENZI. Mr. President, section 251 of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985, BBEDCA, establishes statutory limits on discretionary spending and allows for various adjustments to those limits. In addition, sections 302 and 314(a) of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 allow the chairman of the Budget Committee to establish and make revisions to allocations, aggregates, and levels consistent with those adjustments.

The Senate will soon consider S. Amdt. 250 to H.R. 2157, Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2019. This measure provides appropriations to address recent natural disasters and contains spending that qualifies for cap adjustments under current statute.

This measure includes $19,121 million in budget authority that is designated as being for emergency purposes pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of BBEDCA. Of that amount, $2,693 million is for spending in the security category, and $16,428 million is for nonsecurity spending. CBO estimates that this budget authority will result in $5,364 million in outlays in fiscal year 2019.

As a result of the aforementioned designations, I am revising the budget authority and outlay allocations to the Committee on Appropriations by increasing revised security budget authority by $2,693 million, revised nonsecurity budget authority by $16,428 million, and outlays by $5,364 million in fiscal year 2019.

I ask unanimous consent that the accompanying tables, which provide details about the adjustment, be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

REVISION TO BUDGETARY AGGREGATES

(Pursuant to Sections 311 and 314(a) of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974)

<table>
<thead>
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<th>Current Spending Aggregates:</th>
<th>Adjustments:</th>
<th>Revised Spending Aggregates:</th>
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<td>Budget Authority</td>
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<td>Budget Authority</td>
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<td>Outlays</td>
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<th>Memorandum: Detail of Adjustments Made Above Regular OCO Program Integrity in Fiscal Year 2019</th>
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<td>Current Allocation:</td>
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<tr>
<td>Revised Nonsecurity Category Discretionary Budget Authority</td>
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<tr>
<td>General Purpose Outlays</td>
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<tr>
<td>Current Spending Aggregates:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Budget Authority</td>
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<tr>
<td>Outlays</td>
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**ARMS SALES NOTIFICATION**

Mr. RISCH. Mr. President, section 36(b) of the Arms Export Control Act requires that Congress receive prior notification of certain proposed arms sales as defined by that statute. Upon such notification, the Congress has 30 calendar days during which the sale may be reviewed. The provision stipulates that, in the Senate, the notification of proposed sales shall be sent to the chair of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

In keeping with the committee’s intention to see that relevant information is available to the full Senate, I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD the notifications which have been received. If the cover letter references a classified annex, then such annex is available to all Senators in the office of the Foreign Relations Committee, room SD-423.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

DEFENSE SECURITY COOPERATION AGENCY, Arlington, VA.

Hon. James E. Risch, Chairman, Committee on Foreign Relations, U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.

Dear Mr. Chairman: Pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended, we are forwarding herewith Transmittal No. 19–32 concerning the Arms Export Control Act. Letter(s) of Offer and Acceptance to the Government of Canada for defense articles and services estimated to cost $387 million. After this letter is delivered to your office, we plan to issue a news release to notify the public of this proposed sale.

Sincerely,

Charles W. Hooper, Lieutenant General, USA, Director.

TRANSMITTAL NO. 19–32

Notice of Proposed Issuance of Letter of Offer Pursuant to Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended

(i) Prospective Purchaser: Government of Canada.
(iii) Description and Quantity of Articles or Services Under Consideration for Purchase: Major Defense Equipment (MDE): Four hundred twenty-five (425) MK 54 Lightweight Torpedo Conversion Kits. Non-MDE: Also included are torpedo containers, Recoverable Exercise Torpedoes (REXTORP) with containers, Fleet Exercise Section (FES) and fuel tanks, air launch accessories for fixed wing, torpedo spare parts, training, publications, support and test equipment, U.S. Government and contractor engineering, technical, and logistics support services, and other related elements of logistics and program support.

The Government of Canada has requested to buy four hundred twenty-five (425) MK 54 lightweight torpedo conversion kits. Also included are torpedo containers, Recoverable Exercise Torpedoes (REXTORP) with containers, Fleet Exercise Section (FES) and fuel tanks, air launch accessories for fixed wing, torpedo spare parts, training, publications, support and test equipment, U.S. Government and contractor engineering, technical, and logistics support services, and other related elements of logistics and program support. The total estimated program cost is $387 million.

This proposed sale will support the foreign policy and national security objectives of the United States by helping to improve the military capability of Canada, a NATO ally that is an important force for ensuring political stability and economic progress and a

POLICY JUSTIFICATION

Canada—MK 54 Lightweight Torpedoes

The Government of Canada has requested...
The proposed sale of this equipment and support does not alter the basic military balance in the region.

In implementing this sale will not require the assignment of additional U.S. Government or contractor representatives to Canada. However, it is anticipated that engineering support and services provided by the U.S. Government may be required on an interim basis for training and technical assistance.

There will be no adverse impact on U.S. defense readiness as a result of this proposed sale.

TRANSMITTAL NO. 19–32
Notice of Proposed Issuance of Letter of Offer Pursuant to Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act
Annex Item No. viii
(vii) Sensitivity of Technology:
1. The MK 54 Torpedo is a conventional torpedo that can be launched from surface ships, and rotary and fixed wing aircraft. The MK 54 is an upgrade to the MK 46 Torpedo. The upgrade to the MK 54 entails replacement of the torpedo’s sonar and guidance and control systems with modern technology. The new guidance and control system uses a mixture of commercial-off-the-shelf and custom-built electronics. The warhead, fuel tank and propulsion system from the MK 46 torpedo are re-used in the MK 54 configuration with minor modifications. There is no sensitive technology in the MK 54 or its support and test equipment. The assembly process includes re-use of MK 54 and several of its individual components are classified CONFIDENTIAL. The MK 54 operational software is classified as SECRET. Canada has not requested nor will it be provided with the source code for the MK 54 operational software.

2. If a technologically advanced adversary were to obtain knowledge of the specific hardware and software elements, the information could be used to develop countermeasures or equivalent systems which might reduce weapon system effectiveness or be used in the development of a system with similar or advanced capabilities.

3. A determination has been made that Canada can provide substantially the same degree of protection for the technology being released to the U.S. Government. This determination supports the U.S. foreign policy and national security objectives as outlined in the Policy Justification.

4. All defense articles and services listed in this transmittal have been authorized for release and export to Canada.

ARMs SALES NOTIFICATION

Mr. RISCH, Mr. President, section 36(b) of the Arms Export Control Act requires that Congress receive prior notification of certain proposed arms sales as defined by that statute. Upon such notification, the Congress has 30 calendar days during which the sale may be reviewed. The provision stipulates that, in the Senate, the notification and associated documentation shall be sent to the chair of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee. In keeping with the committee’s intention to see that relevant information is available to the full Senate, we ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD the notifications which have been received. If the cover letter references a classified annex, then such annex is available to all Senators in the office of the Foreign Relations Committee.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

DEFENSE SECURITY COOPERATION AGENCY, Arlington, Va.

Hon. JAMES E. RISCH, Chairman, Committee on Foreign Relations, U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.

Dear Mr. Chairman: Pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended, we are forwarding herewith Transmittal No. 19–31, concerning the Air Force’s proposed Letter(s) of Offer and Acceptance to the Government of Japan for defense articles and services estimated to cost $317 million. After this letter is delivered to your office, we plan to issue a news release to notify the public of this proposed sale.

Sincerely,

CHARLES W. HOPPER, Lieutenant General, USA, Director, Enclosures.

TRANSMITTAL NO. 19–32
Notice of Proposed Issuance of Letter of Offer Pursuant to Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended

(i) Prospective Purchaser: Government of Japan.

(ii) Total Estimated Value:

- Major Defense Equipment $302 million.
- Other $15 million.

Total $317 million.

(iii) Description and Quantity or Quantities of Articles or Services under Consideration for Purchase:

Major Defense Equipment (MDE): One hundred sixty (160) AIM-120C-7 Advanced Medium Range Air-to-Air Missiles (AMRAAM).

One (1) AIM-120C-7 AMRAAM Guidance Section.

Non-MDE: Also included are containers, weapon support and support equipment, spare and repair parts, U.S. Government and contractor engineering, technical and logistical support services, and other related elements of logistical and program support.


(v) Prior Related Cases, if any: JA-D-YAO, JA-D-YAK, JA-D-YAI, JA-D-YAH.

(vi) Sales Commission, Fee, etc., Paid, Offered, or Agreed to be Paid: None.

(vii) Sensitivity of Technology Contained in the Defense Article or Defense Services Proposed to be Sold: See Attached Annex.

(viii) Date of Export Delivered to Congress: May 16, 2019.

*As defined in Section 47(6) of the Arms Export Control Act.

POLICY JUSTIFICATION

Japan—AIM-120C-7 Advanced Medium-Range Air-to-Air Missiles (AMRAAM)

The Government of Japan has requested to buy one hundred sixty (160) AIM-120C-7 Advanced Medium Range Air-to-Air Missiles (AMRAAM), and one (1) AIM-120C-7 AMRAAM guidance section. Also included are containers, weapon support and support equipment, spare and repair parts, U.S. Government and contractor engineering, technical and logistical support services, and other related elements of logistical and program support. The total estimated program cost is $317 million.

This proposed sale will support the foreign policy and national security of the United States by improving the security of a major ally that is a force for political stability and economic progress in the Asia-Pacific region. It is vital to U.S. national interests to assist Japan in developing and maintaining a strong and effective self-defense capability.

The proposed sale of these missiles will provide Japan a critical air defense capability to assist in defending the Japanese homeland and U.S. personnel stationed there. Japan will have no difficulty absorbing these additional missiles into its armed forces.

The proposed sale of this equipment and support does not alter the basic military balance in the region.

The prime contractor is Raytheon Missile Systems, Tucson, Arizona. There are no offset arrangements in connection with this potential sale. Any offset agreement will be defined in negotiations between the Purchaser and the prime contractor.

Implementation of this sale will not require the assignment of U.S. Government or contractor representatives in Japan.

There will be no adverse impact on U.S. defense readiness as a result of this proposed sale.

TRANSMITTAL NO. 19–31
Notice of Proposed Issuance of Letter of Offer Pursuant to Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act
Annex Item No. vii
(vii) Sensitivity of Technology:
1. The proposed sale will involve the release of sensitive technology to the Government of Japan related to the AIM-120C-7 Advanced Medium Range Air-to-Air Missile (AMRAAM). The AIM-120C-7 AMRAAM is a radar guided missile featuring digital technology and micro-miniature electronics. AMRAAM capabilities include lock-on/lock-off, multiple launches against multiple targets, resistance to electronic countermeasures, and perception of high flying, low flying, and maneuvering targets. The AMRAAM All Up Round is classified CONFIDENTIAL. The major components and subsystems are classified from UNCLASSIFIED to CONFIDENTIAL, and technology data and other documentation are classified up to SECRET.

2. If a technologically advanced adversary obtained knowledge of the specific hardware or software in the proposed sale, the information could be used to develop countermeasures which might reduce weapons system effectiveness or be used in the development of a system with similar or advanced capabilities.

3. The sensitive technology being released under this notification is subject to the security criteria established in National Disclosure Policy (NDP–1) for the Government of Japan. This sale is not the appearance of the U.S. foreign policy and national security objectives outlined in the Policy Justification.

4. All defense articles and services listed in this transmittal have been authorized for release and export to Japan.
ARMs Sales NOTIFICATION

Mr. Risch. Mr. President, section 36(b) of the Arms Export Control Act requires that Congress receive prior notification of certain proposed arms sales as defined by that statute. Upon such notification, the Congress has 30 calendar days during which the sale may be considered. The provision stipulates that, in the Senate, the notification of proposed sales shall be sent to the chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

In keeping with the committee’s intention to see that relevant information is transmitted to the full Senate, I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD the notifications which have been received. If the cover letter references a classified annex, then such annex is available to all Senators in the office of the Foreign Relations Committee, room SD–423.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

DEFENSE SECURITY CooperATION agency, Arlington, VA.

Hon. James E. Risch, Chairman, Committee on Foreign Relations, U.S. Senate, D.C.

DEAR Mr. Chairman: Pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended, we are forwarding herewith Transmittal No. 19–26 concerning the Navy’s proposed Offer and Acceptance to the Republic of Korea for defense articles and services estimated to cost $313.9 million. After this letter is delivered to your office, we plan to issue a news release to notify the public of this proposed sale.

Sincerely, Charles W. Hooper, Lieutenant General, USA, Director.

Enclosures.

TRANSMITTAL NO. 19–26

Notice of Proposed Issuance of Letter of Offer Pursuant to Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended

(i) Prospective Purchaser: Republic of Korea

(ii) Total Estimated Value: Major Defense Equipment $292.4 million. Other $21.5 million. Total $313.9 million.

(iii) Description and Quantity or Quantities of Articles or Services under Consideration for Purchase: Major Defense Equipment (MDE): Up to ninety-four (94) rounds of SM–2 Block IIIB Standard Missiles. Twelve (12) MK 97 MOD 0 Guidance Sections for SM–2 Block IIIB Standard Missiles. Twelve (12) MK 97 MOD 0 Guidance Sections for SM–2 Block IIIB. Also included is technical assistance: training and training equipment; publication and technical data; and related logistics support, and other related elements of logistics and program support.


(vi) Sales Commission, Fee, etc., Paid, Offered, or Agreed to be Paid: None.

(vii) Sensitivity of Technology: Contained in the Defense Article or Defense Services Proposed to be Sold: See Annex Attached.

(viii) Date Report Delivered to Congress: May 23, 2019

*As defined in Section 47(b) of the Arms Export Control Act.

POLICY JUSTIFICATION

Korea—SM–2 Block IIIB

The Republic of Korea (ROK) has requested to buy up to ninety-four (94) rounds of SM–2 Block IIIB Standard Missiles and twelve (12) MK 97 MOD 0 Guidance Sections for SM–2 Block IIIB. Also included is technical assistance: training and training equipment; publication and technical data; and related logistics support, and other related elements of logistics and program support. The total estimated program cost is $313.9 million.

This proposed sale will support the foreign policy and national security objectives of the United States by meeting the legitimate security and defense needs of one of the closest allies in the INDOPACOM Theater. The Republic of Korea is a major political and economic power in East Asia and the Western Pacific and a key partner of the United States in ensuring peace and stability in that region.

The ROK Navy intends to use the SM–2 Block IIIB to supplement its existing inventory. The proposed sale will provide a defensive capability while enhancing interoperability with U.S. and other allied forces. The Republic of Korea will have no difficulty absorbing these additional missiles into its armed forces.

The proposed sale of this equipment and support will not alter the basic military balance in the region.

The prime contractor will be the Raytheon Missile Systems Company, Tucson, Arizona. There are no known offset agreements proposed in connection with this potential sale. Any offset agreement will be defined in negotiations between the Purchaser and the prime contractor.

Implementation of the proposed sale will not require the invocation of any additional U.S. Government or contractor representatives to the ROK. However, U.S. Government or contractor personnel in-country visits will be required on a temporary basis in conjunction with program technical oversight and support requirements.

There will be no adverse impact on U.S. defense readiness as a result of this proposed sale.

MEMORIAL DAY

Mr. Cardin. Mr. President, on this Memorial Day, I join all Americans in recognizing the brave men and women in uniform who have made the ultimate sacrifice while serving our country. Freedom is not free. The blood shed by America’s sons and daughters, who unselfishly served their country and laid down their lives for its protection. The impact of their sacrifice is enduring, forever felt by the parents, spouses, children, friends, and loved ones they left behind.

Army CPT Brian Bunting, known by all his friends as Bubba, grew up in Potomac, MD. He was a distinguished athlete and scholar at Bullis School, where he spent all 4 years in the Junior ROTC program. He was graduated from the U.S. Military Academy. Shortly after the September 11 terrorist attacks, Brian graduated in 2002 and was commissioned as an Army officer. Brian was known for his infectious laughter and humor and eventually married Nicole Pascal Bunting in 2006; Nikki had known Brian since the sixth grade. Shortly after Nicole gave birth to their infant son, Connor, Brian could answer the call of duty when activated by the Infantry Reserve to deploy to Afghanistan with the 27th Infantry Brigade Combat Team. During his deployment, he returned home for leave and was able to spend a short period with his wife and son, Connor. A few days after his return to Afghanistan, Brian was killed by a roadside bomb in Kandahar on February 24, 2009. At the age of 29, not only did Brian leave behind his wife Nikki and infant son Connor, but he also left behind another son, Cooper, who would be born months after Brian’s death.

I remember the sacrifice of Baltimore native SGT Damion G. Campbell. The Forest Park High School faculty described Damion as being “very mild-tempered and sophisticated,” as someone who served as a leader and role model for younger students. Damion’s mother, Donna Robinson, described him as an “outgoing, fun-loving and committed young man.” She always mentioned the Army as a model for younger students. Damion was described by his family as a “joyful person” who was passionate about the Army. Sergeant Campbell was a 23-year-old Army medic serving in Afghanistan and was killed in action on August 26, 2005, when a bomb exploded near his vehicle during a patrol in the Khayr Kot district. We remember him today for his ultimate sacrifice and thank him for his service and passion for America.

Like Sergeant Campbell, Army SPC Toccara Green of Rosedale, MD, also excelled at Forest Park High School, where she spent all 4 years in the Junior ROTC program. She graduated from high school in 2000 and attended Norfolk State University in Virginia.
where she studied telecommunications and broadcasting. In 2002, Toccara joined the Army and was assigned to the 10th Mountain Division. While she was deployed to Iraq, part of her job was operating a 50-caliber machine gun on an Army supply truck during convoy operations, a critical role to protect the convoy and thwart enemy attacks. She once told her family “her ideal situation was to go out fighting for our country.” Toccara had an opportunity to return home to Baltimore on leave during her deployment, less than a week after redeploying to Iraq. Specialist Green was killed at the age of 23 by a roadside bomb and became Maryland’s first woman soldier killed in combat in Iraq.

Across Maryland and across the country, there are countless others like Captain Bunting, Sergeant Campbell, Specialist Green, and their families who have made the ultimate sacrifice throughout the history of this country. Maryland and the country defined their character and were reflective of their actions. They not only represent the best of who we are as a nation, they are examples of who we all should aspire to be.

Pioneers. The invaluable courage and actions of those who have fallen have enabled our freedom and way of life to continue and at such a profound price. This weekend, I will pray for the families in Maryland, and across the United States, who have lost loved ones defending our freedom. I will also pray for the safe return of our brave men and women currently serving abroad. Let us never forget their service, and may we forever honor their sacrifice.

ASIAN PACIFIC AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, each year during the month of May, Asian Pacific American Heritage Month calls us to celebrate and reflect on the rich history of Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders. These communities draw from an incredibly diverse range of cultures, languages, and religions that all come together to make the United States a more vibrant nation. Whether as natives or as immigrants, Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders have long played a pivotal role in the history of the United States since even before its founding.

Congress first recognized the contributions of Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders with the introduction of a resolution in 1977 by Representatives Frank Horton of New York and Norman Mineta of California and, later, Senators Daniel Inouye and Spark Matsunaga, both of Hawaii. This resolution proclaimed the first 10 days of May as Asian Pacific American Heritage Week. It took Representative Horton’s and Senator Inouye’s modest resolution in 1978 for Congress to pass it and for President Jimmy Carter to sign it. Presidents would then go on to issue annual proclamations for Asian Pacific American Heritage Week until 1990, when Congress expanded Asian Pacific American Heritage Week to the entire month, and President George H. W. Bush designated May 1990 as the first Asian Pacific American Heritage Month. In 1992, congressional passage of a final resolution permanently designated the month of May as Asian Pacific American Heritage Month.

Since the beginning, the choice of the first several days of the month, the month of May served to honor the memory of the arrival of the first Japanese to the United States on May 7, 1843, as well as the completion of the Transcontinental Railroad on May 10, 1869. The Census Bureau estimates that there are more than 20 million Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders currently residing in the United States, and by many accounts, they represent one of the fastest growing minority communities. Maryland, more than 400,000 people, identify as Asian American and Pacific Islander. Particularly in the counties surrounding Washington DC, Maryland has increasingly become home to communities of Chinese, Taiwanese, Korean, Filipino, and Indian Americans. Over the years, they have contributed substantially to making Maryland a thriving State recognized for its leadership in business, education, culture, and many other fields. These communities have been and always will be an integral part of our community.

Archaeological evidence indicates that humans first began to settle in the Pacific Islands, including those of Hawaii, Samoa, and Guam, which would later become part of the United States, thousands of years ago. In what was one of the first crossings of the Pacific Ocean from Asia to the Americas, Filipinos were aboard a Spanish galleon that landed in California in 1587. In the 17th century, the British East India Company brought the first South Asian Indians to the country as indentured servants. In time, the Colonies and, later, the United States would see continued influxes of immigrants from Asia and the Pacific, in addition to the arrival of the first men and women coming from China, Korea, and Japan in the 19th century. Many came as contract labor for plantations, factories, and railroads. Eventually, the California Gold Rush and the Transcontinental Railroad. In the 20th century, immigration reforms coincided with the Cold War and a new wave of globalization to spur an unprecedented boom in arrivals from these countries and elsewhere in the region. As these populations continue to grow, it is crucial to recognize that Asian Pacific Americans have been in the United States for centuries. Their stories are a testament to how our Nation is one of immigrants that is made stronger, not weaker, through its diversity.

Today, many of the iconic buildings we take for granted originate in the work of Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders. Here in Washington DC, many might walk beside the majestic East Building of the National Gallery of Art without recognizing it to be the work of the famous architect, I. M. Pei, who passed away on March 17, 2019, at the venerable age of 102. Beginning with the first objects here and abroad, such as the Louvre Pyramid in Paris, France.

Throughout their history, Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders have been and continue to be leaders. Indeed, one of the best demonstrations of this is the pivotal role Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders played in the Civil Rights era. Contemporaneously with the movements of the 1950s and 1960s, numerous Asian American and Pacific Islander activists and organizers advocated for the equality of all races and social and economic justice. In 1969, it was Larry Itliong who first coined the term “Asian American” and later taught the first course on Asian American Studies at the University of California, Los Angeles, in addition to founding the major advocacy group, the United Farm Workers. Cesar Chavez’s organization to create the United Farm Workers. Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders have committed themselves to serving their communities and the United States. For centuries, Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders have participated in almost every war the United States has fought. Although often serving in segregated units, these men and women enthusiastically fought for what had long been their country, serving as early as the War of 1812. In recent years, Asian American and Pacific Islander soldiers and support personnel have proved essential in the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq. Their service and sacrifice should never be forgotten. Today, many have gone on to serve as dedicated public servants. Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders have held elected offices at the local, State, and national levels for over a century. Leaders such as Senator Hiram Fong and Senator Daniel Akaka made history in the Senate. Today, many of the first Asian American and Native Hawaiian, respectively, to serve in the U.S. Senate. I was honored to serve alongside Senator
Daniel Inouye, who became the highest ranking Asian-American politician in our Nation’s history when he became the President pro tempore of the Senate. Beyond elected office, Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders constitute an indispensable portion of our civil service and all levels of government. There, they have clearly demonstrated the commitment they have to their community.

In addition to the many contributions made by individuals, Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders have also imprinted onto our society the marks of distinctive cultures. Though perhaps taken for granted today, many ubiquitous aspects of American life and identity ultimately derive from the men and women who brought pieces of their home countries with them when they came to the United States. From philosophy to religion and entertainment to cuisine, Asian and Pacific Islander cultures have helped influence and shape the American way of life as we know it today.

As minorities, many Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders have endured persistent forms of systemic racism that have yet to be eradicated. Historically, countless individuals were denied the same rights as other Americans and were even excluded from citizenship. Laws barred many from working in certain fields and codified school segregation and prohibition of property and business ownership. Immigration itself became a target of exclusionary policies that prohibited immigrants of certain ethnicities from coming to the United States. Widespread xenophobia, captured best by the “Yellow Peril,” dehumanized entire communities and instilled prejudice in the hearts of many Americans. This discrimination reached a peak when President Roosevelt ordered the incarceration of over 100,000 Japanese Americans in internment camps as war began with the Empire of Japan in World War II.

Although we have made much progress in recent decades, we still face persistent issues of xenophobia, underrepresentation, and discrimination. Opportunities such as Asian Pacific American Heritage Month allow us to educate all Americans and spread the stories and perspectives unique to this community. We must do all that we can to work by supporting policies and ideas of acceptance and equality. There is still much work to be done, but with the effort of all of our community acting together, I believe we can reach our goal.

Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders represent more than just a demographic category. They are our neighbors and coworkers, our friends and family. They are small business owners and entrepreneurs who have helped transform our economy for the better. They are scientists and researchers who have made countless discoveries that have advanced our knowledge. They are creative artists and performers who have captured our emotions and introduced us to innovative concepts. In short, Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders represent an essential pillar of the United States. Their story in this country reaches back to its very founding, and it will still be told by the entire world to see, for they are, above all, Americans.

TRIBUTE TO THOMAS O’LOUGHLIN
Mrs. HYDE-SMITH. Mr. President, each Memorial Day we, as Americans, take time to honor the heroes who gave their lives in service to our country, from those who died in the creation of this great Nation to those who today risk their lives in the most dangerous corners of the world.

As we approach this Memorial Day, I want to take a moment to honor the heroes still among us who served in the World War II era. These men and women of the World War II era are truly heroes here among us. They faced a great battle between good and evil, these heroes advanced over rough terrain against bombs and bullets and tanks.

Today, their battle is against the unrelenting march of time and the inescapable effects of aging. For these veterans, we are only known from history books or movies, we still have the opportunity and sacred duty to express our gratitude, so we honor them as we aspire to be greater than we are. If we desire to serve more than ourselves, we must honor them.

On this Memorial Day, I take time to draw special attention to one of these heroes, who is now hospitalized in Mississippi.

Ninety-four years ago, Thomas O’Loughlin was born in an Irish-Catholic community in New Jersey. When his country called him to war, Tom responded and made his first trip to Mississippi, courtesy of the U.S. Army, for training at Camp Shelby. He deployed to the European Theater where, in January 1944, he was captured by the Axis forces and held as prisoner of war for more than a year before liberation. Following the war, Tom served as a guard during the Nuremberg Trials of Nazi war criminals. One of the prisoners in his charge was Depute Fuhrer Rudolf Hess.

Following the Nuremberg Trials, Tom continued serving his country in the Armed Forces, once again serving in combat with the 811th Engineer Aviation Battalion assigned to the Fifth Air Force in Korea. He returned to civilian life in 1952, eventually making his way back to Mississippi. Keeping his Jersey accent and Irish sparkles, Tom made Mississippi his home and became a local hero.

They settled down in Laurel, MS, and like many members of the Greatest Generation, Tom dedicated himself to serving his community as a sponsor for those facing addiction. Even now, he calls from his hospital bed to encourage sobriety and offer support to those who still turn to him for help.

To honor Tom O’Loughlin, I had a U.S. flag flown over the U.S. Capitol. I want to take a moment to honor the other World War II veterans across our country, for they truly are heroes here among us.

TRIBUTE TO SHIRLEY ABRAHAMSON
Ms. BALDWIN. Mr. President, today I wish to recognize the remarkable career and legacy of Justice Shirley Abrahamson as she retires from the Wisconsin Supreme Court. Justice Abrahamson has a long and distinguished career upholding the law on Wisconsin’s highest court. Her unparalleled commitment to justice has promoted a fair and impartial judicial system while greatly contributing to the promotion of equal rights in Wisconsin.

Justice Abrahamson’s exceptional career had modest beginnings in New York City. Her parents were immigrants who started a grocery store in Manhattan. Her passion for the law started at the tender age of 6, when she decided she wanted to become a lawyer. She was a dedicated student, earning honors in high school and college.

Justice Abrahamson graduated magna cum laude with bachelor’s degree from New York University in 1953. She earned a law degree with high distinction from Indiana University in 1956 and a doctor of law in American legal history from the University of Wisconsin Law School in 1962. Before her appointment to the Wisconsin Supreme Court, Justice Abrahamson practiced law in the private sector for 14 years and was a distinguished professor at the University of Wisconsin Law School.

In 1976, Shirley Abrahamson broke the glass ceiling in Wisconsin’s judicial system by becoming the first female justice on the Wisconsin Supreme Court. She again made history in 1996 when she became the first woman to serve as chief justice. After winning four elections and serving a total of 42 years, Justice Abrahamson is now the longest serving supreme court justice in the country.

Though her career is punctuated by countless achievements and distinctions, Justice Abrahamson’s path to success was anything but easy. Despite a multitude of academic distinctions and an unprecedented affinity for the law, Justice Abrahamson was met with a demoralizing wave of sexism when she entered the legal profession in the 1950s. The dean of the Indiana University Law School traditionally placed the top student from each graduating class at the law school. In Indianapolis; yet after graduating first in her class from the University in 1956, the dean told Justice Abrahamson she could
not place her at the firm because they just were not going to hire a woman. Rather than feeling disheartened, Justice Abrahamson informed the dean that she didn’t want to go to Indianopolis, so the slight was fine with her.

The discrimination was not an anomaly. Justice Abrahamson was denied jobs, clients, and even social club memberships on the basis of her gender. Undaunted by this prejudice, Justice Abrahamson took a stand against gender inequality and refused to back down from those who stood in the way of a woman’s path to success in the legal field. Her greatest legacy is the trail she blazed for countless young women, who can see themselves in a courtroom or on a judicial bench because of the barriers she fearlessly broke through. She will go down in history as one of Wisconsin’s most influential and powerful women, and she used every bit of that influence and power in the pursuit of justice for all Wisconsinites.

Justice Abrahamson is a true American hero. From her inconstant tenure on the Wisconsin Supreme Court to her 13-year stint as mayor, Soglin accomplished one of the biggest upsurges in leadership during the years of service, he leaves with the respect and admiration of the Wisconsin State University—Park neighborhood of Chicago, where he excelled academically at Highland Park High School. He graduated with honors from the University of Wisconsin—Madison in 1966 and from the UW-Madison Law School in 1972.

Soglin gained national notoriety on campus as an activist for social and political change. He frequently protested American military involvement in the Vietnam war and demonstrated against Dow Chemical Company for its role in manufacturing napalm and Agent Orange for use in Vietnam. Beaten by police during the protests, Soglin became a respected voice on campus. During this trying time in our Nation’s past, Soglin demonstrated his enduring commitment to social and civil rights.

Soglin won election to the Madison City Council in 1968, representing the city’s student wards. Four years later, he accomplished one of the biggest upsets in Madison history by defeating two-term incumbent William Dye, becoming the youngest mayor in the city’s history. During his first term as mayor, he established Madison’s Civic Center to showcase the city’s growing arts scene. He made tremendous improvements to the city’s public transit system and transformed State Street into an iconic pedestrian mall, one of Madison’s defining landmarks.

After leaving public office to teach at Harvard in 1979, Soglin returned to Madison to practice law and was twice reelected to lead Wisconsin’s capital city. In all, he served as Madison’s 51st, 54th, and 57th mayor. During his second stint as mayor, Soglin accomplished many significant achievements, breaking through a 70-year debate to build the Monona Terrace Convention Center that Frank Lloyd Wright designed for Madison’s Lake Monona’s shoreline. He is also credited with initiating city’s economic development and rebuilding its declining downtown.

Through his more than two decades of investment in infrastructure, the arts, and recreation, Paul Soglin has helped build a welcoming and flourishing city that appears often on lists of the Nation’s most livable cities. Throughout this growth, he has also fought to ensure that Madison’s resources and assets are available to all city residents, regardless of their economic standing.

In addition to Paul Soglin’s remarkable public service, I feel fortunate to know him as a lifelong family friend. From my earliest memories of Paul teaching me how to throw a Frisbee to his generous mentoring of my children at my mother’s memorial service, Paul Soglin has provided me with encouragement and inspiration.

As he begins his next chapter after 22 years of service, he leaves with the knowledge that he has left an indelible mark on the city he loves and that his legacy will endure.

102ND ANNIVERSARY OF EMMANUEL BAPTIST CHURCH

Ms. BALDWIN. Mr. President, today I wish to recognize the 102nd anniversary of Emmanuel Baptist Church in Beloit, WI. Emmanuel Baptist Church was established on April 15, 1917, and has been a shining asset to the community for the last 102 years.

The church was founded during the peak of the Great Northward Migration, when more than 6 million African Americans migrated from the rural South to the industrial cities of the North and Midwest. Many northern manufacturing plants sought African-American migrants from the South to help replace white workers fighting in World War I. Beloit became a favored destination for migrants thanks in part to a young African-American named John McCord from Pontotoc, MS, who helped the Fairbanks Morse manufacturing company in Beloit recruit Black labor from the southern town.

African Americans were eager to escape the Jim Crow laws of the South and seek an improved quality of life for their families. As they settled in an unfamiliar part of the country, they sought solace in their faith and established the Second Emmanuel Baptist Church, now Emmanuel Baptist Church. The church held its first service at Kent Hall on State Street on April 15, 1917, for a small group of African Americans, all of whom worked at Fairbanks Morse. As their families grew and the Great Migration continued, the once small church quickly grew to a congregation of 100 by 1920. On June 3, 1927, formal incorporation papers were filed with the Rock County Registrar.

The first church at the current location was built in 1924 for $5,500. The edifice of the present church was built in 1960 after the first building was destroyed by fire in 1958. Today, Emmanuel Baptist Church proudly offers worship and educational programs for its members and provides community outreach programs through its Family Life Center. Two of its most successful endeavors, a food pantry and a free hot lunch program, began under the leadership of the late Rev. Dr. Floyd Prude, Jr., who served as senior pastor for 36 years, the longest in the church’s history.

For over 100 years after its founding, Emmanuel Baptist Church provides a spiritual refuge for its 350 members under the steady hand of Minister Rodney Hayes. It stands as a beacon of hope that has withstood the devil’s incessant efforts to discouraged. Under the devoted guidance of its spiritual leaders, may it continue to be a shining asset to the community for the next 102 years.

TRIBUTE TO THE ALEXANDER FAMILY

Mr. ROMNEY. Mr. President, it is my honor today to pay tribute to five native Utahns who are brothers and veterans of World War II and Korea: William, Gail, George, Jack, and Bert Alexander.

These five brothers answered the call to defend our freedom and the freedoms of others from foreign invaders. Nazi Germany, Imperial Japan, and the North Koreans believed it their right to attack and forcefully restrict the freedoms of their neighbors, but these brothers recognized that our freedom as American citizens is inextricably linked to the freedom of our friends and allies. Remaining safely protected in Northern Utah was not an option for the Alexander brothers; they answered the call to take up arms and defend freedom’s cause.

One brother, SGT Gail Alexander, was killed in action exactly 75 years ago tomorrow, May 24, 1944, during the Anzio campaign to retake Rome, Italy. The Anzio campaign and then Operation Neptune—or D-day, as it came to be known—marked an important turning point in World War II, with the Allies beginning to liberate and retake German-occupied Europe, restoring freedom to the French and Italians and subsequently to the rest of Europe.

Prior to his death, Gail received a Purple Heart and a Silver Star citation for Gallantry when on February 4, 1944, after sustaining a gunshot injury to his hand, he singlehandedly took out a
German machine gun position that had held up his entire company. Alone and the his company under fire, Gail gradually ran 130 yards across the battlefield, machine guns kicking up dirt on both sides of him and artillery shells falling all around. He made it to the machine gun position, knocking it out with grenades, allowing his company to come out from under cover.

In the official military report of the incident, Gail’s commanding officer said, ‘’Sergeant Alexander’s fearless action under direct machine gun fire for twenty minutes, enabled our company to obtain the objective . . . and prevented any further casualties to our own men. ’’

Gail’s brothers William, George, and Jack all returned home after serving in various capacities more than 2 years each all throughout the European theater. The youngest brother, Bert Alexander, who just passed away on April 2 of this year at the age of 67, was too young to serve in World War II but still answered the call to defend liberty when he embarked for service in Korea.

So today I, along with the entire U.S. Senate, honor these five brothers, their Gold Star mother, and their families, both living and deceased. We remember their tremendous service and sacrifice, and we express our profound gratitude for their sacrifice in defending freedom for us and for America’s allies.

AVIATION MAINTENANCE TECHNICIAN DAY

Ms. DUCKWORTH. Mr. President, in 1902, a little known machinist by the name of Charles Edward Taylor began working for Orville and Wilbur Wright at the Wright Cycle Company in Dayton, OH. Over the course of 6 weeks, using only a metal lathe, drill press, and hand tools, Mr. Taylor built a 12-horsepower engine that was used to power the Wright brothers’ first successful aircraft in 1903.

Today, Charles Taylor’s May 24th birthday is observed as Aviation Maintenance Technician Day to recognize the thousands of men and women who follow in Mr. Taylor’s footsteps and fulfill a critical safety role in the U.S. aviation industry. Whether maintaining military, commercial, general aviation, private, space, or experimental aircraft, aviation maintenance technicians use their specialized knowledge and skills to ensure that all aircraft are safe and reliable.

I want to thank aviation maintenance technicians across Illinois and throughout the Nation for their hard work and dedication. Their expertise and integrity ensures the U.S. aviation system will remain the safest and most reliable in the world.

TRIBUTE TO DR. WILLIAM MEDD

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, access to quality healthcare is the foundation of any community. Throughout his long and distinguished career at Stephens Memorial Hospital in Norway, ME, Dr. William Medd has helped to build that foundation in Oxford County. It is a pleasure to join his friends and neighbors in thanking him for 45 years of expert, dedicated, and compassionate service.

Healthcare is essential to the vitality, even the survival, of rural communities. In a recent interview, Dr. Medd said that, after he graduated from the University of Rochester Medical School, he had a wide choice of places to practice medicine in a place where he could make a real difference, and he certainly has. His role in starting the Maine Track program through Maine Medical Center and the Tufts University School of Medicine to recruit young physicians to rural practice will make a difference for generations to come.

When a new medical center opened in Norway 3 years ago, it was named in Dr. Medd’s honor as a tribute to his contributions to his community. Just as important is the gratitude the people throughout the Oxford Hills region have for his outstanding attentiveness to their health and well-being. I offer Dr. William Medd my congratulations upon this recognition and best wishes for the years to come.

100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE CODY STAMPEDE RODEO

Mr. ENZI. Mr. President, this year, the Cody Stamped Rodeo is celebrating its 100th anniversary. This is a milestone for the Stamped, for Cody, and for Wyoming. One hundred years of the Cody Stamped Rodeo represents 100 years of us living life the cowboy way. The cowboy and the rodeo is an integral part of our culture, and this 100th anniversary is a chance to celebrate this long standing history.

The rodeo has long been a part of Wyoming’s history. It is often referred to as the Cowboy State as a reference to its cowboy culture. At the heart of cowboy culture lies the rodeo. We hold rodeos all over the State in almost every single town.

Rodeo is in some ways the West’s ambassador to the world. With our bucking horse license plate and visitors’ conceptions of the Wild West, cows and rodeo are what they see and expect to see first. Through the efforts of all those who participate, rodeo continues to grow. It is a part of western tradition that can be shared and enjoyed by visitors and residents alike.

The rodeo is a part of our livelihood that is unique to the Cowboy State and the West. The relationship between the rodeo and the West is much like the relationship between a cowboy and his horse. Few pairings have produced a more perfect partnership and the image of a cowboy and his horse remains an American icon. When one imagines a cowboy, the first image that comes to mind is rarely without his horse companion.

The American cowboy represents the greatest parts of the American West: our courage, honor, and hard work ethic. The cowboy way provides an ethical code for cowboys to live by. All rodeo participants embody this cowboy way when competing in the arena, providing the world with a prime example of this code all Westerners live by.

Cody is named the Rodeo Capitol of the World. Rodeo in Cody began over 100 years ago with William Frederick ‘’Buffalo Bill’’ Cody and his Wild West Show. The Wild West Show was never formally held in Cody but the tryouts for the show were held at the Irma Hotel. In 1913, Buffalo Bill closed his Wild West Show. He hosted one last parade and rodeo in Cody for the prince of Monaco.

In 1917, Buffalo Bill passed away and with that ended a fascinating chapter in the story of the American Wild West. In 1919, Clarence Williams led the effort to establish a rodeo celebration in Cody to commemorate Buffalo Bill and the Wild West he personified. Every year since 1919, people from all over the world come to watch cowboys compete in the Cody Stamped Rodeo, as well as the rodeos held every night from June to Labor Day.

For its centennial year, the Cody Stampede Board is being inducted into the Professional Rodeo Cowboy Hall of Fame. This is a great accomplishment for the town and the Stamped.

Caroline Lockhart was the founder and first president of the Cody Stampede Board. Caroline felt a liberated, independent women ahead of her time. She was described as someone ‘’with a spirit as wild as the West.’’ Last November, she was inducted into the Cowgirl Hall of Fame. As we approach the 100th anniversary of the 19th Amendment, which granted women the right to vote across the country, it is important to recognize Wyoming’s history of women leaders, like Caroline. Caroline Lockhart is a great example of the trailblazer nature of our great State.

As a trailblazer State, women in Wyoming were voting long before the 19th Amendment was passed. Wyoming is coming up on the 150th anniversary of women’s suffrage. In December 1869, Wyoming’s territorial legislature became the first government in the world to grant women the right to vote. Called the Equality State, we have the distinction of having the first woman to vote as Governor and the first woman to vote in the world. Rodeo exemplifies the nature of the Equality State through its history of inclusion and acceptance.

There are many great sports, but there are probably none as demanding or difficult as Rodeo. That is why it continues to grow in popularity and participation. It requires a tremendous combination of athletic ability, concentration, and dedication from its participants. It takes a lot of courage to face the challenges of the sport and give it your very best.

Rodeo also does a lot to build character and increase the self-confidence.
of those who participate in the sport. Best of all, it is something the whole family can take part in, either in the arena or in the stands, cheering family and friends on to victory.

The hard work of those who compete in rodeos represents the ‘can do’ spirit of the West. It is great to see the entire community come together year after year as volunteers, participants, and fans for the Cody Stampede Rodeo. Again, I congratulate Cody on their 100th anniversary of the Cody Stampede Rodeo and wish the best for another other 100 years of doing things the Cowboy way.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO WOODS EASTLAND
• Mrs. HYDE-SMITH. Mr. President, I am pleased to commend Woods Eastland of Indianola, MS, for his service and contributions while serving as the 83rd president of Delta Council.

Woods Eastland’s tenure as Delta Council president began in June 2018. Under Mr. Eastland’s leadership, the Delta region has benefitted from his extensive experience in farm policy, water resource issues, and economic and community development, among other major issues that Delta Council addresses.

Mr. Eastland graduated from Vanderbilt University and earned a juris doctorate from the University of Mississippi. A Navy veteran, Eastland began farming following his military service. He was also CEO of StaplCotn for over 24 years, where he led the largest cotton marketing firm in the United States, headquartered in Greenwood, MS. Upon his retirement, he became Chairman of the Board for another 8 years. In addition to Delta Council, Eastland serves his church, community, and Delta region through numerous leadership roles.

I am pleased to offer congratulations to Woods Eastland and to share this appreciation with his wife Lynn, their two children, and grandchildren, at the time of the 84th annual meeting of the membership of Delta Council in June.

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Ms. Ridgway, one of his reading clerks, and friends on to victory.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

As in executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages from the President of the United States submitting sundry nominations and a withdrawal which were referred to the appropriate committees.

(Messages received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

At 10:18 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 bill, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 1500. An act to require the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau to meet its statutory purpose, and for other purposes.

The message further announced that the House has agreed to the following concurrent resolutions, without amendment:

S. Con. Res. 6. Concurrent resolution authorizing the printing of a commemorative document in memory of the late President of the United States, George Herbert Walker Bush.

S. Con. Res. 14. Concurrent resolution authorizing the use of Emancipation Hall in the Capitol Visitor Center for an event to celebrate the birthday of King Kamehameha I.

MEASURES REFERRED

The following bill was read the first and the second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

H.R. 1500. An act to require the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau to meet its statutory purpose, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

MEASURES DISCHARGED

The following bill was discharged from the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, and referred to the Committee on Indian Affairs:

S. 886. A bill to amend the Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2009 to make the Reclamation Water Settlements Fund permanent.

EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were laid before the Senate, together with accompanying papers, reports, and documents, and were referred as indicated:

EC–1361. A communication from the Assistant Director, Senior Executive Management Office, Department of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, four reports relative to vacancies in the Department of Defense, received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 19, 2019, to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC–1362. A communication from the Assistant Secretary for Export Administration, Bureau of Industry and Security, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Addition of Certain Entities to the Entity List, Removal of an Entity from the Entity List,” (RIN 09649–AH72) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 22, 2019, to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC–1363. A communication from the Director of Congressional Affairs, Office of Chief Financial Officer, Nuclear Regulatory Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Revision of Fee Schedules, Fee Recovery for Fiscal Year 2019” (RIN 31500–A199) (NRC–2017–0032) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 22, 2019, to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–1364. A communication from the Regulations Coordinator, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Medicare and Medicaid Programs; Modernizing Part D and Medicare Advantage to Lower Drug Prices and Reduce Out of Pocket Expenses” (RIN 0938–AT92) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 22, 2019; to the Committee on Finance.

EC–1365. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled “Report to Congress on Public Law 108–235: United States Support for Taiwan’s Participation as an Observer at the 52nd World Health Assembly in the Work of the World Health Organization”; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC–1366. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to Data Mining Activities in the Department of State for calendar year 2018; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC–1367. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the status of the Government of Cuba’s compliance with the United States-Cuba Joint Communique,” and on the treatment of persons returned to Cuba in accordance with the United States-Cuba May 1995 “Joint Statement,” and the United States-Cuba January 2017 “Joint Statement”; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC–1368. A communication from the Principal Deputy Assistant Attorney General, Office of Legislative Affairs, Department of Justice, transmitting, a report relative to the implementation of the Department’s mission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the “Climate Action Now Act”; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC–1369. A communication from the Assistant Attorney General, Office of Legislative Affairs, Department of Justice, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to a fiscal year 2020 estimate for the Volunteers at Federally Supported Health Centers Assistant Act; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC–1370. A communication from the Assistant Attorney General, Office of Legislative Affairs, Department of Justice, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to a fiscal year 2020 estimate for the Volunteers at Federally Supported Health Centers Assistant Act; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC–1371. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to Data Mining Activities in the Department of State for calendar year 2018; to the Committee on Finance.
and South Atlantic; Snapper-Grouper Fishery of the South Atlantic Region; Amendment 36 (RIN0648–BG39) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 22, 2019; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–1397. A communication from the Deputy Assistant Administrator for Regulatory Programs, National Marine Fisheries Service, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Fisheries of the Northeastern United States; Mid-Atlantic Unmanaged Forage Omnibus Amendment” (RIN0648–BG42) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 22, 2019; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–1398. A communication from the Deputy Assistant Administrator for Regulatory Programs, National Marine Fisheries Service, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Fisheries of the Northeastern United States; Golden Tautog Fishery; 2018 and Projected 2019–2020 Specifications” (RIN0648–XF51) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 22, 2019; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–1400. A communication from the Deputy Assistant Administrator for Regulatory Programs, National Marine Fisheries Service, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Fisheries of the Northeastern United States; North Atlantic Haddock Fishery; 2018 Final Specifications” (RIN0648–XF95) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 22, 2019; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–1401. A communication from the Acting Deputy Assistant Administrator for Regulatory Programs, National Marine Fisheries Service, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Revisions to Framework Adjustment 9 to the Northeast Multispecies Fishery Management Plan” (RIN0648–XF710) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 22, 2019; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–1402. A communication from the Deputy Assistant Administrator for Regulatory Programs, National Marine Fisheries Service, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Fisheries of the Northeastern United States; Northeast Groundfish Fishery; Fishing Year 2017; Emergency Removal of Southern Windowpane Accountability Measure” (RIN0648–BH11) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 22, 2019; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES
The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Mr. SHELBY, from the Committee on Appropriations:

By Mr. RISCH, from the Committee on Foreign Relations, without amendment and with an amendment therein (S. Res. 135). A resolution 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.

EXECUTIVE REPORTS OF COMMITTEE
The following executive reports of nominations were submitted:

By Mr. GRASSLEY, from the Committee on Finance:
“David Fabian Black of North Dakota, to be Deputy Commissioner of Social Security for a term expiring January 19, 2025.

“Emin Toro, of Virginia, to be a Judge of the United States Tax Court for a term of fifteen years.

Nomination was reported with recommendation that it be confirmed subject to the nominee’s commitment to respond to requests to appear and testify before any duly constituted committee of the Senate.

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:

By Mrs. CAPITO (for herself, Mr. BROWN, Mr. PORTMAN, and Mr. CASEY):
By Mr. WYDEN (for himself and Mr. WHITEHOUSE):
S. 1639. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to revise the treatment of partnership interests received on portable fuel containers for flammable liquid fuels, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. KLOBUCHAR (for herself and Mr. MORAN):
S. 1640. A bill to require compliant flame mitigation on ballast to be used on portable fuel containers for flammable liquid fuels, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. ROBERTS (for himself, Mr. MOHAN, Mr. HORVEN and Mr. CRAMER):
S. 1641. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to exclude from gross income interest received on certain loans secured by agricultural real property; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. TESTER (for himself and Mr. BLUMENTHAL):
S. 1642. A bill to increase the recruitment and retention of school-based mental health services providers by low-income local educational agencies; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. WYDEN (for himself, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. MERKLEY, and Mr. RISCH):
S. 1643. A bill to amend title 36, United States Code, to provide for a Federal partnership in the Forest and Refuge County Foundation, to provide for the establishment of the Natural Resources Permanent Fund, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. TOOMEY (for himself, Mr. KENNEALLY, Ms. COTTON, Mrs. BLACKER, Mr. BLUNT, Mrs. CAPITO, Mr. CASSIDY, Mr. CRUZ, Mr. DAINES, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. HORVEN, Mrs. HYDE-SMITH, Mr. INHOFFEN, Mr. PAUL, Mr. PERDUE, Mr. RISCH, Mr. TILLIS, Mr. WICKER, and Mr. CORNYN):
S. 1644. A bill to ensure that State and local law enforcement may cooperate with Federal officials to protect our communities from violent criminals and suspected terrorists who are illegally present in the United States; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. BLUMENTHAL (for himself, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. BROWN, Ms. HARRIS, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. BENNET, Mr. MARKEY, Ms. WARREN, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. HINICH, Ms. STABENOW, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. TESTER, Mr. ROYBAL-CASTOR, Mrs. COX, Ms. CORTez MASTO, Ms. SHAH, Mr. SANDERS, Ms. HIRONO, Ms. HASSAN, Mr. SCHATZ, Mr. KING, Ms. SMITH, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. PETERS, Mr. WYDEN, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. MURPHY, Mr. LEAHY, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. CARPER, Ms. CANTWELL, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. WARNER, Mr. UDALL, Mr. SCHUMER, Mr. Kaine, Mr. DURBIN, and Ms. SINEMA):
S. 1645. A bill to protect a woman’s ability to determine whether and when to bear a child or end a pregnancy, and to protect a health care provider’s ability to provide reproductive health care; to a Federal charter of the National Health Service Corps, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans’ Affairs.

By Mr. GRASSLEY (for himself and Ms. SMITH, and Mr. KING):
S. 1646. A bill to designate the community-based outpatient clinic of the Department of Veterans Affairs in St. Augustine, Florida, as the "Roy F. Van Hollen, Jr. Veterans Affairs Clinic"; to the Committee on Veterans’ Affairs.

By Mr. GRASSLEY (for himself and Mr. KING):
S. 1647. A bill to amend title V of the Social Security Act to extend funding for family- to-family health information centers, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. CASEY (for himself, Mr. PORTMAN, and Mr. SCHUMER):
S. 1648. A bill to reinstate and compensate Vietnam veterans who were improperly removed from the family caregiver program of the Department of Veterans Affairs whose benefits were reduced and to ensure all veteran caregivers receive the support and assistance to which they are eligible in a fair and consistent manner, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans’ Affairs.

By Mr. WYDEN (for himself, Mr. BROWN, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. LEAHY, Ms. WARREN, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. SANDERS, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. MERKLEY, and Mr. SCHATZ):
S. 1649. A bill to provide protections for Social Security, Railroad retirement, and Black Lung benefits from administrative offset; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. CASEY (for himself, Mr. JONES, and Mr. BROWN):
S. 1650. A bill to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to provide formula grants to States to improve higher education opportunities for foster youth and homeless youth, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. CASEY (for himself, Mr. PORTMAN, and Mr. CARDIN):
S. 1651. A bill to provide for the establishment of a Federal charter bank, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. MERKLEY:
S. 1652. A bill to establish an annual fee applicable to opioid manufacturers; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. WARNER (for himself, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. KANE, and Mr. VAN HOLLEN):
S. 1653. A bill to reauthorize funding to the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority contingent on improvements to the governance and operations of the Transit Authority; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. SCOTT of Florida (for himself, Ms. COLLINS, and Mr. GARDNER):
S. 1654. A bill to require reporting on prescription drug expenditures under group health plans and on prescription drug price changes, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. HEINRICH (for himself, Mrs. CAPITO, Mr. KING, Mr. ROUNDS, Mr. BENNETT, Mr. GARDNER, Mr. WYDEN, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. TESTER, Mr. RISCH, Ms. SINEMA, and Mr. DAINES):
S. 1655. A bill to modify the procedures for issuing special recreation permits for certain public land units, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. SANDERS (for himself, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Ms. HASSAN, Ms. SHAH, Mr. BROWN, Mr. LEAHY, and Mr. BLUMENTHAL):
S. 1656. A bill to establish a Federal charter of the National Health Service Corps, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans’ Affairs.

By Mr. CASEY (for himself, Mr. ISAKSON, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. PORTMAN, Mr. CARDIN, and Mr. CASSIDY):
S. 1657. A bill to provide additional educational tax credits for a qualified low-income family. To the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. CASEY (for himself and Ms. WARNEN):
S. 1658. A bill to provide for the carriage of certain television broadcast stations, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. MANCHIN:
S. 1659. A bill to modify the transition period between services provided under the Veterans Choice Program and care and services provided under the Veterans Community Care Program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans’ Affairs.

By Ms. COLLINS (for herself, Ms. SMITH, and Mr. KING):
S. 1660. A bill to provide assistance to combat the escalating burden of Lyme disease and other tick and vector-borne diseases and disorders; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. MENENDEZ (for himself, Mr. GARDNER, and Mr. COONS):

By Mr. BLUNT (for himself and Mr. REED):
S. 1662. A bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to provide for the participation of pediatric subspecialists in the National Health Service Corps program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. CASEY (for himself, Mr. BROWN, Ms. BALDWIN, Ms. HASSAN, and Mrs. GILLIBRAND):
S. 1663. A bill to provide greater support for grandfamilies and other caretaker relatives; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. SANDERS (for himself, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. SHAH, and Mr. LEAHY):
S. 1664. A bill to provide for the establishment of the United States Employee Owner Bank, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. MERKLEY:
S. 1665. A bill to establish a Federal charter of the National Health Service Corps, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. WARNER (for himself, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. KANE, and Mr. VAN HOLLEN):
S. 1666. A bill to provide for the establishment of a Federal charter bank, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. SCOTT of Florida (for himself, Ms. COLLINS, and Mr. GARDNER):
S. 1667. A bill to modify the procedures for issuing special recreation permits for certain public land units, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. SANDERS (for himself, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Ms. HASSAN, Ms. SHAH, Ms. WARREN, Mr. BROWN, Mr. LEAHY, and Mr. BLUMENTHAL):
S. 1668. A bill to establish a Federal charter of the National Health Service Corps, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans’ Affairs.

By Mr. CASEY (for himself, Mr. ISAKSON, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. PORTMAN, and Mr. CARDIN):
S. 1669. A bill to provide in the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to treat certain scholarships as earned income for purposes of the kiddie tax; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. TESTER:
S. 1670. A bill to clarify that participants in the National Health Service Corps Loan Repayment Program may be assigned to serve in pediatric inpatient mental health facilities; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. JOHNSON (for himself, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. RISCH, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. BRAN, and Ms. SINEMA):
S. 1670. A bill to amend the Older Americans Act of 1965 to establish a grant program for multigenerational activities in long-term care facilities; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. JONES (for himself and Ms. MCSALLY):
S. 1671. A bill to amend the Older Americans Act of 1965 to direct resources that promote multigenerational collaboration, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. JONES (for himself and Mr. MCGRATH): S. 1672. A bill to amend the Older Americans Act of 1965 to authorize the National Resource Center on Women and Retirement Planning, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. JONES (for himself and Ms. MCSALLY):
S. 1673. A bill to extend the authority for the establishment of a commorative work in honor of Gold Star Families, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. MACHIN:
S. 1674. A bill to amend the Older Americans Act of 1965 to establish a competitive grant program to enable States to purchase, customize, or repair vehicles with hot and cold food storage for delivering meals to older individuals through the Congregate Nutrition Program or the Home-Delivered Nutrition Program; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. JONES (for himself and Ms. MCSALLY):
S. 1675. A bill to impose requirements on the payment of compensation to professional persons employed in voluntary cases commenced under title III of PROMESA; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. CARDIN (for himself and Mr. BLUNT):
S. 1676. A bill to improve the understanding of, and promote access to treatment for, chronic kidney disease, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. PERDUE (for himself and Ms. COTZES MASTO):
S. 1677. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide authority to postpone certain deadlines by reason of State declared disasters or emergencies; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. GARDNER (for himself, Mr. COONS, Mr. RUBIO, and Mr. CORNYN):
S. 1678. A bill to express the United States support for Taiwan’s diplomatic alliances and friendship; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. WHITEHOUSE (for himself, Mr. RYAN, and Mr. SULLIVAN):
S. 1679. A bill to authorize the Secretary of Defense to carry out the Direct Air Capture and Blue Carbon Removal Technology Program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. TESTER (for himself, Mrs. BLACKBURN, and Ms. KLOBUCAR):
S. 1680. A bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to enhance recordkeeping with respect to exposure by members of the Armed Forces to certain occupational and environmental hazards while deployed overseas, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. ENZI (for himself and Ms. HASKINS):
S. 1681. A bill to educate health care providers and the public on biosimilar biological products, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. DAINES:
S. 1682. A bill to require the Director of the Office of Personnel Management to create a classification that more accurately reflects the vital role of wildland firefighters; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. DAINES:
S. 1683. A bill to correct problems, including the Safe Elderly Repossession Act to protect older Americans from abuse and predatory practices in the financial services market; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. COTTON (for himself and Mr. SHULL):
S. 1684. A bill to prevent prisoners who have been convicted of terrorism related offenses from being eligible for early release, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. CORNYN (for himself, Mr. CASIDY, Mr. COONS, and Ms. SISKIN):
S. 1685. A bill to prevent the Department of Energy to establish a program for the research, development, and demonstration of commercially viable technologies for the capture, storage, and sequestration of carbon dioxide from fossil fuel burning facilities; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. CASEY (for himself and Ms. KLOBUCAR):
S. 1686. A bill to amend the Federal Funding Accountability and Transparency Act of 2002 to require full disclosure for entities receiving Federal funding; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mrs. HYDE-SMITH (for herself, Mr. WICKER, Mr. RUBIO, and Mr. COTTON):
S. 1687. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide a special rule for certain casualty losses of uncut timber; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. ENZI (for himself and Mr. CASEY):
S. 1688. A bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to provide for the full disclosure of billing and service information to patients; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. BURTON:
S. 1689. A bill to allow States to transfer certain funds from the clean water revolving fund of a State to the drinking water revolving fund of the State in certain circumstances, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mr. SULLIVAN (for himself and Mr. MANCHIN):
S. 1690. A bill to improve United States missile defense, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. MEEKLEY (for himself and Mr. WYDEN):
S. 1691. A bill to provide mandatory funding to the Secretary of Agriculture to carry out hazardous fuels reduction projects on National Forest System land, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Ms. KLOBUCAR (for herself and Ms. COLLINS):
S. 1692. A bill to provide grants to support continuing education in election administration or cybersecurity for election officials and employees; to the Committee on Rules and Administration.

By Mr. KENNEDY:
S. 1693. A bill to reauthorize the National Flood Insurance Program; considered and passed.

By Mr. PETERS (for himself and Mr. CRUZ):
S. 1694. A bill to require any Federal agency that issues licenses to conduct activities in outer space to include in the requirements for such licenses an agreement relating to the preservation and protection of Apollo 11 landing site, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. LEE:
S. 1695. A bill to amend the Wilderness Act to allow local Federal officials to determine the manner in which nonmotorized uses may be permitted in wilderness areas, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

The following concurrent resolutions and Senate resolutions were read, and referred (or acted upon), as indicated:

By Mr. HIRONO (for herself, Mr. SCHACHET, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. BOOKER, Ms. CANTWELL, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Ms. HARRIS, Ms. HASSAN, Ms. KLOBUCAR, Mrs. MURRAY, Ms. ROSEN, Mrs. Sorkin, Mr. S. STABENOW, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Ms. WARNER, Ms. SINEMA, and Mr. KANIE):
S. Res. 218. A resolution honoring the life and legacy of Patsey Takemoto Mink, the first woman of color to serve in Congress; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. SULLIVAN (for himself, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Ms. TILLIS, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. MURPHY, Ms. BLACKBURN, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. MORAN, Mr. COONS, Mr. DAINES, Mr. BENNETT, Mr. INHOFE, Mr. TESTER, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. CASHY, Mr. GRASSLEY, Ms. HANSEN, Mr. HOEVEN, Ms. STABENOW, Ms. COLLINS, Ms. HYDE-SMITH, Mrs. SHAHEN, Mr. YOUNG, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. MEEKLEY, Mr. ROBERTS, Mr. LEAHY, Mrs. CAPITO, Ms. SMITH, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. REED, and Mr. BOOKER):
S. Res. 220. A resolution designating the month of June 2019 as “National Post-Traumatic Stress Awareness Month”, and June 27, 2019, as “National Post-Traumatic Stress Awareness Day”; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. GARDNER (for himself, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. RISCH, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. TOOMEY, and Mr. RUBIO):
S. Res. 221. A resolution recognizing the 30th anniversary of the Tiananmen Square massacre and condemning the intensifying repression and human rights violations by the Chinese Communist Party and the use of surveillance by Chinese authorities, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. COONS (for himself, Ms. ERNST, Ms. HARRIS, Mr. STABENOW, Mr. Cassidy, Mr. CARPER, Mr. PERDUE, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. TOOMEY, Mr. BROWN, Mrs. HYDE-SMITH, Mr. CASEY, Mr. BOOKMAN, Mr. ROUNDS, Mr. TILLIS, Mr. GRASSLEY, Ms. KLOBUCAR, Ms. SINEMA, Mr. ROMNEY, Mr. BURR, Mr. JONES, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Ms. KALISCH, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina, Ms. COLLINS, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. ROBERTS, Mrs. FISCHER, Mr. MORALES, Mr. MEEKLEY, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. DAINES, Ms. ISAKSON, Mr. BLUNT, Mr. THUNE, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. LANKFORD, and Mr. KETTLE):
S. Res. 222. A resolution recognizing Vision Awareness Day'; to the Committee on the Judiciary.
access to prescription eyeglasses for students in low-income communities, thereby helping those students succeed in school, and for providing vision exams to 200,000 students since its founding, considered and agreed to.

By Mr. RUBIO (for himself, Mr. REED, Mrs. HYDE-SMITH, and Mr. CASEY):

S. Res. 223. A resolution expressing support for the designation of May 17, 2019, as "DIPG Pediatric Brain Cancer Awareness Day" to raise awareness of and encourage research on diffuse intrinsic pontine glioma tumors and pediatric cancers in general; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. WICKER (for himself and Mr. MARKS):

S. Res. 224. A resolution supporting the goals and ideals of National Nurses Week, to be observed from May 6 through May 12, 2019; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. MARKEY (for himself, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. COONS, Mr. HOVEN, Mr. BOSKES, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. KING, Ms. STABENOW, Ms. SINEMA, Mr. CASEY, Ms. HARRIS, and Ms. WARREN):

S. Res. 225. A resolution supporting the goals of International Myalgic Encephalomyelitis/Chronic Fatigue Syndrome Awareness Day; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. GRASSLEY (for himself, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. JONES, Mr. TILLIS, Mr. CASSIDY, Mr. KING, Mr. SULLIVAN, Mr. BLINT, Mr. LAXFORD, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. KAINE, Mrs. CAPITO, Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. ROBERTS, Mr. PETERSON, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. BROWN, Mr. CASEY, Ms. ROSEN, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Ms. HASSAN, Mr. BARRASO, Mr. ENZI, and Mr. YOUNG).

S. Res. 226. A resolution recognizing National Foster Care Month as an opportunity to raise awareness about the challenges of children in the foster care system, and encouraging Congress to implement policy to improve the lives of children in the foster care system; considered and agreed to.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 91

At the request of Mr. GARDNER, the names of the Senator from Indiana (Mr. SCOTT) and the Senator from California (Mrs. FEINSTEIN) were added as cosponsors of S. 91, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to authorize per diem payments under comprehensive service programs for homeless veterans to furnish care to dependent homeless veterans, and for other purposes.

S. 133

At the request of Ms. MURKOWSKI, the name of the Senator from Hawaii (Ms. HIRONO) 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.

S. 178

At the request of Mr. RUBIO, the name of the Senator from West Virginia (Mrs. CAPITO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 178, a bill to condemn gross human rights violations and ethnocide of Muslim ethnic Turks in Xinjiang, and calling for an end to arbitrary detention, torture, and harassment of these communities inside and outside China.

S. 203

At the request of Mr. CRAPO, the names of the Senator from Maine (Mr. KING) and the Senator from Delaware (Mr. COONS) were added as cosponsors of S. 203, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code to permanently extend the railroad track maintenance credit, and for other purposes.

S. 239

At the request of Mrs. SHAHEEN, the name of the Senator from Wyoming (Mr. ENZI) was added as a cosponsor of S. 239, a bill to require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint coins in recognition of Christa McAuliffe.

S. 362

At the request of Mr. WYDEN, the names of the Senator from Alabama (Mr. JONES), the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. MURPHY), the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. ROUNDS) and the Senator from Mississippi (Mrs. HYDE-SMITH) were added as cosponsors of S. 362, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to reform taxation of alcoholic beverages.

S. 457

At the request of Mr. CORNYN, the names of the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. LANKFORD), the Senator from Utah (Mr. ROMNEY) and the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. WICKER) were added as cosponsors of S. 457, a bill to require that $1 coins issued during 2019 honor President George H.W. Bush and to direct the Secretary of the Treasury to issue bullion coins during 2019 in honor of Barbara Bush.

S. 479

At the request of Mr. WARNER, the name of the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. SCOTT) was added as a cosponsor of S. 479, a bill to revise section 48 of title 18, United States Code, and for other purposes.

S. 546

At the request of Mrs. GILLIBRAND, the name of the Senator from Nevada (Ms. ROSEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 546, a bill to extend authorization for the September 11th Victim Compensation Fund of 2001 through fiscal year 2090, and for other purposes.

S. 599

At the request of Mr. TESTER, the name of the Senator from Arizona (Ms. SINEMA) was added as a cosponsor of S. 599, a bill to amend the Family and Medical Leave Act of 1993 to provide leave because of the death of a son or daughter.

S. 569

At the request of Mr. YOUNG, the name of the Senator from Mississippi (Mrs. HYDE-SMITH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 569, a bill to direct the Secretary of Transportation to issue regulations relating to commercial motor vehicle drivers under the age of 21, and for other purposes.

S. 578

At the request of Mr. WHITEHOUSE, the name of the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. BURR) was added as a cosponsor of S. 578, a bill to amend title II of the Social Security Act to eliminate the five-month waiting period for disability insurance benefits under such title for individuals with amyotrophic lateral sclerosis.

S. 622

At the request of Mr. SCOTT, the names of the Senator from New York (Mr. SCHUMER), the Senator from Texas (Mr. CRUZ) and the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. MURPHY) 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. 633

At the request of Mr. JONES, the names of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. ISAKSON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 633, a bill to award a Congressional Gold Medal to the members of the Women's Army Corps who were assigned to the 6888th Central Postal Directory Battalion, known as the "Six Triple Eight".

S. 640

At the request of Mr. KENNEDY, the name of the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. CRAMER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 640, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to require pharmacy benefits administrated prior to conceptions to be included in negotiated prices at the point-of-sale under part D of the Medicare program, and for other purposes.

S. 689

At the request of Mr. UDALL, the name of the Senator from New Mexico (Mrs. FEINSTEIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 689, a bill to amend the Animal Health Protection Act to support State and Tribal efforts to develop and implement management strategies to address chronic wasting disease among deer, elk, and moose populations, to support research regarding the causes of chronic wasting disease and methods to control the further spread of the disease, and for other purposes.

S. 726

At the request of Mr. WHITEHOUSE, the name of the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. WHITEHOUSE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 726, a bill to amend the

S. 3107

CONGRESSIONAL RECORD — SENATE
Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act to ensure the safety of cosmetics.

At the request of Mr. Coons, the names of the Senator from Maine (Ms. Collins), the Senator from Virginia (Mr. Kaine) and the Senator from Michigan (Mr. Peters) were added as cosponsors of S. 727, a bill to combat international extremism by addressing global fragility and violence and stabilizing conflict-affected areas, and for other purposes.

At the request of Mr. Moran, the names of the Senator from Alaska (Mr. Sullivan) and the Senator from New Hampshire (Mrs. Shaheen) were added as cosponsors of S. 762, a bill to provide for funding from the Airport and Airway Trust Fund for all Federal Aviation Administration activities in the event of a Government shutdown, and for other purposes.

At the request of Ms. Murkowski, the name of the Senator from Massachusetts (Ms. Warren) was added as a cosponsor of S. 778, a bill to direct the Secretary of Commerce, acting through the Administrator of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, to conduct coastal community vulnerability assessments related to ocean acidification, and for other purposes.

At the request of Mr. Cornyn, the names of the Senator from Nevada (Ms. Cortez Masto) and the Senator from Wisconsin (Mr. Johnson) were added as cosponsors of S. 816, a bill to amend title 49, United States Code, to limit certain rolling stock procurements, and for other purposes.

At the request of Ms. Baldwin, the name of the Senator from New Hampshire (Mrs. Shaheen) was added as a cosponsor of S. 851, a bill to direct the Secretary of Labor to issue an occupational health and safety standard that requires covered employers within the health care and social service industries to develop and implement a comprehensive workplace violence prevention plan, and for other purposes.

At the request of Mr. Blumenthal, the name of the Senator from Maine (Ms. Collins) was added as a cosponsor of S. 864, a bill to provide for further comprehensive research at the National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke on unruptured intracranial aneurysms.

At the request of Ms. Hassan, the name of the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. Whitehouse) was added as a cosponsor of S. 867, a bill to protect students of institutions of higher education and the taxpayer investment in institutions of higher education by improving oversight and accountability of institutions of higher education, particularly for-profit colleges, improving protections for students and borrowers, and ensuring the integrity of postsecondary education programs, and for other purposes.

At the request of Mrs. Shaheen, the names of the Senator from Maryland (Mr. Van Hollen) and the Senator from Oregon (Mr. Wyden) were added as cosponsors of S. 872, a bill to require the Secretary of the Treasury to redesign $20 Federal reserve notes so as to include a likeness of Harriet Tubman, and for other purposes.

At the request of Mr. Portman, the name of the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. Udall) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1032, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to modify the definition of income for purposes of determining the tax-exempt status of certain corporations.

At the request of Mr. Manchin, the names of the Senator from Vermont (Mr. Sanders) and the Senator from Alabama (Mr. Jones) were added as cosponsors of S. 1081, a bill to amend title 54, United States Code, to provide permanent, dedicated funding for the Land and Water Conservation Fund, and for other purposes.

At the request of Mr. Booker, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. Klobuchar) was added as a cosponsor 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 these forces on living African-Americans, to make recommendations to the Congress on appropriate remedies, and for other purposes.

At the request of Mrs. Capito, the names of the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. Tillis) and the Senator from New Hampshire (Mrs. Shaheen) were added as cosponsors of S. 1126, a bill to provide better care for Americans living with Alzheimer’s disease and related dementias and their caregivers, while accelerating progress toward prevention strategies, disease modifying treatments, and, ultimately, a cure.

At the request of Mr. Manchin, the name of the Senator from Delaware (Mr. Coons) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1201, a bill to amend the fossil energy research and development provisions of the Energy Policy Act of 2005 to enhance nuclear technology, and for other purposes.

At the request of Mr. Van Hollen, the name of the Senator from Virginia (Mr. Kaine) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1218, a bill to require the review of the service of certain members of the Armed Forces during World War I to determine if such members should be awarded the Medal of Honor, to authorize the award of the Medal of Honor in lieu of other awards of the review, and for other purposes.

At the request of Mrs. Blackburn, the names of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. Brown), the Senator from Utah (Mr. Hickenlooper), the Senator from Wyoming (Mr. Enzi), the Senator from Illinois (Mr. Durbin) and the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. Markey) 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.

At the request of Ms. Cortez Masto, the name of the Senator from Kansas (Mr. Moran) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1263, a bill to require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to establish an interagency task force on the use of public lands to provide medical treatment and therapy to veterans through outdoor recreation.

At the request of Mr. Cassidy, the names of the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. Lankford), the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. Boozman) and the Senator from Mississippi (Mrs. Hyde-Smith) were added as cosponsors of S. 1350, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to limit the liability of health care professionals who volunteer to provide health care services in response to a disaster.

At the request of Mr. Cruz, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 1370, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to treat certain military survivor benefits as earned income for purposes of the kiddie tax.

At the request of Mr. Jones, the name of the Senator from Delaware (Mr. Coons) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1370, supra.

At the request of Ms. Baldwin, the name of the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. Reed) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1394, a bill to provide collective bargaining rights for public safety officers employed by States or their political subdivisions.

At the request of Mrs. Shaheen, the name of the Senator from Montana (Mr. Tester) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1409, a bill to enhance the ability of the Office of the National Ombudsman to assist small businesses in meeting regulatory requirements and develop outreach initiatives to promote awareness of the services of the Office of the National Ombudsman provides, and for other purposes.
At the request of Mr. CRUZ, the name of the Senator from Wisconsin (Mr. JOHNSON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1441, a bill to impose sanctions with respect to the provision of certain vessels for the construction of Russian energy export pipelines, and for other purposes.

S. 1449

At the request of Mr. MARKEY, the name of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. BLUMENTHAL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1449, a bill to amend the Controlled Substances Act to require warning labels for prescription opioids, and for other purposes.

S. 1531

At the request of Mr. SULLIVAN, the name of the Senator from Iowa (Ms. ERNST) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1531, a bill to improve the process by which environmental documents are prepared and permits and applications are processed and regulated by Federal departments and agencies, and for other purposes.

S. 1532

At the request of Mr. KENNEDY, the name of the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. CRAMER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1532, a bill to reauthorize the National Flood Insurance Program.

S. 1533

At the request of Mr. CASSIDY, the names of the Senator from Nevada (Ms. ROSEN), the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. SMITH), the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. GRAHAM), the Senator from Ohio (Mr. PORTMAN), the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. MENENDEZ) and the Senator from Mississippi (Mrs. HYDE-SMITH) were added as cosponsors of S. 1533, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to provide protections for health insurance consumers from surprise billing.

S. 1539

At the request of Mr. KENNEDY, the name of the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. CRAMER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1539, a bill to reauthorize the National Flood Insurance Program.

S. 1543

At the request of Mr. PETERS, the names of the Senator from New York (Ms. ROSEN) and the Senator from Nevada (Ms. ROSEN) were added as cosponsors of S. 1543, a bill to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to provide funding to secure nonprofit facilities from terrorist attacks, and for other purposes.

S. 1547

At the request of Mr. COTTON, the name of the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. KENNEDY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1547, a bill to amend title 18, United States Code, relating to sentencing of armed career criminals.

S. 1623

At the request of Mr. DAINES, the name of the Senator from Kansas (Mr. ROBERTS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1623, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow for distributions from 529 accounts for expenses associated with registered apprenticeship programs.

S.J. RES. 1

At the request of Mr. CRUZ, the name of the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. SCOTT) was added as a cosponsor of S. J. Res. 1, a joint resolution proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States relative to limiting the number of terms that a Member of Congress may serve.

S. RES. 99

At the request of Mr. PETE'S, the names of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. MENENDEZ) and the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN) were added as cosponsors of S. Res. 99, a resolution expressing the sense of the Senate that Congress should take all appropriate measures to ensure that the United States Postal Service remains an independent establishment of the Federal Government and is not subject to privatization.

S. RES. 135

At the request of Mr. BOOZMAN, the name of the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. SCOTT) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 135, a resolution 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. 212

At the request of Ms. MUKOWSKI, the names of the Senator from Florida (Mr. SCOTT), the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. MARKEY), the Senator from New York (Mr. SCHUMER), the Senator from Alabama (Mr. JONES), the Senator from Virginia (Ms. Kaine), the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. MURPHY), the Senator from Oregon (Mr. WYDEN), the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. BLUMENTHAL), the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. BOOKER), the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN), the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. REED) and the Senator from Ohio (Mr. Brown) 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.

S. RES. 244

At the request of Mr. BOOKER, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. SMITH) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 244, a resolution recognizing the history and contributions of Muslims of the United States.

S. RES. 258

At the request of Ms. HIRONO, the name of the Senator from New York (Mr. SCHUMER) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 258, a resolution recognizing the significance of Asian/Pacific American Heritage Month as an important time to celebrate the significant contributions of Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders to the history of the United States.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. WYDEN (for himself, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. MERRICK, and Mr. RISCH):

S. 1443. A bill to amend title 36, United States Code, to grant a Federal charter to the Forest Refuge County Foundation, to provide for the establishment of the Natural Resources Permanent Fund, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

Mr. WYDEN. Mr. President, today Senator CRAPO of Idaho, Senator MERRICK of Oregon, Senator RISCH of Idaho, and I are introducing the Forest Management for Rural Stability Act. This legislation replaces the Secure Rural Schools and Multi-Use Determination Act (SRS) to provide revenue sharing with and compensation to over 700 rural forested counties in the over 40 States that host America’s treasured, public forested lands and wildlife refuges. In 2000, then-Senator Larry Craig, also of Idaho, and I, had signed into law SRS: a 6-year long safety-net program to stabilize county budgets following years of depleted revenue sharing payments from the U.S. Forest Service (USFS) and the Oregon and California Grant Lands managed by the U.S. Bureau of Land Management (BLM). Over its lifetime, SRS has been a success, providing more than $6.8 billion nationwide for rural roads, schools, and healthy forest projects. SRS also provided the basis for the beginning of, and the now growing propensity for, the USFS and the BLM to collaborate with local and tribal interests on the management of these public lands, and for local folks and counties to collaborate together and with the USFS and BLM, in return.

Despite its many successes, the continuation of SRS was jeopardized. The program expired in fiscal year 2016. Congress passed a two-year extension of the program, but after its expiration. And this was not the first time nor the last time Congress allowed it to expire—SRS is expired right now, though Senator CRAPO and I are attempting, in these last moments of the 115th Congress, to reauthorize it again for at least a year, perhaps two.

This stop and start existence of this program hits at the heart of any attempts at collaboration. And it certainly undermines any attempts for a county to budget. Our rural counties should not continue to suffer neither the uncertainty, nor the biased uncertainty that comes with simply relying on revenue sharing and forest management for support.

That is why Senator CRAPO and I propose an SRS modernization, funding certainty while supporting active forest management. The Forest Management for Rural Stability Act establishes a permanent endowment fund,
the Natural Resources Permanent Fund, to provide stable, reliable, increasing payments to counties, in perpetuity, removing them from the vagaries of Congress or the market.

Under this legislation, Congress charters a fiduciary corporation, the Change and Legacy Foundation, to manage the endowed fund. The corporation will be independent from any instrumentality of the U.S. government, including Congress, to ensure the principle balance is held in perpetuity and is separate from annual appropriations. The corporation will be overseen by a board of directors responsible for a transparent governance structure. The principle of the fund will be invested to earn interest. To grow the fund, in addition to the investment income, the USFS, BLM, and the Fish and Wildlife Service will dispose their annual revenue sharing receipts into the fund. The interest the fund generates will constitute the payments to the counties, distributed annually using the existing SRS formula. Initial payments to counties will be equal what counties received for Fiscal Year 2017 SRS payments.

The Forest Management for Rural Stability Act continues Congress’s commitment to fostering economic growth in rural counties by continuing Forest Service Resource Advisory Committees. In addition, the bill gives county governments greater flexibility in how these funds are spent for economic development and rural jobs. Passing the Forest Management for Rural Stability Act will update SRS for 2018 and beyond—looking forward for our forested counties, rather than backward to last century efforts.

This bill updates an already successful program that deserves action. I urge my colleagues to support this important bill.

By Mr. WYDEN (for himself, Mr. BROWN, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. LEAHY, Ms. WARRREN, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. SANDERS, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. MERKLEY, and Mr. SCHATZ):

S. 1649. A bill to restore protections for Social Security, Railroad retirement, and Black Lung benefits from administrative offset; to the Committee on Finance.

Mr. WYDEN. Mr. President, Social Security provides vital benefits to millions of Americans who work and pay into the system with each paycheck. Because Social Security is fundamental to workers’ retirement security, the law protected benefits from creditors. The key exceptions were unpaid Federal taxes, child support or alimony payments, and court-ordered victim restitution. These protections ensured that the social safety net programs would be there for basic needs. That protection was weakened over 20 years ago when that law was changed. Now, more and more seniors face cuts in their Social Security benefits because of student loan debts. The Wall Street Journal recently highlighted the issue with an article titled, "Over 60, and Crushed by Student Loan Debt." We need to take action to restore the strong protections to Social Security and other benefit programs.

If we now realize what a profound effect the loss of these protections has had on retirees and individuals with disabilities, who often live on fixed incomes, More and more seniors and people with disabilities are having their Social Security and other lifeline benefits taken away to pay Federal debts. For example, according to recent data from the U.S. Bureau of Fiscal Service, over 167,000 Americans had their benefits garnished for student loan debt. Those 167,000 had nearly $200 million garnished from their earned benefits. This is just the tip of the iceberg as more Americans start receiving benefits. Between 2008 and 2018, the number of individuals whose Social Security benefits were offset to pay student loan debts increased by 133 percent, from about 72,000 to 169,000. Over that same period, the amount collected from beneficiaires ballooned from almost $63 million to nearly $200 million, a 217 percent increase.

Social Security plays a critical role in keeping seniors and people with disabilities out of poverty. In Oregon alone, Social Security cuts the poverty rate of the elderly from about 35 percent to 5 percent. However, despite Social Security’s critical role in the safety net, close to one out of every 10 seniors were again in poverty in 2017. Disadvantaged workers still live in poverty and that is simply unacceptable.

I, along with Senators BROWN, WHITEHOUSE, LEAHY, WARRREN, HIRONO, SANDERS, GILLIBRAND, MERKLEY, and SCHATZ, are reintroducing the Protection of Social Security Benefits Restoration Act. The bill would restore the strong protections in the law that prevented the government from taking earned benefits to pay non-tax debts, and help ensure beneficiaries will be able to maintain a basic standard of living. The bill is supported by AARP, the National Committee to Preserve Social Security and Medicare, National Association of Disability Representatives, AFL-CIO, National Organization of Social Security Claimants’ Representatives, Social Security Works, National Organization for Women, Justice in Aging, American Federation of Teachers, Alliance for Retired Americans, Economic Policy Institute.

I ask Unanimous Consent that a letter from the National Committee to Preserve Social Security and Medicare endorsing our bill be printed in the RECORD.

May 15, 2019.

Hon. Ron WYDEN,
Dirksen Senate Office Building, Washington, DC.

Dear Senator WYDEN: On behalf of the millions of members and supporters of the National Committee to Preserve Social Security and Medicare, I write to endorse your bill the “Protection of Social Security Benefits Restoration Act.”

Since the inception of the Social Security program in 1935, the Social Security Act provided strong protections against loss of retirement income through the garnishment or attachment of Social Security benefits for the purpose of recovering debts owed by retirees. For decades the law provided near-ironclad protection against impoverishment in old age due to debt collection. Unfortunately, in 1996 the Congress reversed course by authorizing the garnishment of Social Security and other earned benefits for the purpose of collecting debts owed by seniors to the federal government. Figuring prominently in this matter is the recovery of student loan debts from seniors who are living on all-too-modest monthly Social Security benefits.

With student loan debt becoming an increasingly serious problem in this country, we agree with you that now is the time to act. The Congress must restore the historic protections that once were provided by Social Security against the spectacle of impoverishment in old age so that the federal government can collect debts that all too often were incurred years, even decades ago.

For these reasons, the National Committee endorses your bill, the “Protection of Social Security Benefits Restoration Act,” and urges other members of the United States Senate to cosponsor this vitally important measure. We thank you for your leadership on this matter and look forward to working with you to enact this bill.

Sincerely,

Max RICHMAN.
President and CEO, National Committee to Preserve Social Security and Medicare.

Mr. WYDEN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the text of the bill be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the text of the bill was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

S. 1649. 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 “Protection of Social Security Benefits Restoration Act”.

SEC. 2. PROTECTING SOCIAL SECURITY, RAILROAD RETIREMENT, AND BLACK LUNG BENEFITS FROM ADMINISTRATIVE OFFSET.

(a) PROHIBITION ON ADMINISTRATIVE OFFSET AUTHORITY.

(1) ASSIGNMENT UNDER SOCIAL SECURITY ACT.—Section 207 of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 407) is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

“(a) ASSIGNMENT UNDER SOCIAL SECURITY ACT.—Section 207 of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 407) shall apply with respect to benefits to the extent that such subparagraphs were in effect on the date before the date of enactment of the Protection of Social Security Benefits Restoration Act. The provisions of section 207(d) of the Social Security Act shall be null and void and of no effect.”.

(2) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—

(A) Section 14(a) of the Railroad Retirement Act of 1937 (45 U.S.C. 331(a)) is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

“(a) ASSIGNMENT UNDER SOCIAL SECURITY ACT.—Section 14(a) of the Railroad Retirement Act of 1937 (45 U.S.C. 331(a)) shall apply with respect to benefits to the extent that such subparagraphs were in effect on the date before the date of enactment of the Protection of Social Security Benefits Restoration Act.”.

(B) Section 2(e) of the Black Lung Benefits Restoration Act (42 U.S.C. 904) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“The provisions of section 207(d) of the Social Security Act shall apply with respect to
this title to the same extent as they apply in the case of title II of such Act.”

(2) REPEAL OF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFSET AUTHORITY.—

(a) In GENERAL.—Paragraph (3) of section 3716(c) of title 31, United States Code, is amended—

(A) by striking “(3)(A) Notwithstanding” and each that follows through “any overpayment under such program.”;

(B) by striking subparagraphs (C) and (D); and

(C) by redesignating subparagraph (B) as paragraph (3).

(b) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Paragraph (5) of such section is amended by striking “the Commissioner of Social Security and”.

(c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this section shall apply to all collections by administrative offset occurring on or after the date of enactment of this Act of a claim arising before, on, or after the date of enactment of this Act.

THROUGH 2012. SUPPORT EDUCATION organization, the Lyme Disease Association; the Northeast Center for Excellence in Vector-Borne Diseases; the National Association of County and City Health Officials; and the Entomological Society of America.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD, as follows:

May 22, 2019.

Re: Stakeholder Support for Bill on Vector-Borne Disease Management.

Hon. Susan Collins, Dirksen Senate Office Building, Washington, DC.

Dear Senator Collins: On behalf of the Vector-Borne Disease Network and allied organizations, we the undersigned write to appreciate your support for the introduction of “Ticks: Identify, Control, and Knockout Act” or the “TICK Act,” which aims to combat the escalating burden of VBD.

The Vector-Borne Disease Network is a new stakeholder group of non-profit organizations led by the Entomological Society of America (ESA) that aims to reduce human and animal suffering caused by arthropod disease vectors.

Illnesses such as Lyme disease, Zika virus, and West Nile virus are transmitted by vector organisms, primarily blood-feeding insects or arthropods. Vectors ingest disease-causing germs when biting an infected animal or human and later inject them into a new host during a subsequent bite.

Between 2004 and 2016, reported human disease cases in the U.S. resulting from bites of ticks and mosquitoes—primarily ticks and mosquitoes—tripled, according to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Meanwhile, nine new germs spread by ticks and mosquitoes were discovered or introduced in that same timeframe. Disease vectors also pose significant threats to both livestock and companion animals. The underlying causes for these trends are varying and complex, and so are the potential solutions.

To address all the challenges mentioned above, and the growing threat to American health and security posed by vector-borne disease (VBD), the Vector-Borne Disease Network is pleased to see new legislation that aims to establish an Office of Oversight and Coordination for VBD within the Department of Health and Human Services to promote integrated and coordinated federal efforts to maintain a national plan for responding to VBD; reauthorize the CDC Regional Centers of Excellence in VBD for five years; and authorize a cooperative agreement through CDC to support state health department efforts to improve management, surveillance, diagnostic, and education.

On behalf of this coalition of stakeholders invested in the mission to reduce the public health and economic risks posed by ticks and mosquitoes, we thank you for your commitment to this critical issue.

Sincerely,

Anastasia Mosquito Control District of St. Johns County (FL); Associated Executives of Mosquito Control Work in New Jersey; Drexel University, College of Medicine; Environmental Public Health Institute; Colorado Tick-Borne Disease Awareness Association; College of Agricultural and Life Sciences, University of Wisconsin-Madison; Hudson Valley Lyme Disease Association; Lyme Disease Education Association; Great Lakes Region; Midwest Center of Excellence for Vector Borne Disease; National Association of Vector-Borne Disease Control Officers; New Jersey Mosquito Control Association; North Fork Deer Management Alliance;
Northeast Regional Center for Excellence in Vector-Borne Diseases; Pacific Southwest Regional Center for Excellence in Vector-Borne Diseases; School of Veterinary Medicine at UW-Madison; Southeastern Regional Center of Excellence in Vector-Borne Diseases; University of Miami Miller School of Medicine; University of Rhode Island Center for Vector-Borne Disease; University of Wisconsin-Madison Tick Encounter Resource Center; US Biologics; Western Gulf Center of Excellence for Vector-Borne Disease.

**LETTER OF SUPPORT FOR THE TICK ACT—May 21, 2019**

Please allow my sincere gratitude to Senator Collins for taking on this fight on our behalf. This has been a 10-year crusade for me with the first 5 years fighting for my life and the latter, fighting on behalf of others.

Bit by a tick in Oct 2009 while outside doing fall clean up with my husband, I was misdiagnosed for the next 2.5 years by 23 doctors and specialists from panic attacks to chronic fatigue to fibromyalgia. When a scan revealed lesions on my brain appeared and my neuropsychologist intensified. I was tested and diagnosed with MS. When my symptoms became even more severe and I was not responding to treatment, I was re-evaluated. The diagnosis changed to Parkinson’s. When I began to have trouble swallowing and using my arms and legs was a daily challenged, my medical providers wanted to give up. I ALS. I knew I had a death sentence for me and it was at this point I knew that I needed to fight. This was when I spoke out for the first time and advocated for myself.

Thanks to my sister in law who kept pressing me to be checked for Lyme disease, even though I had 4 negative tests, I demanded to see a doctor who knew about Lyme. My primary refused to give me a referral because that was not what they thought I had. The intern gave me a scrap of paper with the name of someone he knew saw Lyme patients and that doctor, number 24, saved my life.

Shortly thereafter, with bloodwork and additional tests, I was diagnosed with late stage neurological Lyme, Babesia, Bartonella, Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever and Ehrlichiosis.

These medical providers who knew more about Lyme and tick-borne disease not only saved my life but gave my life back to me. Today, I am in full remission going on 5 years.

In April of 2014, I co-founded and became President of Midcoast Lyme Disease Support & Education (MLDSE), a charitable nonprofit 501c3 organization that travels statewide, hosting year-round free educational and prevention talks and events. We advocate for changes at state and federal levels and provide support to those in Maine afflicted by tick-borne disease by connecting them to medical care. Our mission is financial aid programs. We are the Maine partner of the National Lyme Disease Association, members of Maine’s CDC Vector-borne Work Group, Maine’s Lyme Epis- temic. In 2018, I wore a federal hat as the co-chair to the HHS Tick-borne Disease Working Group’s Access to Care Services and Patient Support subcommittee. I hold, I too have been selected for that role as it defines who I am these days, sitting in the trenches alongside patients and their families and connecting them with whatever resources they need as they journey back towards health and wellness. I am not a victim but a survivor and one who advocates for those who can’t advocate for themselves.

This is a fulltime job for and one that I do on a voluntary basis without pay.

Sen Collins, your support is so greatly needed as funding is crucial to our work here on the ground as well as on the hill. You see, when people are personally touched by something, they fight hard to make changes. We will not stop fighting until the status quo changes. Until the new science is embraced and patients are treated with some hope of actually winning their battle with the disease that they may have. We will fight to protect the doctors who put their careers on the line each and every day to save their patients.

When a cancer doctor thinks outside the box and heals their patient, they are deemed a hero. When a Lyme provider does it, they are brought up on medical scrutiny and disciplined beyond belief.

The governing body that exists and controls all things to do with disease (IDSA) wrote in their guidelines a foot note that reads as follows:

> These guidelines were developed and issued on behalf of the Infectious Diseases Society of America.

It is important to realize that guidelines cannot always account for individual variation among patients. They are not intended to supply precise answers with respect to particular patients or special clinical situations. The Infectious Diseases Society of America considers adherence to these guidelines to be an ultimate determination regarding their application to be made by the physician in the light of each patient’s individual circumstances.

In 2013, ILA2 introduced another set of diagnostic and treatment options and after passing a rigorous qualifying process, it was introduced into the National Guidelines Clearinghouse but ignored by IDSA and dismissed by mainstream medicine.

In 2015 advocates, patients and medical providers pushed through a bill of protection (Maine Public law LD422) to protect those knowledgeable about tick-borne disease who choose to do just that—focus on the individual circumstances of each patient and treat accordingly.

Sen Collins, Lyme and tick-borne disease is not a cookie cutter disease and a cookie cutter approach has failed time and time again. With your bill, a strong push and more funding will help with provider and patient education and access to better diagnostic and treatment services.

Thank You so much.

Paula Jackson Jones, President and Co-Founder, Midcoast Lyme Disease Support & Education creates Access to Care Services and Patient Support, subcommittee of the HHS Federal Tick-borne Disease Working Group, Maine partner of the National Lyme Disease Association; Member of Maine CDC Vector-Borne Workgroup; Active in Maine’s Lyme Legislation movement.

Ms. SMITH. Mr. President, I thank Senator COLLINS for her leadership on medical issues. On average, patients have a chance to work with her on this.

Today, my colleague Senator COLLINS and I are introducing a bill to help fight Lyme disease, so we are introducing this bill today here in the Senate. As many Minnesotans and Mainers get ready to head out to our beautiful national parks, lakes, and coastline to go fishing, hiking, and all of the things that we love, love, love to do.

In Minnesota, we have more than 10,000 lakes and a lot of space for outdoor activities. We have a growing tick population due to warmer summer months. With so many lakes and our excitement to get outside after a long winter, Minnesotans have become more at risk of contracting Lyme disease and other vector-borne illness.

A vector-borne illness means an illness that is carried by an insect, like ticks. Unfortunately, the number of Lyme disease cases in Minnesota is on the rise. Over the past 10 years, the number of reported cases has increased by nearly a third.

Our bill, the TICK Act, aims to reduce the number of cases by establishing an interagency office of oversight and coordination to target, prevent, and treat Lyme disease and other vector-borne illnesses. In our legislation, we made sure to enable collaboration between universities and public health agencies, and it is important we train and equip our public health first responders in how best to prevent and treat vector-borne illnesses.

The TICK Act is supported by a coalition of researchers, as Senator COLLINS just said, also frontline medical professionals and government officials from across the country, so I urge my colleagues to listen to the professionals on the ground fighting vector-borne diseases and quickly take up and pass this bill.

May is Lyme disease awareness month. We must be aware of and prepare for future vector-borne disease outbreaks, and this bill will be an important first step.

So I want to thank Senator COLLINS, my colleague on the HELP Committee, for her leadership on this important issue. I am glad we are able to work together on this bill.

By Mr. BLUNT (for himself and Mr. REED):

S. 1659. A bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to provide for the participation of pediatric subspecialists in the National Health Service Corps program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

Mr. REED. Mr. President, I am pleased to be joining Senator BLUNT in introducing the Ensuring Children’s Access to Specialty Care Act.

According to the American Association of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry, there are currently only 8,300 child and adolescent psychiatrists (CAPs) in the United States—many of whom are not practicing full time—far short of the estimated need of over 30,000 CAPs. On average, it takes almost two months to see a CAP, a startling concern given that the incidence rates of mental illness and behavioral disorders among children in the United States continue to grow.

Fifty percent of all lifetime cases of mental illness begin at age 14; seventy-five percent by age 24.

The National Health Service Corps Loan Repayment Program (NHSC/CLRP) was created by Congress over forty years ago to help recruit and place trained individuals in underserved communities to provide needed health care services. Licensed health care providers may earn up to $50,000 toward

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student loans in exchange for a two-year commitment at an NHSC-approved site, within two years of completing their residency. Accepted participants may serve as primary care medical, dental, or mental/behavioral health clinicians.

NHSC/LMHP provides critical relief to physicians who have completed pediatric or psychiatry residency training programs; however, pediatric subspecialists, such as child and adolescent psychiatrists, are effectively barred from participating due to the extra training these physicians require after completing their residency. This extra training, which often results in increased student debt, typically consists of a fellowship that takes place in the two-year window of eligibility for NHSC/LMHP. The creation of NHSC/LMHP preceded the expansion of many pediatric subspecialties, not taking into account the extra years of training required for these physicians.

The Ensuring Children’s Access to Specialty Care Act would correct this loophole and allow pediatric subspecialists in underserved areas to benefit from the NHSC/LMHP. By so doing, this bill would increase access to specialty care for children and improve mental health parity for children.

Providers across the spectrum of care support this bipartisan legislation including: the American Association of Medical, Dental, or Mental/Behavioral Health, the American Association of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, the American Academy of Pediatrics, the American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry, the American Academy of General Practice, the American Academy of Family Physicians, the American Academy of Internal Medicine, the American College of Emergency Physicians, the American College of Radiology, the American College of Surgeons, the American Heart Association, the American Hospital Association, March of Dimes, and the National Alliance on Mental Illness. I look forward to working with these and other stakeholders as well as Senator BLUNT and our colleagues to address these and other stakeholders as well as Senator BLUNT and our colleagues to address these and other stakeholders as well as Senator BLUNT and our colleagues to address these and other stakeholders as well as Senator BLUNT and our colleagues.

By Mr. KENNEDY: S. 1693. A bill to reauthorize the National Flood Insurance Program; considered and passed.

S. 1693

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “National Flood Insurance Program Extension Act of 2019”.

SEC. 2. REAUTHORIZATION OF NATIONAL FLOOD INSURANCE PROGRAM.

(a) FINANCING.—Section 1309(a) of the National Flood Insurance Act of 1968 (42 U.S.C. 4016(a)) is amended by striking “May 31, 2019” and inserting “June 14, 2019”.

(b) PROGRAM EXPIRATION.—Section 1319 of the National Flood Insurance Act of 1968 (42 U.S.C. 4026) is amended by striking “May 31, 2019” and inserting “June 14, 2019”.

(c) RETROACTIVE EFFECTIVE DATE.—If this Act is enacted after May 31, 2019, the amendments made by subsections (a) and (b) shall take effect as if enacted on May 31, 2019.

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SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 219—HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF PATSY TAKEMOTO MINK, THE FIRST WOMAN OF COLOR TO SERVE IN CONGRESS

Ms. HIRONO (for herself, Mr. SCHATZ, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. BOOKER, Ms. CANTWELL, Ms. CORTEZ, MASTO, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Ms. HARRIS, Ms. HASSAN, Ms. Klobuchar, Ms. MURPHY, Ms. ROSEN, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Ms. SMITH, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Ms. WARREN, Ms. SINEMA, and Mr. Kaine) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. Res. 219

Whereas Patsy Takemoto Mink was born in Paia, Hawaii, to Japanese-American parents, Suematsu and Mitama Tatsuya Takemoto; and

Whereas Patsy Takemoto Mink overcame gender discrimination to become the first Japanese-American woman to practice law in Hawaii; and

Whereas Patsy Takemoto Mink devoted her life to public service; and

Whereas Patsy Takemoto Mink served in—

(1) the Hawaii territorial House from 1956 to 1966; and

(2) the Hawaii territorial Senate from 1956 to 1965; and

(3) the Hawaii State Senate from 1962 to 1964; and

(4) the Honolulu City Council from 1983 to 1987; and

Whereas Representative Mink became the first Asian-American woman and the first woman of color to be elected to Congress in 1966; and

Whereas Representative Mink served 12 terms as a Member of Congress; and

Whereas Representative Mink fought throughout her life for fundamental rights and equity for women, children, Asian Americans, and other minority and disenfranchised groups; and

Whereas Representative Mink—

(1) introduced the first childcare bill; and

(2) co-authored and championed the landmark title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 (20 U.S.C. 1681 et seq.) to promote equal access and equal treatment for women and girls in educational settings; and

Whereas Representative Mink maintained a national focus on issues affecting Asian Pacific Americans, notably educating people of the United States about the internment of Japanese Americans during World War II; and

Whereas Representative Mink was a committed advocate for many progressive causes, including—

(1) ending gender and racial discrimination; and

(2) promoting social and economic justice; and

(3) improving access to high-quality education and affordable child care; and

(4) protecting civil liberties; and

(5) ensuring government accountability; and

Whereas Representative Mink was the first Democratic woman to deliver a State of the Union response in 1970; and

Whereas Representative Mink was a co-founder and chair of the Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus; and

Whereas Representative Mink served as the Secretary of the House Democratic Caucus; and

Whereas Representative Mink served as the co-chair of the Democratic Women’s Caucus; and

Whereas, in 1977, President Jimmy Carter nominated Patsy Takemoto Mink to serve as Assistant Secretary of State for Oceans and International Environmental and Scientific Affairs; and

Whereas, in 2003, Patsy Takemoto Mink was posthumously awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the highest civilian honor of the United States; and

Whereas November 3, 2019, marks the 55th anniversary of the election of Representative Mink to the House of Representatives; and

Whereas Patsy Takemoto Mink was a trailblazer who not only pioneered the way for women and minorities, but also embodied the true definition of leadership as a “national legislator”; Now, therefore be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) acknowledges the 55th anniversary of the election to the House of Representatives of Patsy Takemoto Mink, the first woman of color in Congress; and

(2) pays tribute to the service and dedicated work of Representative Mink—

(A) to improve the lives of women and minorities; and

(B) to advance justice and equality; and

(C) to promote the rights of all individuals in the United States, particularly in education, the workforce, and democratic processes; and

(3) recognizes the extraordinary work and legacy of Representative Mink, which has inspired and empowered many to devote their lives to public service.

Ms. HIRONO. Mr. President, I rise today, during Asian Pacific American Heritage month, in remembrance of Representative Patsy Takemoto Mink. Representative Mink was elected 55 years ago to represent Hawaii’s second congressional district. In 2006, I had the privilege of filling the seat that my friend, Representative Mink, honorably held for 24 years.

Patsy Mink was a trailblazer, whose career embodied a series of firsts. She was the first woman of color, and first Asian American woman elected to Congress in 1964. She became the first Asian American woman to practice law in Hawaii and the first Asian American woman elected to the Hawaii territorial legislature. No matter how many times she was excluded from traditionally male spheres, Representative Mink persevered and took risks. She overcame gender and racial discrimination and pursued a career during which she fought the injustice that she had endured. She devoted nearly 50 years of her life to be a champion for those who had no one to stand up and speak for them.

Representative Mink maintained a national focus on issues facing the Asian Pacific American community. Twenty-five years ago, she helped found the Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus. She also worked with members of Hawaii’s congressional delegation to educate Americans about the internment of Japanese Americans during World War II.

Representative Mink fought throughout her life for the principles of equity, fairness, and integrity. She was a leader on women’s rights, social and economic justice, health care, child care,
and education. She introduced the first childcare bill in the House. Patsy’s name is forever linked with the passage of Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, which she coauthored and fought for relentlessly. This act is now referred to as Patsy T. Mink and Ms. M. Slaughter Gender Equity in Education Act. Title IX provides women and girls equal access to higher education and protection from sexual harassment, and prohibits gender discrimination in all educational activities, notably athletics. Representative Mink often said, “It is easy enough to vote right and be consistently with the majority. But it is more often more important to be ahead of the majority.” I know our country can remain forward-thinking by ensuring that young women and minorities are given equal opportunity.

Representative Mink was one of only eleven women to serve in the House of Representatives in 1964, and she became the first sitting congresswoman in Congress. She shattered the glass ceiling during a time when women were not seen as leaders, especially not in Congress. Representative Mink continues to be an inspiration to many, and her legacy lives on in schools, universities, and here, in Congress. Last year, a record number of women ran for public office and were elected. With 102 women elected to serve in the House of Representatives and 25 women in the Senate, the 116th Congress is the most diverse yet. Patsy would have been delighted.

In 2007, upon my election to the U.S. House, I was proud to cast my first vote in support of NANCY PELOSI for speaker and did so in memory of Patsy Mink. Earlier, Speaker Pelosi told me that Representative Mink was the first person to tell her that “one day, you’re going to be speaker.” Patsy would have loved to have been there to see her words come true for her friend, Nancy.

The United States Senate honored Patsy’s legacy by authorizing the Senate to appoint an honor guard in her honor on Friday, July 4, 2008, to pay tribute to the soldiers who served in the Armed Forces and veterans who served before September 11, 2001, and have served in places such as Afghanistan and Iraq.

Whereas the current generation of men and women in the Armed Forces has sustained a high rate of operational deployments, with many members of the Armed Forces serving overseas multiple times, placing those members at high risk of experiencing combat stress;

Whereas, when left untreated, exposure to trauma can lead to post-traumatic stress, sometimes referred to as post-traumatic stress disorder (in this pre-amble referred to as “PTSD”) or post-traumatic stress injuries, and the persistence of stigma associated with mental health conditions;

Whereas the Secretary of Veterans Affairs reports that approximately—

(1) 11 to 20 percent of veterans who served in Operations Iraqi Freedom or Operation Enduring Freedom have PTSD in a given year;

(2) 12 percent of veterans who served in the Persian Gulf War have PTSD in a given year; and

(3) 30 percent of veterans who served in the Vietnam era have had PTSD in their lifetimes;

Whereas many combat stress injuries remain unreported, undiagnosed, and untreated due to a lack of awareness about post-traumatic stress and the persistence of stigma associated with mental health conditions;

Whereas exposure to trauma during service in the Armed Forces can lead to post-traumatic stress;

Whereas post-traumatic stress significantly increases the risk of anxiety, depression, suicide, homelessness, and drug- and alcohol-related disorders and deaths, especially if left untreated;

Whereas public perceptions of post-traumatic stress or other mental health disorders create unique challenges for veterans seeking employment;

Whereas post-traumatic stress can help eliminate the stigma associated with mental health issues;

Whereas post-traumatic stress can help eliminate the stigma associated with mental health issues;

Whereas additional efforts are needed to find further ways to reduce the stigma associated with post-traumatic stress, including—

(1) an examination of how post-traumatic stress is discussed in the United States; and

(2) a recognition that post-traumatic stress is a common injury that is treatable;
Whereas the United States was founded on the principle that all persons are endowed with certain inalienable rights; 

Whereas the Universal Declaration of Human Rights adopted by the United Nations General Assembly in Paris on December 10, 1948, enshrined the rights of freedom of expression, assembly, and association; 

Whereas, on May 18, 2018, President Xi Jinping, of former General Secretary of the Chinese Communist Party Hu Yaobang, who was compelled to resign in 1987 for expressing support for the demands of political reform, thousands of people gathered to mourn him and demonstrate peacefully in Beijing; 

Whereas, throughout April and May 1989, peaceful demonstrations continued in Tiananmen Square and in an estimated 400 other cities across China, with total numbers of demonstrators reaching into the millions; 

Whereas, on May 9, 1989, prompted by discontent over censorship of the coverage of protests, more than 1,000 Chinese journalists signed a petition calling for freedom of the press; 

Whereas, by May 18, 1989, an estimated 1,000,000 Chinese citizens from all walks of life, including students, teachers, workers, writers, and other individuals, gathered peacefully in Tiananmen Square to call for political and economic reforms; 

Whereas Chinese individuals in positions of authority, including the presidents of 8 Chinese universities and the central committees of the Communist Youth League of China, called for the Government of the People’s Republic of China to accept the demands of the Tiananmen Square protestors; 

Whereas Chinese students abroad, including in the United States, organized rallies in support of the Tiananmen Square demonstrations; 

Whereas, on May 20, 1989, the Government of the People’s Republic of China declared martial law in Beijing and deployed troops of the People’s Liberation Army within the city; 

Whereas, on June 4, 1989, troops of the People’s Liberation Army, at the behest of Chinese Communist Party leadership, attacked Tiananmen Square to repress demonstrators, crushing the protests of Chinese citizens and firing on them indiscriminately, killing hundreds or possibly thousands of individuals; 

Whereas troops of the People’s Liberation Army also suppressed protests in other cities in China; 

Whereas protestors braved the brutal repression in an effort to press the Government of the People’s Republic of China, including by facing down a column of tanks sent to intimidate unarmed civilians; 

Whereas the Government of the People’s Republic of China dishonestly portrayed the individuals gathered as rioters; 

Whereas, in 2019, the Government of the People’s Republic of China continued the systematic suppression of Tiananmen Square and imprisons its own citizens who attempt to discuss Tiananmen Square; 

Whereas, in recent years, Chinese Communist Party leadership, especially under President Xi Jinping, has tightened its control over the lives of Chinese citizens and suppressed beliefs and activities it views as threatening to its rule, including through— 

(1) the “709 Crackdown”, in which the Government of the People’s Republic of China, on July 9, 2015, detained and imprisoned thousands of lawyers working to uphold the rule of law; 

(2) the imprisonment of Chinese dissident Liu Xiaobo, a Nobel Peace Prize winner and outspoken advocate for political reform, until his death in 2017; and 

(3) the internment of 800,000 to possibly more than 2,000,000 Uyghurs, ethnic Kazakhs, and other Muslims in internment camps in Xinjiang; 

Whereas the 2018 Department of State annual Country Report on Human Rights Practices for the People’s Republic of China detailed the continued violations of fundamental rights and liberties on the part of the Chinese Government, including— 

(1) the December 2017 mass detention of Uyghurs and other ethnic minorities in Xinjiang; 

(2) the forced disappearance, extrajudicial detention, torture, and inhumane treatment of members of the Uyghur community and other ethnic minorities in Xinjiang; 

(3) the forced collection of personal biometric data and genetic information of Uyghurs and other ethnic minorities in Xinjiang; and 

(4) the 2017 Cybersecurity Law; 

(5) the 2016 Charity Law; 

(6) the 2014 Counterespionage Law; 

(7) the 2013 National Security Law; 

(8) the 2012 Cybersecurity Law; 

(9) the 2011 Counterterrorism Law; 

(10) the 2010 Computer Network Security Law; 

(11) the 2009 National Security Education Law; 

(12) the 2008 Counterterrorism Law; and 

(13) the 2007 Counterterrorism Law; 

(4) the 2016 Charity Law; 

(5) the 2015 Counterterrorism Law; 

(6) the 2014 Counterespionage Law; 

(7) the 2013 National Security Law; 

(8) the 2012 Cybersecurity Law; 

(9) the 2011 Counterterrorism Law; 

(10) the 2010 Computer Network Security Law; 

(11) the 2009 National Security Education Law; 

(12) the 2008 Counterterrorism Law; and 

(13) the 2007 Counterterrorism Law; 

(4) the 2016 Charity Law; 

(5) the 2015 Counterterrorism Law; 

(6) the 2014 Counterespionage Law; 

(7) the 2013 National Security Law; 

(8) the 2012 Cybersecurity Law; 

(9) the 2011 Counterterrorism Law; 

(10) the 2010 Computer Network Security Law; 

(11) the 2009 National Security Education Law; 

(12) the 2008 Counterterrorism Law; and 

(13) the 2007 Counterterrorism Law; 

Now, therefore, be it 

Resolved, That the Senate— 

(1) expresses its deepest sympathy with the family, friends, colleagues, and classmates of the victims of the Tiananmen Square massacre; 

(2) condemns the use of violence as a means to repress the legitimate aspirations of Chinese people, and associate freely, including to petition the government and challenge the policies and ideology of the Chinese Communist Party; 

(3) calls on the Government of the People’s Republic of China to cease its current repression of Chinese citizens, including by— 

(A) meeting with participants of the Tiananmen Square protests who now live outside China; 

(B) meeting with others outside of China who have been blacklisted by the Government of the People’s Republic of China as a result of their peaceful protest activities; 

(C) supporting calls for accountability for the officials who ordered the Tiananmen Square massacre; and 

(D) allowing these individuals to continue to call for reforms in China to further the freedom of speech, freedom of assembly, freedom
of the press, freedom to petition the government, and freedom of religion; and
(9) calls on the international community to cooperate in addressing the Government of
Syria's continued persecution of its own citizens, including the
use of intrusive mass surveillance.

SENATE RESOLUTION 222—RECOGNIZING VISION TO LEARN AS A NATIONAL LEADER IN IMPROVING ACCESS TO PRESCRIPTION EYEGLASSES FOR STUDENTS IN LOW-INCOME COMMUNITIES, THEREBY HELPING THOSE STUDENTS SUCCEED IN SCHOOL, AND FOR PROVIDING VISION EXAMS TO 200,000 STUDENTS SINCE ITS FOUNDING

Mr. COONS (for himself, Ms. Ernst, Ms. Harris, Mr. Wicker, Ms. Stabenow, Mr. Cassidy, Mr. Carper, Mr. Perdue, Mr. Menendez, Mr. Toomey, Mr. Brown, Mrs. Hyde-Smith, Mr. Casey, Mr. Boozman, Mr. Rounds, Mr. Tillis, Mr. Grassley, Ms. Klobuchar, Ms. Ayotte, Mr. Klobuchar, Mr. Jones, Mrs. Blackburn, Mr. Kaine, Mr. Schatz, Ms. Hirono, Mr. Van Hollen, Mr. Scott of South Carolina, Ms. Collins, Mrs. Feinstein, Mr. Roberts, Mrs. Fischer, Mr. Moran, Mr. Merkley, Mr. Casey, Mr. Booker, Mr. Crapo, Mr. Daines, Ms. Isakson, Mr. Blunt, Mr. Thune, Mr. Cardin, Mr. Durbin, Mr. Lankford, and Mr. Udall) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 222

Whereas, on March 27, 2012, Vision To Learn was founded by Austin and Virginia Beutner in Los Angeles, California, to address the problem of students in low-income communities lacking the glasses needed for those students to succeed in school and in life;

Whereas Vision To Learn began with a single mobile vision clinic, staffed with an eye doctor and an optician—

(1) visiting Napa Street Elementary, a Los Angeles Unified School District campus in North Hollywood, California; and

(2) providing 5 students with vision exams and prescription eyeglasses free of charge;

Whereas Vision To Learn operates 25 mobile vision clinics, which have provided vision exams to 200,000 students in 13 States, including—

(1) California;
(2) Delaware;
(3) Georgia;
(4) Hawaii;
(5) Iowa;
(6) Louisiana;
(7) Maryland;
(8) Michigan;
(9) Mississippi;
(10) New Jersey;
(11) North Carolina;
(12) Pennsylvania; and
(13) Virginia;

Whereas Vision To Learn has leveraged partnerships with State Medicaid programs and other organizations, including the United Way of Iowa, Prevent Blindness Iowa, and the Colonial Foundation in Delaware, to increase program stability and further expand access to vision services;

Whereas Vision To Learn is leading an effort by school officials and eye care professionals to raise awareness of the inability of some students to see clearly due to correctable myopia or hyperopia, a basic educational hurdle impacting over 2,000,000 students nationally that can be solved by providing students with a basic vision exam and a pair of prescription eyeglasses;

Whereas the innovative mobile vision clinic model developed by Vision To Learn delivers basic eye care to students at school, thereby bypassing common hurdles preventing children from seeing an eye doctor, such as—

(1) the inability of a parent or guardian to take time off of work;
(2) a lack of transportation;
(3) a shortage of eye care providers accepting Medicaid; and
(4) a misunderstanding of the cost or necessity of eye care;

Whereas Vision To Learn has demonstrated the ability of mobile vision clinics to provide access to care for students in both urban and rural communities;

Whereas, by reaching students who have never visited an eye doctor and providing those students with a first pair of glasses, Vision To Learn introduces students and parents to the need for ongoing eye care, making it more likely that those students and parents will seek out regular exams from a local optometrist or ophthalmologist;

Whereas the program developed by Vision To Learn has already reached thousands of students with more serious eye conditions and refers those students to local eye doctors for follow-up exams, in many cases intervening before students experience permanent vision loss;

Whereas, in an effort to quantify the impact of Vision To Learn on the ability of students to access optometric care, the percent of students in school, and the behavior of students in the classroom, the program developed by Vision To Learn has been studied by health and educational researchers at—

(1) the University of California, Los Angeles, Mattel Children’s Hospital (referred to in this preamble as “UCLA Mattel Children's Hospital”);
(2) the California Health and Human Services Agency, Department of Health Care Services; and
(3) The Johns Hopkins Wilmer Eye Institute;

Whereas the study carried out by UCLA Mattel Children’s Hospital found that—

(1) after receiving glasses, students “were able to pay better attention in class, were more engaged, and were more willing to complete their schoolwork, all of which contributed to better overall school performance”; and

(2) “serving students in school rather than referring them to an outside optometrist increased both access to and use of glasses by both making it easier for families to obtain glasses and changing the school culture to decrease the stigma associated with wearing glasses.”;

Whereas Vision To Learn seeks to make the experience of getting glasses fun for children—

(1) by partnering with sports teams, such as—

(A) the Los Angeles Dodgers;
(B) the Los Angeles Clippers;
(C) the Golden State Warriors;
(D) the Lakers;
(E) the Detroit Pistons;
(F) the San Jose Sharks; and
(G) the Baltimore Ravens; and
(2) by involving professional athletes participate in events at schools where children get glasses;

Whereas the service level of Vision To Learn for giving glasses will help students for years to come;

Whereas Vision To Learn is a public-private partnership combining funding from community and corporate foundations and private donors, reimbursement from Medicaid and the Children’s Health Insurance Program, and State and local matching funds to support a sustainable program that will help students for years to come;

Whereas Vision To Learn has demonstrated that the program developed and used by Vision To Learn represents a realistic, affordable pathway to eliminating lack of glasses as an educational barrier to students nationwide;

Whereas Vision To Learn has collaborated with partners in the eye-health and education sectors who have greatly aided Vision To Learn in reaching the milestone of helping 200,000 students, including—

(1) Rotary International Clubs;
(2) The Johns Hopkins Wilmer Eye Institute;
(3) The Esilor Vision Foundation;
(4) Warby Parker;
(5) Helen Keller International ChildSight;
(6) the University of California, Los Angeles, Stein Eye Institute;
(7) Project Vision Hawai'i;
(8) Western University College of Optometry;
(9) Prevent Blindness Northern California;
(10) Classic Optical Laboratories;
(11) Capital Optical;
(12) Klauser Optical;
(13) the California School Nurses Organization;
(14) Hawaii Keiki: Healthy & Ready to Learn;
(15) Connexus;
(16) the Baltimore City Health Department;
(17) the Detroit Health Department;
(18) the Kent County Health Department;
(19) the California Teachers Association; and
(20) school nurses throughout the areas served by Vision To Learn;

Whereas Vision To Learn has been recognized as a leader in the field—

(1) by the Campaign For Grade-Level Reading, which named Vision To Learn a “Race-setter Program” in 2014;
(2) by the White House Initiative on Educational Excellence in Hispanic, which named Vision To Learn a “Bright Spot in Hispanic Education” in 2015;
(3) by the California Teachers Association, which presented the “State Gold Award” to Vision To Learn in 2013;

(4) in letters of commendation from—

(A) House Speaker Nancy Pelosi;
(B) Representative Maxine Waters; and
(C) the Ronald Reagan Library; and
(5) in newspaper op-eds by—

(A) Senator Chris Coons;
(B) Delaware Governor Jack Markell;
(C) Richmond, Virginia, Mayor Levar Stoney;
(D) Long Beach, California, Mayor Robert Garcia;
(E) Detroit, Michigan, Mayor Mike Duggan;
(F) Wilmington, Delaware, Mayor Michael Purzycki; and
(G) former Mississippi Governor Haley Barbour;

Whereas, according to the American Optometric Association, uncorrected vision conditions affect 1 in every 4 children, yet only 39 percent of students referred to an eye exam through a routine vision screening actually end up seeing an eye doctor, and this discrepancy is far worse in high-poverty communities of color; and

Whereas addressing the basic eye care needs of students is often overlooked but
critical strategy to improve the educational attainment of those students: Now, therefore, be it
Resolved, That the Senate—
(1) congratulates Vision To Learn on helping 200,000 students;
(2) recognizes Vision To Learn as a national provider in providing school-based vision care and commends the strides the organization has made in that effort; and
(3) supports the mission of Vision To Learn to ensure that no child goes without the glasses needed for that child to succeed in school and in life.

SENATE RESOLUTION 223—EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR THE DESIGNATION OF MAY 17, 2019, AS "DIPG PEDIATRIC BRAIN CANCER AWARENESS DAY" TO RAISE AWARENESS OF AND ENCOURAGE RESEARCH ON DIFFUSE INTRINSIC PONTINE GLIOMA TUMORS AND PEDIATRIC CANCERS IN GENERAL

Mr. RUBIO (for himself, Mr. REED, Mrs. HYDE-SMITH, and Mr. CASEY) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. Res. 223

Whereas diffuse intrinsic pontine glioma (referred to in this preamble as "DIPG") tumors regularly affect 200 to 400 children in the United States each year;
Whereas brain tumors are the leading cause of cancer-related death among children;
Whereas, during childhood, DIPG tumors are:
(1) the second most common type of malignant brain tumor; and
(2) the leading cause of pediatric brain cancer deaths;
Whereas, with respect to a child who is diagnosed with a DIPG tumor and receives treatment for a DIPG tumor, the median amount of time that the child survives after diagnosis is only 9 months;
Whereas the average age at which a child is diagnosed with a DIPG tumor is between 5 and 9 years, resulting in a life expectancy approximately 70 years shorter than the average life expectancy in the United States; and
Whereas the prognosis for children diagnosed with DIPG tumors has not improved over the past 40 years: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—
(1) supports—
(A) designating May 17, 2019, as "DIPG Pediatric Brain Cancer Awareness Day"; and
(B) efforts—
(i) to better understand diffuse intrinsic pontine glioma tumors;
(ii) to develop effective treatments for diffuse intrinsic pontine glioma tumors; and
(iii) to provide comprehensive care for children with diffuse intrinsic pontine glioma tumors and their families; and
(2) encourages all individuals in the United States to become more informed about—
(A) diffuse intrinsic pontine glioma tumors;
(B) pediatric brain cancer in general; and
(C) challenges relating to research on pediatric cancers and ways to advance such research.

SENATE RESOLUTION 224—SUPPORTING THE GOALS AND IDEALS OF NATIONAL NURSES WEEK, TO BE OBSERVED FROM MAY 6 THROUGH MAY 12, 2019

Mr. WICKER (for himself and Mr. MERKLEY) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. Res. 224

Whereas, in beginning in 1991, National Nurses Week is celebrated annually from May 6, also known as "National Recognition Day for Nurses"; through May 12, the birthday of Florence Nightingale, the founder of modern nursing;
Whereas National Nurses Week is a time of year to reflect on the important contributions that nurses make to provide safe, high-quality health care;
Whereas nurses are known to be patient advocates, acting to protect the lives of individuals under their care;
Whereas nurses represent the largest single component of the health care professions, with an estimated population of 4,000,000 registered nurses in the United States;
Whereas nurses are leading in the delivery of quality care in a transformed health care system that improves patient outcomes and safety;
Whereas the Future of Nursing report of the Institute of Medicine called for the nursing profession to meet the call for leadership in a team-based delivery model;
Whereas, when nurse staffing levels increase, the risk of patient complications and lengthy hospital stays decreases, resulting in cost savings;
Whereas nurses are experienced researchers, and the work of nurses encompasses a wide scope of scientific inquiry, including clinical research, health systems and outcomes research, and nursing education research;
Whereas nurses provide care that is sensitive to the regional and community customs of individuals needing care;
Whereas nurses are well-positioned to provide leadership to eliminate health care disparities that exist in the United States;
Whereas nurses are at the forefront of the public health infrastructure, promoting healthy lifestyles and educating communities on disease prevention and health promotion;
Whereas nurses help inform, educate, and work closely with legislators to improve—
(1) the education, retention, recruitment, and practice of all nurses; and
(2) the health and safety of the patients for whom the nurses care;
Whereas there is a need—
(1) to strengthen nursing workforce development programs at all levels, including the number of doctorally prepared faculty members; and
(2) to provide education to the nurse research scientists who can develop new nursing care models to improve the health status of the diverse population of the United States;
Whereas nurses touch the lives of the people of the United States through every stage of life; and
Whereas nursing has been voted the most honest and ethical profession in the United States: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—
(1) supports the goals and ideals of National Nurses Week that is observed annually by the American Nurses Association;
(2) recognizes the significant contributions of nurses to the health care system in the United States; and
(3) encourages the people of the United States to observe National Nurses Week with appropriate recognition, ceremonies, activities, and programs to demonstrate the importance of nurses to the everyday lives of patients.

SENATE RESOLUTION 225—SUPPORTING THE GOALS OF INTERNATIONAL MYALGIC ENCEPHALOMYELITIS/CHRONIC FATIGUE SYNDROME AWARENESS DAY

Mr. MARKEY (for himself, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. COONS, Mr. HOEVEN, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mrs. FRANKSTEIN, Mr. KUCINICH, Mr. STABENOW, Mr. CASEY, Ms. HARRIS, and Ms. WARREN) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. Res. 225

Whereas the National Academy of Medicine (referred to in this preamble as ‘‘NAM’’), formerly known as the Institute of Medicine, has found Myalgic Encephalomyelitis/Chronic Fatigue Syndrome (referred to in this preamble as ‘‘ME/CFS’’) to be ‘‘a serious, chronic, complex, and systemic disease that frequently and dramatically limits the activities of affected people’’;
Whereas between 366,000 and 2,500,000 individuals of all ages, races, and sexes in the United States are believed to be afflicted with ME/CFS, with millions more afflicted by ME/CFS worldwide, and the vast majority of individuals with ME/CFS are undiagnosed or misdiagnosed;
Whereas ME/CFS is approximately 4 times more prevalent in women than in men;
Whereas ME/CFS is a chronic disease with no known cure and leaves 1⁄4 of individuals with ME/CFS housebound or bedbound for extended periods of time;
Whereas 50 to 75 percent of individuals with ME/CFS cannot work or attend school;
Whereas medical expenses and lost productivity related to ME/CFS cost the economy of the United States an estimated $17,000,000,000 to $24,000,000,000 annually;
Whereas the cause of ME/CFS is unknown, there is no diagnostic test for ME/CFS, and there is no treatment for ME/CFS that is approved by the Food and Drug Administration;
Whereas NAM has noted a ‘‘paucity of research’’ on ME/CFS and that ‘‘more research is essential’’;
Whereas the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has called ME/CFS ‘‘America’s Hidden Health Crisis’’;
Whereas individuals with ME/CFS struggle to find doctors to care for them, and ME/CFS is included in less than 1⁄5 of medical school curricula;
Whereas, in recognition of the dearth of research on ME/CFS and the impact that the disease has on individuals with ME/CFS and their loved ones and caretakers, the National Institutes of Health (referred to in this preamble as the ‘‘NIH’’) is ‘‘committed to unraveling the underlying biologic cause(s) of ME/CFS as swiftly as possible, and promoting research that will inform the development of effective strategies for the treat—
ment and prevention of this devastating condition’’;
Whereas, in 2017, 11 Institutes at the NIH and the Office of the Director of the NIH contributed more than $7,000,000 in grants to assist in establishing Collaborative Research Centers and a Data Management Coordination Center to improve the coordination of ME/CFS research and help accelerate understanding of ME/CFS; and
Whereas, in 2019, May 12 is recognized as International ME/CFS Awareness Day; Now, therefore, be it
Resolved, That the Senate—
(1) supports the goals of International Myalgic Encephalomyelitis/Chronic Fatigue Syndrome Awareness Day;
(2) recognizes and reaffirms the commitment of the United States to—
(A) supporting research and medical education for Myalgic Encephalomyelitis/Chronic Fatigue Syndrome; and
(B) promoting awareness among health professionals and the public about Myalgic Encephalomyelitis/Chronic Fatigue Syndrome; and
(3) recognizes the continued importance of—
(A) health care professionals and medical researchers who care for individuals with Myalgic Encephalomyelitis/Chronic Fatigue Syndrome; and
(B) those who work to discover the cause of, and develop and improve diagnosis of, treatments for, and a cure for, Myalgic Encephalomyelitis/Chronic Fatigue Syndrome.

SENATE RESOLUTION 226—RECOGNIZING NATIONAL FOSTER CARE MONTH AS AN OPPORTUNITY TO RAISE AWARENESS ABOUT THE CHALLENGES OF CHILDREN IN THE FOSTER CARE SYSTEM, AND ENCOURAGING CONGRESS TO IMPLEMENT POLICY TO IMPROVE THE LIVES OF CHILDREN IN THE FOSTER CARE SYSTEM

Mr. GRASSLEY (for himself, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. JONES, Mr. TILLIS, Mr. CASSIDY, Mr. KING, Mr. SULLIVAN, Mr. BLUNT, Mr. LANKFORD, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. KAIN, Mrs. CAPITO, Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. ROBETS, Mr. PETERS, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. BROWN, Mt. CASEY, Ms. ROSEN, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Ms. HASSAN, Mr. BARASSO, Mr. ENZI, and Mr. YOUNG) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. Res. 226

Whereas National Foster Care Month was established more than 20 years ago to—
(1) bring foster care issues to the forefront;
(2) highlight the importance of permanency for every child; and
(3) recognize the essential role that foster parents, social workers, and advocates have in the lives of children in foster care throughout the United States;
Whereas all children deserve a safe, loving, and permanent home;
Whereas the primary goal of the foster care system is to ensure the safety and well-being of children while working to provide a safe, loving, and permanent home for each child;
Whereas there are approximately 435,000 children living in foster care;
Whereas approximately 269,690 youth that entered the foster care system in 2017, while over 69,000 youth were eligible and awaiting adoption at the end of 2017;
Whereas the number of children living in foster care and entering foster care has increased dramatically in recent years;
Whereas over 96,000 children entered foster care for mental drug abuse issues;
Whereas children of color are more likely to stay in the foster care system for longer periods of time and are less likely to be reunited with their biological families;
Whereas foster parents are the front-line caregivers for children who cannot safely remain with their biological parents and provide physical care, emotional support, education and advocacy, and are the largest single source of families providing permanent homes for children leaving foster care to adoption;
Whereas children in foster care who are placed with relatives, compared to children placed with nonrelatives, have a higher degree of stability, including fewer changes in placements, have more positive perceptions of their placements, are more likely to be placed with the same caregiver, and demonstrate fewer behavioral problems;
Whereas some relative caregivers receive less financial support and support services than do foster caregivers;
Whereas an increased emphasis on prevention and reunification services is necessary to reduce the number of children that are forced to remain in the foster care system; Whereas almost 20,000 youth “aged out” of foster care in 2017 without a legal permanent connection to an adult or family;
Whereas children who age out of foster care lack the security and support of a biological or adoptive family and frequently struggle to secure affordable, safe housing, obtain health insurance, pursue higher education, and acquire adequate employment;
Whereas foster care is intended to be a temporary solution to reunify children with their parents, or to provide a safe and loving home for children that are forced to remain in the foster care system for an average of 20 months;
Whereas 35 percent of children in foster care experience more than 2 placements while in care, which often leads to disruption of routines and the need to change schools and move away from siblings, extended families, and familiar surroundings;
Whereas youth in foster care are much more likely to face educational instability with 34 percent experiencing 5 or more school changes by the age of 18;
Whereas children entering foster care often confront the widespread misconception that children in foster care are disruptive, unruly, and dangerous, even though placement in foster care is based on the actions of a parent or guardian, not the child;
Whereas 30 percent of children in foster care are taking at least 1 anti-psychotic medication, and 34 percent of these children are not receiving adequate treatment planning or medication monitoring;
Whereas, due to heavy caseloads and limited resources, the average turnover rate for a child welfare recipient;
Whereas States, localities, and communities should be encouraged to invest resources in preventative and reunification services and postpermanency programs to ensure that more children in foster care are provided with safe, loving, and permanent placements;
Whereas, in 2018, Congress passed the Familty First Prevention Services Act, which provided new investments and services to improve the outcomes of children in the foster care system;
Whereas May 2019 is an appropriate month to—
(A) support vulnerable families;
(B) invest in prevention and reunification services;
(C) promote adoption in cases where reunification is not in the best interests of the child;
(D) adequately serve those children brought into the foster care system; and
(E) facilitate the successful transition into adulthood for children that “age out” of the foster care system.

AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 250. Mr. McCONNELL (for Mr. SHELBY (for himself and Mr. LEAHY)) proposed an amendment to the bill H.R. 2157, making supplemental appropriations for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2019, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 250. Mr. McCONNELL (for Mr. SHELBY (for himself and Mr. LEAHY)) proposed an amendment to the bill H.R. 2157, making supplemental appropriations for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2019, and for other purposes.

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:
The following sums in this Act are appropriated, out of any money in the Treasury
not otherwise appropriated, for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2019, and for other purposes, namely:

TITLE I
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
AGRICULTURAL PROGRAMS
PROCESSING, RESEARCH AND MARKETING
ACCOUNT
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

For an additional amount for the “Office of the Secretary”, $3,005,422,000, which shall remain available until December 31, 2020, for necessary expenses related to losses of crops (including farm stored commodities, crops prevented from planting in 2019, and harvested adulterated wine grapes), trees, bushes, and vines, as a consequence of Hurricane Florence, Maria, Michael, Laura, Delta, Eta, Iota, wildfires, hurricanes, Irene, floods, tornadoes, typhoons, volcanic activity, snowstorms, and wildfires occurring in calendar years 2018 and 2019 under such terms and conditions as determined by the Secretary: Provided, That the Secretary may provide assistance for such losses in the form of block grants to eligible states and territories and such assistance may include compensation to producers, as determined by the Secretary, for forest restoration and property and livestock losses: Provided further, That the amounts provided under this heading shall be available until expended: Provided further, That the Secretary, for forest restoration and property and livestock losses: Provided further, That the amounts provided under this heading shall be available until expended: Provided further, That the Secretary shall be required to purchase crop insurance where crop insurance is available for the next two available crop years, excluding treeinsurance for losses or did not file the required paperwork to the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands for disaster nutrition assistance in response to the Presidential declared major disaster and emergency: Provided, That such amount is designated by the Congress as being for an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

FARM SERVICE AGENCY
EMERGENCY FOREST RESTORATION PROGRAM
For an additional amount for the “Emergency Forest Restoration Program”, for necessary expenses related to the consequences of Hurricanes Michael and Florence, $2,412,000,000, which shall remain available until expended: Provided, That such amount is designated by the Congress as being for an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

EMERGENCY CONSERVATION PROGRAM
For an additional amount for the “Emergency Conservation Program”, for necessary expenses related to the consequences of Hurricanes Michael and Florence occurring in calendar year 2018, tornadoes and floods occurring in calendar year 2019, and other natural disasters, $480,000,000, which shall remain available until expended: Provided, That such amount is designated by the Congress as being for an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE
WATERSHED AND FLOOD PREVENTION PROGRAM ACCOUNT
For an additional amount for “Watershed and Flood Prevention Operations”, for necessary expenses for the Emergency Watershed Protection Program related to the consequences of Hurricane Florence and wildfires occurring in calendar year 2018, tornadoes and floods occurring in calendar year 2019, and other natural disasters, $558,000,000, to remain available until expended: Provided, That such amount is designated by the Congress as being for an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

RURAL DEVELOPMENT
RURAL COMMUNITY FACILITIES PROGRAM ACCOUNT
For an additional amount for the cost of grants for rural community facilities programs as authorized by section 306 and described in section 361(d)(1) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act, for necessary expenses related to the consequences of Hurricanes Michael and Florence and wildfires occurring in calendar year 2018, tornadoes and floods occurring in calendar year 2019, and other natural disasters, $435,000,000, to remain available until expended: Provided, That such amount is designated by the Congress as being for an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

SEC. 101. In addition to amounts otherwise available, out of the funds made available under section 18 of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008, $25,200,000 shall be available for the Secretary to provide a grant to the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico for disaster nutrition assistance in response to the Presidential declared major disaster and emergency: Provided, That such funds made available to the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico for disaster nutrition assistance in response to a major disaster or emergency designated by the President under the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5121 et seq.): Provided, That such amount is designated by the Congress as being for an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

S. 102. For purposes of administering title I of subdivision I of division B of the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2018 (Public Law 115–123), losses to agricultural producers resulting from hurricanes shall also include losses incurred from Tropical Storm Cindy, losses to agricultural producers resulting from extreme cold and hurricane damage in calendar year 2018, tornadoes and floods occurring in calendar year 2019, and other natural disasters, $840,000,000, which shall remain available until expended: Provided, That such amount is designated by the Congress as being for an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

S. 103. That in the case of a crop under this heading, the amount provided under this heading shall be available to a person or legal entity if at least 75 percent of the adjusted gross income of such person or legal entity is greater than $900,000.

S. 103. (a)(1) Except as provided in paragraph (2), a person or legal entity is not eligible to receive a payment under the Market Facilitation Program established pursuant to the Commodity Credit Corporation Charter Act, 15 U.S.C. 714 et seq., unless the average adjusted gross income of such person or legal entity is greater than $900,000.

S. 103. (a)(2) (A) The term “average adjusted gross income” has the meaning given in the term defined in section 786.1002 of title 7 Code of Federal Regulations (as in effect July 18, 2018).

S. 103. (a)(2) (B) In this section, the term “average adjusted gross income” has the meaning given the term defined in section 786.1002 of title 7 Code of Federal Regulations (as in effect July 18, 2018).

S. 103. (a)(2) (C) The amount provided by this section is designated by the Congress as being for an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

S. 104. In addition to other amounts made available by section A of the Additional Supplemental Appropriations for Disaster Relief Appropriations Act, 2017 (Public Law 115–122), there is provided to the Treasury, out of any moneys in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2019, $600,000,000 to provide a grant to the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands for disaster nutrition assistance in response to a major disaster or emergency designated by the President under the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5121 et seq.): Provided, That such funds made available to the Commonwealth
of Puerto Rico under this section shall remain available for obligation by the Commonwealth until September 30, 2020, and shall be in addition to funds otherwise made available. Provided further, That such amount is designated by the Congress as being for an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985 (2 U.S.C. 901(b)(2)(A)(i)).

SEC. 105. There is hereby appropriated $5,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2020, for the Secretary of Agriculture to prescribe regulations for the food insecurity, health status, and well-being of low-income residents in Puerto Rico without such additional benefits: Provided, That such amount is designated by the Congress as being for an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

SEC. 106. In addition to amounts otherwise made available, out of the funds made available under section 16 of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2014, to the Secretary of Agriculture for the Secretary to provide a grant to American Samoan disaster assistance to respond to the most recent disaster declared as a disaster by the Secretary of Agriculture: Provided, That such amount is designated by the Congress as being for an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

SEC. 107. Beginning not later than the 2020 reinsurance year, the Federal Crop Insurance Corporation shall offer coverage under the wholefarm revenue protection insurance policy (or a successor policy or plan of insurance) for hemp (as defined in section 29A of the Agricultural Marketing Act of 1946 (7 U.S.C. 165b)): Provided, That such amount is designated by the Congress as being for an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

SEC. 108. Notwithstanding any other proviso or provision of law, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration shall submit a spending plan to the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Senate for funding provided under subsection (4) of this Act within 45 days after the date of enactment of this Act.

SEC. 109. For administrative expenses related to the consequences of Hurricanes Florence and Michael, and Typhoons Yutu and Mangkhut: Provided further, That such amount is designated by the Congress as being for an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

UNITED STATES MARSHALS SERVICE

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

For an additional amount for “Salaries and Expenses” for necessary expenses related to the consequences of Hurricanes Florence and Michael and Typhoon Yutu, $1,368,000: Provided, That such amount is designated by the Congress as being for an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

FEDERAL PRISON SYSTEM

BUILDINGS AND FACILITIES

For an additional amount for “Buildings and Facilities” for necessary expenses related to the consequences of Hurricanes Florence and Michael and Typhoon Yutu, $8,400,000, to remain available until expended: Provided, That such amount is designated by the Congress as being for an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

LEGAL SERVICES CORPORATION

PAYMENT TO THE LEGAL SERVICES CORPORATION

For an additional amount for “Payment to the Legal Services Corporation” to carry out the provisions of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act by providing for necessary expenses related to the consequences of Hurricanes Florence, Michael, and Lane, Typhoons Yutu and Mangkhut, calendar year 2018 wildfires, volcanic eruptions, and earthquakes, and calendar year 2019 tornadoes and floods, $15,000,000: Provided, That such amount is designated by the Congress as being for an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

TITLES I

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ADMINISTRATION

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS

(PASSENGER TRANSFERS OF FUNDS)

Pursuant to section 703 of the Public Works and Economic Development Act (42 U.S.C. 3233), for an additional amount for “Economic Development Assistance Programs” for necessary expenses related to flood mitigation, disaster relief, long-term recovery, and restoration of infrastructure in areas that received a major disaster designation as a result of Hurricanes Florence, Michael, and Lane, Typhoons Yutu and Mangkhut, and of wildfires, volcanic eruptions, earthquakes, and other natural disasters occurring in calendar year 2018, and tornadoes and floods occurring in calendar year 2019 under the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5121 et seq.), $600,000,000, to remain available until expended: Provided, That such amount is designated by the Congress as being for an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985: Provided further, That within the amount appropriated, $1,000,000 shall be transferred to the “Office of Inspector General” account for carrying out investigations and audits related to the funding provided under this heading.

NATIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION

OPERATIONS, RESEARCH, AND FACILITIES

For an additional amount for “Operations, Research, and Facilities” for necessary expenses related to the consequences of Hurricanes Florence and Michael, and Typhoons Yutu and Mangkhut: Provided, That such amount is designated by the Congress as being for an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.
For an additional amount for “Operation and Maintenance, Air Force”, $670,000,000, for necessary expenses related to the consequences of Hurricanes Michael and Florence and Typhoon Mangkhut, $114,000,000, for necessary expenses related to the consequences of Hurricane Florence and Typhoon Mangkhut, $89,200,000, to remain available until expended, for necessary expenses related to the consequences of Hurricane Florence for repair and alteration of buildings under the custody and control of the Administrator of General Services, and for real property management and related activities not otherwise provided for: Provided, That such amount may be used to reimburse the Fund for obligations incurred for this purpose prior to the date of enactment of this Act: Provided further, That such amount is designated by the Congress as being for an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

For an additional amount for “Flood Control and Coastal Emergencies”, as authorized by section 5 of the Act of August 18, 1941 (33 U.S.C. 701n), for necessary expenses to prepare for flood, hurricane and other natural disasters and support emergency operations, repairs, and other activities in response to such disasters, as authorized by law, $2,000,000,000: Provided, That such amount is designated by the Congress as being for an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

For an additional amount for “Operation and Maintenance, Air Force”, $48,977,000; of which $45,500,000, to remain available until expended, for fire remediation activities related to wildfires in 2018: Provided, That such amount is designated by the Congress as being for an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

For an additional amount for “Department of Homeland Security, Federal Buildings Fund”, $91,300,000, to remain available until expended, for fire remediation and suppression emergency assistance related to wildfires in 2018: Provided, That such amount is designated by the Congress as being for an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

For an additional amount for “Department of Homeland Security, Federal Buildings Fund”, $250,000,000, to remain available until expended, for fire remediation and suppression emergency assistance related to wildfires in 2018: Provided, That such amount is designated by the Congress as being for an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

For an additional amount for “Mississippi River and Tributaries”, as authorized by section 5 of the Act of August 18, 1941 (33 U.S.C. 701n), for necessary expenses to address emergency situations at Corps of Engineers projects and rehabilitate and repair damages to Corps of Engineers projects and shore protection projects: Provided, That the sum of $575,000,000, to remain available until expended: Provided, That such amount is designated by the Congress as being for an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

For an additional amount for “Operation and Maintenance, Air Force”, $509,000,000, for necessary expenses related to the consequences of Hurricane Florence and Typhoon Mangkhut, $587,997,000, of which such amounts are necessary to cover the Federal share of eligible operation and maintenance costs for coastal harbors and channels, and for inland harbors: Provided, That such amount is designated by the Congress as being for an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

For an additional amount for “Operation and Maintenance, Air Force”, $30,000,000, for necessary expenses related to the consequences of Hurricane Florence and Typhoon Mangkhut, $35,200,000, for necessary expenses related to the consequences of Hurricane Florence and Typhoon Mangkhut, $38,977,000, of which such amounts are necessary to cover the Federal share of eligible operation and maintenance costs for ports and harbor facilities and, for Federal expenditures: Provided, That such amount is designated by the Congress as being for an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

For an additional amount for “Operation and Maintenance, Air Force”, $25,000,000, for necessary expenses related to the consequences of Hurricane Florence and Typhoon Mangkhut, $28,977,000, of which such amounts are necessary to cover the Federal share of eligible operation and maintenance costs for federal harbor facilities and, for Federal expenditures: Provided, That such amount is designated by the Congress as being for an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.
provided, That such amount is designated by the Congress as being for an emergency requirement pursuant to section 150(d)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

For an additional amount for "Construction" for repairs and replacements related to the consequences of Hurricanes Florence and Michael, Typhoons Yutu and Mangkhut, and volcanic eruptions, $78,000,000, to remain available until expended: Provided, That such amount is designated by the Congress as being for an emergency requirement pursuant to section 150(d)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

For an additional amount for "Construction" for repairs and replacements related to the consequences of Typhoon Yutu for the hazardous waste financial assistance grants program and for other solid waste management activities, $46,977,000, to remain available until expended, provided that none of these funds shall be subject to section 301(b) of the Solid Waste Disposal Act; and for grants under section 106 of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act, $5,000,000, to remain available until expended, to address impacts of Hurricanes Florence, Typhoon Yutu, and calendar year 2018 wildfires, notwithstanding subsections (b), (e), and (f), of such section: Provided, That such amounts are designated by the Congress as being for an emergency requirement pursuant to section 150(d)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

For an additional amount for "Technical Assistance to Territories" for financial management expenses related to the consequences of Typhoon Yutu, $2,000,000, to remain available until expended: Provided, That such amount is designated by the Congress as being for an emergency requirement pursuant to section 150(d)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

For an additional amount for "Technical Assistance to Territories" for federal water pollution control works and drinking water treatment works and drinking water facilities impacted by Hurricanes Florence and Michael, Typhoon Yutu, and calendar year 2018 wildfires and earthquakes: Provided further, That notwithstanding the requirements of section 601(i) of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act and section 1452(a)(1)(D) of the Safe Drinking Water Act, funds appropriated herein shall be provided to States or Territories in EPA Regions 4, 9, and 10 in amounts determined by the Administrator for wastewater treatment works and drinking water facilities impacted by Hurricanes Florence and Michael, Typhoon Yutu, and calendar year 2018 wildfires and earthquakes: Provided further, That notwithstanding the requirements of section 601(a) of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act and section 1452(a)(1)(D) of the Safe Drinking Water Act, funds appropriated herein shall be provided to States or Territories in EPA Regions 4, 9, and 10 in amounts determined by the Administrator for wastewater treatment works and drinking water facilities impacted by Hurricanes Florence and Michael, Typhoon Yutu, and calendar year 2018 wildfires and earthquakes: Provided further, That notwithstanding the requirements of section 601(i) of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act and section 1452(d) of the Safe Drinking Water Act, for the funds appropriated herein, each State shall use not less than 20 percent but not more than 30 percent of the amount of its capitalization grants to provide additional subsidization to eligible recipients of principal, negative interest loans or grants or any combination of these: Provided further, That the Administrator shall retain 10 percent of the funds appropriated herein for grants for drinking water facilities and wastewater treatment plants impacted by...
Typhoon Yutu: Provided further, That the funds appropriated herein shall be used for eligible projects whose purpose is to reduce flood or fire damage risk and vulnerability or to respond to rapid population displacement or change or natural disaster at treatment works as defined by section 212 of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act or any eligible facilities under section 152 of the Safe Drinking Water Act, and for other eligible tasks at such treatment works or facilities necessary to further such purposes: Provided further, That such amount is designated by the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency as being for an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

RELATED AGENCIES
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
FOREST SERVICE
Funds appropriated for ‘‘Forest and Rangeland Research’’ for necessary expenses related to natural disasters in 2018, $1,000,000, to remain available until expended: Provided, That such amount is designated by the Congress as being for an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Bal- anced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

STATE AND PRIVATE FORESTRY
Funds appropriated for ‘‘State and Private Forestry’’ for necessary expenses related to natural disasters in 2018, $12,000,000, to remain available until expended: Provided, That such amount is designated by the Congress as being for an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

NATIONAL FOREST SYSTEM
Funds appropriated for ‘‘National Forest System’’ for necessary expenses related to natural disasters in 2018, $34,960,000, to remain available until expended: Provided, That such amount is designated by the Congress as being for an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

WILDFIRE MANAGEMENT
Funds appropriated for ‘‘Wildland Fire Management’’, $720,271,000, to remain available through September 30, 2022, for wildland fire suppression operations: Provided, That such funds shall be solely available for the costs of projects with other appropriations accounts from which funds were previously transferred for wildland fire suppression in fiscal year 2018 to fully repay those amounts: Provided further, That such amount is designated by the Congress as being for an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
NATIONAL INSTITUTES OF HEALTH
For an additional amount for ‘‘National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences’’, $247,118,483, for necessary expenses directly related to the consequences of Hurricanes Florence and Michael, $1,000,000, to remain available until expended: Provided, That such amount is designated by the Congress as being for an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

GENERAL PROVISION—THIS TITLE
SEC. 701. Not later than 45 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the agencies receiving funds appropriated by this title shall provide a detailed operating plan of anticipated uses of funds made available in this title by State and Territory, and by project, to the Committees on Appropriations: Provided, That no such funds shall be obligated before the operating plans are provided to the Committees: Provided further, That such plans shall be updated, including obligations to date, and submitted to the Committees on Appropriations every 60 days until all such funds are expended.

TITLe VIII
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR
EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING ADMINISTRATION
For an additional amount for ‘‘Training and Employment Services’’, $50,000,000, for the dislocated workers assistance national reserve, $658,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2022, for necessary expenses directly related to the consequences of Hurricanes Florence and Michael, Typhoon Mangkhut, Super Typhoon Yutu, wildfires and earthquakes occurring in calendar year 2018 and tornadoes and floods occurring in calendar year 2019 referred to under this heading as ‘‘covered disaster or emergency’’, to remain available until September 30, 2022: Provided, That the Secretary of Labor may transfer up to $1,000,000 of such funds to any other Department of Labor account for restoration and recovery needs, including worker protection activities: Provided further, That these sums may be used to replace grant funds previously obligated to the impacted areas: Provided further, That of the amount provided, up to $50,000,000, to remain available until expended, shall be transferred to ‘‘Office of Inspector General’’ for oversight of activities under this section: Provided further, That such amount is designated by the Congress as being for an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

WILDFIRE MANAGEMENT
(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)
For an additional amount for ‘‘Wildfire Fire Management’’, $720,271,000, to remain available through September 30, 2022, for wildland fire suppression operations: Provided, That such funds shall be solely available for the costs of projects with other appropriations accounts from which funds were previously transferred for
Provided further, That $25,000,000 shall be for payments to States, territories, and tribes for activities authorized under subpart I of part B of title IV of the Social Security Act, if such funds are allocated based on assessed need notwithstanding section 233 of such Act: Provided further, That such amount is designated by the Congress as being for an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

HURRICANE EDUCATION RECOVERY (INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

For an additional amount for "Hurricane Education Recovery" for necessary expenses related to the consequences of Hurricanes Florence and Michael, Typhoon Mangkhut, Super Typhoon Yutu, and wildfires, earthquakes, and volcanic eruptions occurring in calendar year 2018 and tornadoes and floods occurring in calendar year 2019 in those areas for which a major disaster or emergency has been declared, $165,000,000, to remain available through September 30, 2020, for expenses directly related to the consequences of Hurricanes Florence and Michael, Typhoon Mangkhut, Super Typhoon Yutu, and wildfires, earthquakes, and volcanic eruptions occurring in calendar year 2018 and tornadoes and floods occurring in calendar year 2019 in those areas for which a major disaster or emergency has been declared, $165,000,000, to remain available through September 30, 2020, for assisting in meeting the educational needs of individuals affected by a covered disaster or emergency: Provided further, That such amount may be provided through any of the programs authorized under this heading in section 676(b)(8) of the Community Services Block Grant Act, each State, territory, or tribe may allocate funds to eligible entities based on assessed need: Provided further, That funds appropriated in this paragraph shall not be available for costs that are reimbursed by the Federal Emergency Management Agency, under a contract for insurance, or by self-insurance: Provided further, That obligations incurred for the purposes provided herein prior to the date of enactment of this Act may be charged to funds provided in this heading: Provided further, That such amount is designated by the Congress as being for an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

SEC. 801. Not later than 30 days after enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Education shall submit to the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Senate a spend plan detailing funding estimates for audits and investigations of any such declared disasters occurring in 2018 and identifying funding estimates or carryover balances, if any, that may be available for audits and investigations of any other such declared disasters: Provided further, That such amount is designated by the Congress as being for an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

TITLE V

LEGISLATIVE BRANCH

GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTABILITY OFFICE

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

For an additional amount for "Salaries and Expenses", $10,000,000, to remain available until expended, for audits and investigations related to Hurricane Lane, Florence, Michael, Typhoon Mangkhut, and American Samoa shall each submit a plan to the Secretary outlining the steps each territory shall take to collect and report reliable data to the transformed Medicaid Statistical Information System (T–MSIS) (or a successor system).

(a) The amounts provided by the amendments made by subsection (a) are designated by the Congress as being for an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

TITLES XII

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

MILITARY CONSTRUCTION, NAVY AND MARINE CORPS

For an additional amount for "Military Construction, Navy and Marine Corps",
$600,000,000, to remain available until Sep­tem­ber 30, 2023, for plan­ning and design, and con­struc­tion expen­sures relat­ed to the con­se­quences of Hurri­canes Flo­rence and Mi­chael, or the Army Na­tion­al Guard: Pro­vided, That none of the funds shall be avail­able for obliga­tion until the Com­mit­tees on Appro­pri­ations of the House of Rep­re­sen­ta­tives and the Sen­ate sub­mit to the Com­mit­tees on Appro­pri­ations of the House of Rep­re­sen­ta­tives and the Sen­ate a detailed expen­sure plan for funds pro­vided under this head­ing: Pro­vided fur­ther, That such funds may be obli­gated or expen­sured for plan­ning and design and mili­tary con­struc­tion proj­ects not oth­er­wise autho­rized by law: Pro­vided fur­ther, That such amount is des­ignated by the Con­gres­s as being for an emer­gency require­ment pursuant to sec­tion 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Bal­anced Budget and Emer­gency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

MILITARY CONSTRUCTION, AIR FORCE

For an addi­tion­al amount for “Mili­tary Construction, Air Force”, $1,000,000,000, to remain available until Sep­tem­ber 30, 2023, for plan­ning and design, and con­struc­tion expen­sures relat­ed to the con­se­quences of Hurri­canes Flo­rence and Michael: Pro­vided, That none of the funds shall be avail­able for obliga­tion until the Com­mit­tees on Appro­pri­ations of the House of Rep­re­sen­ta­tives and the Sen­ate sub­mit to the Com­mit­tees on Appro­pri­ations of the House of Rep­re­sen­ta­tives and the Sen­ate a detailed expen­sure plan for funds pro­vided under this head­ing: Pro­vided fur­ther, That such funds may be obli­gated or expen­sured for plan­ning and design and mili­tary con­struc­tion proj­ects not oth­er­wise autho­rized by law: Pro­vided fur­ther, That such amount is des­ignated by the Con­gres­s as being for an emer­gency require­ment pursuant to sec­tion 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Bal­anced Budget and Emer­gency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

MILITARY CONSTRUCTION, ARMY NATIONAL GUARD

For an addi­tion­al amount for “Mili­tary Construction, Army National Guard”, $42,400,000, to remain available until Sep­tem­ber 30, 2023, for nec­essary expen­sures relat­ed to the con­se­quences of Hurri­canes Flo­rence and Michael: Pro­vided, That none of the funds shall be avail­able for obliga­tion until the Com­mit­tees on Appro­pri­ations of the House of Rep­re­sen­ta­tives and the Sen­ate sub­mit to the Com­mit­tees on Appro­pri­ations of the House of Rep­re­sen­ta­tives and the Sen­ate a detailed expen­sure plan for funds pro­vided under this head­ing: Pro­vided fur­ther, That such funds may be obli­gated or expen­sured for plan­ning and design and mili­tary con­struc­tion proj­ects not oth­er­wise autho­rized by law: Pro­vided fur­ther, That such amount is des­ignated by the Con­gres­s as being for an emer­gency require­ment pursuant to sec­tion 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Bal­anced Budget and Emer­gency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

VETERANS HEALTH ADMINISTRATION

MEDICAL FACILITIES

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

For an addi­tion­al amount for “Medical Fac­i­li­ties”, $3,000,000,000, to remain available until Sep­tem­ber 30, 2023, for nec­essary expen­sures relat­ed to the con­se­quences of Hurri­canes Flo­rence and Michael: Pro­vided, That the Sec­re­ta­ry of the Navy, or his designee, shall sub­mit to the Com­mit­tees on Appro­pri­ations of the House of Represent­atives and the Sen­ate a detailed expen­sure plan for funds pro­vided under this head­ing: Pro­vided fur­ther, That such funds may be obli­gated or expen­sured for plan­ning and design and mili­tary con­struc­tion proj­ects not oth­er­wise autho­rized by law: Pro­vided fur­ther, That such amount is des­ignated by the Con­gres­s as being for an emer­gency require­ment pursuant to sec­tion 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Bal­anced Budget and Emer­gency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

COMMUNITY PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT FUND

(MUNICIPAL RELIEF AND RECOVERY)

For an addi­tion­al amount for ‘‘Com­mu­nity Devel­op­ment Fund’’, $2,431,000,000, to remain avail­able until expen­sured, for nec­essary expen­sures for activ­i­ties autho­rized under title I of the Bush­er­ton and Com­mu­nity Devel­op­ment Act of 1974 (42 U.S.C. 5301 et seq.) relat­ed to dis­tress and dis­trefs, long-term recover­ies, restora­tion of infra­struc­ture and hous­ing, econ­o­mic revital­iza­tion, and mit­i­ga­tion in the most impacted and dis­tressed areas result­ing from a major dis­aster that occ­urred in 2018 or 2019 (ex­cept as oth­er­wise pro­vided): Pro­vided fur­ther, That such funds may be obli­gated or expen­sured for plan­ning and design and mili­tary con­struc­tion proj­ects not oth­er­wise autho­rized by law: Pro­vided fur­ther, That such amount is des­ignated by the Con­gres­s as being for an emer­gency require­ment pursuant to sec­tion 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Bal­anced Budget and Emer­gency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

GENERAL PROVISION—THIS TITLE

SEC. 1001. Not­with­stand­ing any oth­er pro­vi­sion of law, funds made avail­able under this title shall be avail­able only for pur­poses spec­i­fi­cally described under this head­ing.

TITLE XI

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

FEDERAL TRANSPORTATION ADMINISTRATION

PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION EMERGENCY RELIEF PROGRAM

For an addi­tion­al amount for the “Public Trans­porta­tion Emer­gency Relief Program” as author­ized under sec­tion 5324 of title 49, United States Code, $10,542,000 to remain avail­able until expended, for nec­essary expen­sures for activ­i­ties authorized under title I of the Robert T. Stafford Dis­aster Relief and Emer­gency Assis­tance Act (42 U.S.C. 5121 et seq.), to pro­vide pri­or­i­ty to the imple­men­ta­tion of infra­struc­ture and hous­ing, econ­o­mic revital­iza­tion, and mit­i­ga­tion in the most impacted and dis­tressed areas result­ing from a major dis­aster that occ­urred in 2018 or 2019 (ex­cept as oth­er­wise pro­vided): Pro­vided fur­ther, That such funds may be obli­gated or expen­sured for plan­ning and design and mili­tary con­struc­tion proj­ects not oth­er­wise autho­rized by law: Pro­vided fur­ther, That such amount is des­ignated by the Con­gres­s as being for an emer­gency require­ment pursuant to sec­tion 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Bal­anced Budget and Emer­gency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

FEDERAL AVIATION ADMINISTRATION

PROGRAM

(AIRPORT AND AIRWAY TRUST FUND)

Of the amounts made avail­able for “Fed­eral Aviation Admin­is­tra­tion—Operations” in divi­sion B of the Bipartis­an Bud­get Act of 2018 (Pub­lic Law 115–123), up to $18,000,000 shall be avail­able until expended, for nec­essary expen­sures for activ­i­ties author­ized under title I of the Robert T. Stafford Dis­aster Relief and Emer­gency Assis­tance Act (42 U.S.C. 5121 et seq.), to pro­vide pri­or­i­ty to the imple­men­ta­tion of infra­struc­ture and hous­ing, econ­o­mic revital­iza­tion, and mit­i­ga­tion in the most impacted and dis­tressed areas result­ing from a major dis­aster that occ­urred in 2018 or 2019 (ex­cept as oth­er­wise pro­vided): Pro­vided fur­ther, That such funds may be obli­gated or expen­sured for plan­ning and design and mili­tary con­struc­tion proj­ects not oth­er­wise autho­rized by law: Pro­vided fur­ther, That such amount is des­ignated by the Con­gres­s as being for an emer­gency require­ment pursuant to sec­tion 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Bal­anced Budget and Emer­gency Deficit Control Act of 1985.
the same heading in Public Law 115–254 that remain available, after the funds under such headings have been allocated for necessary expenses for activities authorized under such heading, shall be granted to grantees to support mitigation activities in the most impacted and distressed areas resulting from a major disaster that occurred in 2018: Provided further, That of the amounts made available under this heading, up to $5,000,000 shall be made available under this Act or any future Act, and any additional action plan revisions shall include the execution of revised grant terms and conditions as necessary. Once the implementing Notice is published, any additional action plan revisions shall follow the requirements contained therein.

(b) Amounts made available for administrative costs for activities authorized under the heading “Department of Housing and Urban Development—Community Planning and Development—Community Development Fund” in this Act or in division I of Public Law 115–254 that are approved by HUD for use in response to Hurricane Florence may be used interchangeably and without limitation for the same activities in the most impacted and distressed areas related to Hurricane Matthew. Until HUD publishes the Federal Register Notice implementing this provision, grantees may submit for HUD approval revised plans for the use of funds that were previously designated by the Congress as for an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985: Provided further, That amounts repurposed under this heading that were previously designated by the Congress as for an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

GENERAL PROVISION—THIS TITLE

SEC. 1101. (a) Amounts previously made available for activities authorized under the heading “Department of Housing and Urban Development Act of 1974 (42 U.S.C. 5301 et seq.)” related to disaster relief, long-term recovery, restoration of infrastructure and housing, economic revitalization, and mitigation in the most impacted and distressed areas resulting from a major disaster, including funds provided under section 145 of division C of Public Law 114–223 (as added by section 103 of division A of Public Law 114–254), section 421 of division K of Public Law 115–31, and any mitigation funding provided under the heading “Department of Housing and Urban Development—Community Planning and Development—Community Development Fund” in this Act or in division I of Public Law 115–254 that are approved by HUD for use in response to Hurricane Florence may be used interchangeably and without limitation for the same activities in the most impacted and distressed areas related to Hurricane Matthew.
amounts previously provided under section 420 of division L of Public Law 114–113, section 145 of division C of Public Law 114–223, section 192 of division C of Public Law 114–223 (as added by section 101(c) of division A of Public Law 114–254), section 421 of division K of Public Law 115–31, and under the heading “Defending and Urban Development—Community Planning and Development—Community Development Fund” of division B of Public Law 115–56, Public Law 115–121, and Public Law 115–264, shall be available for eligible administrative costs of the grantee related to any disaster relief funding identified in this subsection without regard to any disaster appropriation from which such funds originated.

(c) The additional uses pursuant to this section that were previously designated by the Congress, respectively, as an emergency requirement or as being for disaster relief pursuant to the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985 or as being for disaster relief pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985 are designated by the Congress as being for an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985 or as being for disaster relief pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(D) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

SEC. 1102. Of all amounts made available for mitigation activities under the heading “Department of Housing and Urban Development—Community Planning and Development Fund” of Public Law 115–123, the Secretary shall publish in the Federal Register the allocations to all eligible grantees, and the necessary administrative directives applicable to such allocations within 90 days after enactment of this Act;

(1) For any plans or amendments addressing the use of any funds provided under Public Law 115–123 and received by the Secretary prior to December 22, 2018, the Secretary shall accept amendments within 15 days of enactment of this Act and pending plans within 30 days of enactment of this Act;

(2) After the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary may not apply the statutory waiver or alternative requirement authority provided by Public Law 115–123 to extend or otherwise waive statutory and regulatory provisions governing the timeline for review of required grantee plans;

Provided, That any amounts allocated pursuant to this section to any such grantee shall not be available for draw down and expenditure by a grantee that has entered into alternative procedures under section 423 of the Stafford Act as of the date of enactment of this Act until such grantee has reached a final agreement on all fixed cost estimates within the timeline provided by the Federal Emergency Management Agency: Provided further, That prior to making any grant of funds allocated pursuant to this section, the Secretary must receive from the grantee information that allows the Secretary to certify that such grantee has in place proficient financial controls and procurement processes and has established adequate procedures to prevent any duplication of benefits as defined by section 312 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5165), to ensure timely expenditure of funds, to maintain comprehensive websites regarding all disaster recovery activities assisted with these funds, and to detect and prevent waste, fraud, and abuse of funds: Provided further, That amounts repurposed under this heading that were previously designated by the Congress as an emergency requirement pursuant to the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985 are designated by the Congress as an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

TITLE XII
GENERAL PROVISIONS—THIS ACT

SEC. 1201. Each amount appropriated or made available by this Act is in addition to amounts otherwise appropriated for the fiscal year involving the use of any funds provided under this Act.

SEC. 1202. No part of any appropriation contained in this Act shall remain available for obligation beyond the current fiscal year unless expressly so provided herein.

SEC. 1203. Unless otherwise provided for by this Act, the additional amounts appropriated by this Act to appropriations accounts shall be available under the authorities and conditions applicable to such appropriations accounts for fiscal year 2019.

SEC. 1204. Each amount designated in this Act for an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985 shall be available (or rescinded or transferred, if applicable) only if the President subsequently so designates all such amounts and transmits such designations to the Congress.

SEC. 1205. For purposes of this Act, the consequences or impacts of any hurricane shall include damages caused by the storm at any time during the entirety of its duration as a cyclone, as defined by the National Hurricane Center.

SEC. 1206. Any amount appropriated by this Act, designated by the Congress as an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985 and subsequently so designated by the President, and transferred pursuant to emergency requirement authority provided by this Act shall retain such designation.

SEC. 1207. (a) Section 1309(a) of the National Flood Insurance Act of 1968 (42 U.S.C. 4016(a)) is amended by striking “May 31, 2019” and inserting “September 30, 2019”.

(b) Section 1319 of the National Flood Insurance Act of 1968 (42 U.S.C. 4026) is amended by striking “May 31, 2019” and inserting “September 30, 2019”.

(c) If this Act is enacted after May 31, 2019, the amendments made by subsections (a) and (b) shall take effect as if enacted on May 31, 2019.

This Act may be cited as the “Additional Supplemental Appropriations for Disaster Relief Act, 2019”.

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I have 3 requests for committees to meet during today’s session of the Senate. They have the approval of the Majority and Minority leaders.

Pursuant to rule XXVI, paragraph 5(a), of the Standing Rules of the Senate, the following committees are authorized to meet during today’s session of the Senate:

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

The Committee on Foreign Relations is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, May 23, 2019, at 9:45 a.m., to conduct a hearing.

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

The Committee on Finance is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, May 23, 2019, at time to be determined, to conduct a hearing on the following nominations:

David Fabian Black, of North Dakota, to be Deputy Commissioner of Social Security, and Emini Toro, of Virginia, to be a Judge of the United States Tax Court.

COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

The Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, May 23, 2019, at 9:15 a.m., to conduct a hearing.

NATIONAL PUBLIC WORKS WEEK

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on the Judiciary be discharged from further consideration of the Senate proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 213, without objection, it is so ordered.

The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 213) designating the week of May 19 through May 25, 2019, as “National Public Works Week.”

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and that the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolution (S. Res. 213) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

(The resolution, with its preamble, is printed in the RECORD of May 16, 2019, under “Submitted Resolutions.”)

RESOLUTIONS SUBMITTED TODAY

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate now proceed to the en bloc consideration of the following Senate Resolutions which were submitted earlier today: S. Res. 222, S. Res. 223, S. Res. 224, S. Res. 225, and S. Res. 226.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolutions en bloc.

Mr. MCCONNELL. I know of no further debate on the resolutions.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. If there is no further debate, the question is on adoption of the resolutions en bloc.

The resolutions were agreed to.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the preamble be agreed to and that the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table, all en bloc.

The resolutions, with their preambles, are printed in today’s RECORD under “Submitted Resolutions.”

May 23, 2019
CONGRESSIONAL RECORD—SENATE
S3127
The PRESIDING OFFICER. If there is no further debate on the bill, the bill having been read the third time, the question is, Shall the bill pass?

The bill (S. 1693) was passed as follows:

S. 1693

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “National Flood Insurance Program Extension Act of 2019”.

SEC. 2. REAUTHORIZATION OF NATIONAL FLOOD INSURANCE PROGRAM.

(a) FINANCING.—Section 1308(a) of the National Flood Insurance Act of 1968 (42 U.S.C. 4016(a)) is amended by striking “May 31, 2019” and inserting “June 14, 2019”.

(b) PROGRAM EXPIRATION.—Section 1319 of the National Flood Insurance Act of 1968 (42 U.S.C. 4026) is amended by striking “May 31, 2019” and inserting “June 14, 2019”.

(c) RETROACTIVE EFFECTIVE DATE.—If this Act is enacted after May 31, 2019, the amendments made by subsections (a) and (b) shall take effect as if enacted on May 31, 2019.

Mr. McCONNELL. I ask unanimous consent that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The concurrent resolution (S. Con. Res. 3) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The concurrent resolution, with its preamble, is printed in the RECORD of February 13, 2019, under “Submitted Resolutions.”

DISCHARGE AND REFERRAL.—S. 886

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be referred to, the preamble be agreed to, and the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The concurrent resolution (S. Con. Res. 3) recognizing the rich history, heritage, and strategic importance of the Republic of the Marshall Islands and the Marshallese population residing in the United States was discharged, and the Senate proceeded to consider the concurrent resolution.

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I seek unanimous consent that the resolution be referred to, the preamble be agreed to, and the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The concurrent resolution (S. Con. Res. 3) was agreed to.

ORDER FOR FRIDAY, MAY 24, 2019, THROUGH MONDAY, JUNE 3, 2019

Mr. McCONNELL. Now, Mr. President, I seek unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it adjourn to convene for pro forma sessions only, with no business being conducted on the following days and times and that following each pro forma session, the Senate adjourn for the next pro forma session: Friday, May 24 at 9:45 a.m.; Tuesday, May 28 at 11:30 a.m.; Friday, May 31 at 10:30 a.m.

I further ask unanimous consent that when the Senate adjourns on Friday May 31, it next convene at 3 p.m., Monday, June 3, that following the prayer and pledge, the morning hour be deemed elapsed, 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 resume consideration of the motion to proceed to Calendar No. 78, S. 1332; finally, that notwithstanding the provisions of rule XXII, the cloture motions filed during today’s session ripen at 5:30 p.m., Monday, June 3.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 9:45 A.M. TOMORROW

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, if there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask that it stand adjourned under the previous order.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 6:34 p.m., adjourned until Friday, May 24, 2019, at 9:45 a.m.
The following officers for appointment are recommended for the grade indicated in the United States Army under Title 10, U.S.C., Section 624 and 7064:

To be major

To be lieutenant colonel

The following named officer for appointment to the grade indicated in the United States Army under Title 10, U.S.C., Section 624:

The following named officer for appointment to the grade indicated in the United States Army under Title 10, U.S.C., Section 624 and 7064:

The following officer for appointment to the grade indicated in the United States Army under Title 10, U.S.C., Section 624: }
The following named officers for appointment to the grade indicated in the United States Army under title 10, U.S.C., section 624:

To be lieutenant colonel

Charles M. Abeyawardena
John C. Acosta
Brad J. Adams
Elizabeth A. Agapios
Melissa J. Albaugh
Ronald J. Alcala
Bradley K. Allbritten
Humberto A. Alvarez
Darius D. Anana
Ann S. Anderson
Richard H. Anderson
Todd A. Anderson
Tohias S. Apticar
Dallen R. Army
Charlhill T. Austin
Gina M. Aviles
Mark N. Awad
Mark J. Balboson
Matthew J. Tabbour
Nolan J. Barco
Amanda E. Barnett
James P. Barnhart
Aaric S. Bembry
Brett D. Bible
Benjamin K. Bennett
Christopher J. Blank
Jennifer F. Bocanegra
Robert B. Rothsford
Catherine G. Royallton
Patrick M. Bradley
Christopher J. Braunstein
James M. Brogan
Thomas V. Brooks IV
David C. Brown
Lucas B. Bryant
William M. Brooks, Jr.
David W. Butler
Frank E. Canetti
Enrique T. Canales-Fayles
Jackson W. Capps
Kenneth W. Cebul
Daniele C. Taylor
Michael J. Taylor
Patrick J. Taylor
Emilyano Tellado
Jamison J. Temple
Jacob M. Teplesky
Jami L. Thomasson
Michael A. Trusman
Andrew W. Tull
Emiliano Tuzo
Matthew W. Todd
Mark D. Tomola
Justin D. Toohey
Christopher B. Treutling
Jeffrey H. Ushtka
Clintond H. Underwood
Jamison M. Upson
Colin R. Vasek
Richard W. Veve
Joseph R. Wells
Wade W. Welsh
Kevin C. Whete
Gage L. Wentworth
Daniel M. Williams
Dennis R. Williams
Frederick D. Williams
Brittany Y. Woods
Jeffrey S. Wright
Andrew K. Yang

Jim A. Wright
Dennis R. Williams
Daniel M. Williams
Gage L. Wentworth
Daniel M. Williams
Dennis R. Williams
Frederick D. Williams
Brittany Y. Woods
Jeffrey S. Wright
Andrew K. Yang

To be captain

Charles R. Walker
Warren W. Wales
John P. Wana
Kevin M. Ward
Lloyd R. Warren
Christopher L. Watkins
James P. Watts
Robert D. Webb
Stevie J. Weber
Laura R. Weimer
Joseph E. Wells
Wade W. Welsh
Kevin C. Whete
Gage L. Wentworth
Daniel M. Williams
Dennis R. Williams
Frederick D. Williams
Brittany Y. Woods
Jeffrey S. Wright
Andrew K. Yang

To be first lieutenant

Kimberly A. Rice
Leslie L. Rice
Trent J. Rice
Jennifer L. Rice
Terrence P. Rice
James K. Rice
Audrey J. Rice
Neal J. Rice
Richard L. Rice
Bryan M. Rice
James M. Rice
William K. Rice
David W. Rice
Sandra M. Rice
John M. Rice
James M. Rice
Richard B. Rice
Michael D. Rice
Jeremy D. Rice
Anne S. Rice
Andrew K. Rice
Derek I. Rice
Frank E. Rice
James M. Rice
Richard B. Rice
Michael D. Rice
Jeremy D. Rice
Anne S. Rice
Andrew K. Rice
Derek I. Rice
Frank E. Rice
James M. Rice
To be lieutenant colonel

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<th>Name</th>
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<td>John R. Abella</td>
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To be lieutenant commander

RYAN D. SCULLY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624.

To be lieutenant commander

BRANDON T. BRIDGES

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624.

To be lieutenant commander

MARK S. JAVATE

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624.

To be commander

CHANDLER W. BOKER

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624.

To be commander

KRISTINE N. BRNICH

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624.

To be commander

DIEGO F. ALVARADO

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624.

To be commander

ANTHONY J. FALCO IV

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624.

To be commander

REBECCA L. MARTIN

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624.
To the grade indicated in the United States Navy under Title 10, U.S.C., Section 624:

Selina D. Bandy

In the grade indicated in the regular Navy

Levi Desjarla

Under Title 10, U.S.C., Section 531:

Damon R. Sumerall

Lacey M. Sizemore

Nicole A. Serrano

Steven J. Rancourt

Michael J. Pyne

Endia T. Mendez

Kaitlin M. McLeod

Robert A. Linn

Robert V. Liberato

Jeremy N. Hyler

Leslie A. Huffman

Shane L. Beavers

William M. Corley

Stephanie K. Bates

Bradley P. Henderson

Leslie D. Huffman

Jeremy N. Hyler

Jeanine A. Lang

Robert V. Liberato

Robert A. Linz

Kaitlin M. Molloy

Endia T. Mendez

Danielle A. Nelson

Michael J. Pynne

Steven J. Ranscourt

Alanna M. Malenino

Patrick M. Saluke

Nicole A. Berhans

Lachy M. Rizemore

Damon R. Summerall

John J. Williams

The following named officers for appointment to the grade indicated in the United States Navy under Title 10, U.S.C., Section 624:

To be commander

Mische E. Culley

Curtis A. Walker

William M. Walker

Evan B. Williams

William M. Walker

John M. Beach

Bilal J. Zafir

Robert C. Griffith

Jordyn C. Watson

Michael J. Pyne

Matthew A. Finnerty

James F. Wrightson, Jr.

John L. Thiesen

Marlin R. Smith III

Lucas R. Koran

Under Title 10, U.S.C., Section 624:

To be commander

C. E. Byrd

D. N. Nettles

C. E. Byrd

D. N. Nettles

Under Title 10, U.S.C., Section 624:

To be commander

Keith A. Griffin

Anthony D. Herbert

James T. Reed

Cory S. Hicks

Scott T. Richardson

Clayton D. Jackson III

Matthew T. Johnson

Richard J. Macaulay

Randall L. Mastro

Gregory C. Morriss

Shawn T. Newman

Carlos D. Pesquera

Elaine D. Reed

Ryan A. Ripperton

Peter J. Silva, Jr.

Carlton B. Summers"
CONGRESSIONAL RECORD — SENATE

EXECUTIVE NOMINATIONS

May 23, 2019

S3135

EXECUTIVE NOMINATIONS CONFIRMED by the Senate May 23, 2019:

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

WILLIAM BOOKLESS, OF CALIFORNIA, TO BE PRINCIPAL ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF ENERGY FOR MANAGEMENT ANDperfilism; and a lieuutenant general of the United States Army.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

The following named officer for appointment as COUNSELOR OF THE UNITED STATES EMBASSY IN THE UNITED STATES to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under Title 10, U.S.C., sections 801 and 803:

MAJ. GEN. ROBERT H. WILSON

IN THE NAVY

The following officer for assignment in the United States Navy to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under Title 10, U.S.C., section 801:

COL. DAVID A. HARRIS, JR.

IN THE ARMY

The following officer for assignment in the United States Army to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under Title 10, U.S.C., sections 801 and 803:

BRIG. GEN. JONATHAN P. BRAGA

IN THE MARINE CORPS

The following officer for assignment in the United States Marine Corps to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under Title 10, U.S.C., section 801:

COL. DAVID F. MERRILL

IN THE AIR FORCE

The following officer for assignment in the United States Air Force to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under Title 10, U.S.C., section 801:

COL. DAVID A. HARRIS, JR.

IN THE NAVY

The following officer for assignment in the United States Navy to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under Title 10, U.S.C., sections 801 and 803:

COL. DAVID A. HARRIS, JR.

IN THE ARMY

The following officer for assignment in the United States Army to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under Title 10, U.S.C., section 801:

BRIG. GEN. JONATHAN P. BRAGA

IN THE MARINE CORPS

The following officer for assignment in the United States Marine Corps to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under Title 10, U.S.C., section 801:

COL. DAVID F. MERRILL

IN THE AIR FORCE

The following officer for assignment in the United States Air Force to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under Title 10, U.S.C., section 801:

COL. DAVID A. HARRIS, JR.

IN THE NAVY

The following officer for assignment in the United States Navy to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under Title 10, U.S.C., sections 801 and 803:

COL. DAVID A. HARRIS, JR.

IN THE ARMY

The following officer for assignment in the United States Army to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under Title 10, U.S.C., section 801:

BRIG. GEN. JONATHAN P. BRAGA

IN THE MARINE CORPS

The following officer for assignment in the United States Marine Corps to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under Title 10, U.S.C., section 801:

COL. DAVID F. MERRILL

IN THE AIR FORCE

The following officer for assignment in the United States Air Force to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under Title 10, U.S.C., section 801:

COL. DAVID A. HARRIS, JR.

IN THE NAVY

The following officer for assignment in the United States Navy to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under Title 10, U.S.C., sections 801 and 803:

COL. DAVID A. HARRIS, JR.

IN THE ARMY

The following officer for assignment in the United States Army to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under Title 10, U.S.C., section 801:

BRIG. GEN. JONATHAN P. BRAGA

IN THE MARINE CORPS

The following officer for assignment in the United States Marine Corps to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under Title 10, U.S.C., section 801:

COL. DAVID F. MERRILL

IN THE AIR FORCE

The following officer for assignment in the United States Air Force to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under Title 10, U.S.C., section 801:

COL. DAVID A. HARRIS, JR.

IN THE NAVY

The following officer for assignment in the United States Navy to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under Title 10, U.S.C., sections 801 and 803:

COL. DAVID A. HARRIS, JR.

IN THE ARMY

The following officer for assignment in the United States Army to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under Title 10, U.S.C., section 801:

BRIG. GEN. JONATHAN P. BRAGA

IN THE MARINE CORPS

The following officer for assignment in the United States Marine Corps to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under Title 10, U.S.C., section 801:

COL. DAVID F. MERRILL

IN THE AIR FORCE

The following officer for assignment in the United States Air Force to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under Title 10, U.S.C., section 801:

COL. DAVID A. HARRIS, JR.

IN THE NAVY

The following officer for assignment in the United States Navy to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under Title 10, U.S.C., sections 801 and 803:

COL. DAVID A. HARRIS, JR.

IN THE ARMY

The following officer for assignment in the United States Army to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under Title 10, U.S.C., section 801:

BRIG. GEN. JONATHAN P. BRAGA

IN THE MARINE CORPS

The following officer for assignment in the United States Marine Corps to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under Title 10, U.S.C., section 801:

COL. DAVID F. MERRILL

IN THE AIR FORCE

The following officer for assignment in the United States Air Force to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under Title 10, U.S.C., section 801:

COL. DAVID A. HARRIS, JR.

IN THE NAVY

The following officer for assignment in the United States Navy to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under Title 10, U.S.C., sections 801 and 803:

COL. DAVID A. HARRIS, JR.

IN THE ARMY

The following officer for assignment in the United States Army to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under Title 10, U.S.C., section 801:

BRIG. GEN. JONATHAN P. BRAGA

IN THE MARINE CORPS

The following officer for assignment in the United States Marine Corps to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under Title 10, U.S.C., section 801:

COL. DAVID F. MERRILL

IN THE AIR FORCE

The following officer for assignment in the United States Air Force to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under Title 10, U.S.C., section 801:

COL. DAVID A. HARRIS, JR.

IN THE NAVY

The following officer for assignment in the United States Navy to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under Title 10, U.S.C., sections 801 and 803:

COL. DAVID A. HARRIS, JR.

IN THE ARMY

The following officer for assignment in the United States Army to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under Title 10, U.S.C., section 801:

BRIG. GEN. JONATHAN P. BRAGA

IN THE MARINE CORPS

The following officer for assignment in the United States Marine Corps to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under Title 10, U.S.C., section 801:

COL. DAVID F. MERRILL

IN THE AIR FORCE

The following officer for assignment in the United States Air Force to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under Title 10, U.S.C., section 801:
The following named Army National Guard of the United States officers for appointment in the Reserve of the Army to the grade indicated under Title 10, U.S.C., Sections 12200 and 12212:

To be brigadier general

Col. Tracy D. Smith

Col. Frank W. Roy

To be major general

Brig. Gen. Kenneth A. Nava

Brig. Gen. Mark J. Schindler

Col. Jan C. Norris

Col. Jack A. James

Col. Gail D. Wilson

To be lieutenant general


Maj. Gen. Michael A. Beshears

Col. Joseph A. Papenfus

Col. John J. Wojciechowski

To be colonel

Col. Craig W. Strong

Col. Christopher J. Dziubeck

Col. Bryan M. Howay

To be lieutenant colonel

Col. Adam C. Volant

Col. Bradley J. Cox

Col. Matthew W. McFarland

Col. Christopher O. Mohan

Col. Robert F. Whittle, Jr.

Col. David A. Potter

Col. Thomas A. Push

Col. Kevin Verrein

Col. John B. Richardson IV

Col. Stephen G. Smith

Col. Robert J. Todd III

Col. John C. Norris

Col. lagin

Col. John J. Friel

Col. Ronald A. Cupples

Col. Thomas C. Frieloux

Col. Jamie J. Dailey

Col. Brian D. Bobo

Col. Thomas C. Frieloux

Col. Christopher T. Donahue

Col. Scott W. Hipsmigh

Col. Christine H. Ciemniak

Col. Bryan M. Howay

The following named United States officers for appointment in the Reserve of the Army to the grades indicated under Title 10, U.S.C., Sections 12200 and 12212:

To be brigadier general

Col. Philip K. Chalmers

Col. Thomas C. Frieloux

Col. Stephen G. Smith

Col. Robert J. Todd III

Col. Kevin Verrein

Col. Robert F. Whittle, Jr.

Col. David A. Potter

Col. Thomas A. Push

Col. Kevin Verrein

Col. John B. Richardson IV

Col. Stephen G. Smith

Col. Robert J. Todd III

Col. John C. Norris

Col. lagin

Col. John J. Friel

Col. Ronald A. Cupples

Col. Thomas C. Frieloux

Col. Jamie J. Dailey

Col. Brian D. Bobo

Col. Thomas A. Push

Col. Kevin Verrein

Col. Robert F. Whittle, Jr.

Col. David A. Potter

Col. Thomas A. Push

Col. Kevin Verrein

Col. John B. Richardson IV

Col. Stephen G. Smith

Col. Robert J. Todd III

Col. John C. Norris

Col. lagin

Col. John J. Friel

Col. Ronald A. Cupples

Col. Thomas C. Frieloux

Col. Jamie J. Dailey

Col. Brian D. Bobo

Col. Thomas A. Push

Col. Kevin Verrein

Col. Robert F. Whittle, Jr.

Col. David A. Potter

Col. Thomas A. Push

Col. Kevin Verrein

Col. John B. Richardson IV

Col. Stephen G. Smith

Col. Robert J. Todd III

Col. John C. Norris

Col. lagin

Col. John J. Friel

Col. Ronald A. Cupples

Col. Thomas C. Frieloux

Col. Jamie J. Dailey

Col. Brian D. Bobo

Col. Thomas A. Push

Col. Kevin Verrein

Col. Robert F. Whittle, Jr.

Col. David A. Potter

Col. Thomas A. Push

Col. Kevin Verrein

Col. John B. Richardson IV

Col. Stephen G. Smith

Col. Robert J. Todd III

Col. John C. Norris

Col. lagin

Col. John J. Friel

Col. Ronald A. Cupples

Col. Thomas C. Frieloux

Col. Jamie J. Dailey

Col. Brian D. Bobo

Col. Thomas A. Push

Col. Kevin Verrein

Col. Robert F. Whittle, Jr.

Col. David A. Potter

Col. Thomas A. Push

Col. Kevin Verrein

Col. John B. Richardson IV

Col. Stephen G. Smith

Col. Robert J. Todd III

Col. John C. Norris
IN THE ARMY

ARMY NOMINATION OF THEODORH W. KLEISNER, TO BE COLONEL.

ARMY NOMINATION OF ROBERT W. HUGHES, TO BE COLONEL.

ARMY NOMINATION OF LARRY R. JORDAN, JR., TO BE COLONEL.

ARMY NOMINATION OF KONTRINA S. PARE, TO BE MAJOR.

ARMY NOMINATION OF MARCUS L. JORDAN, TO BE LIEUTENANT COLONEL.

ARMY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH ROBERT M. HUDSON AND ENDING WITH JAMES D. SIZEMORE, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON APRIL 4, 2019.

ARMY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH JOHN E. CALLIHAN II AND ENDING WITH JEFFREY P. ATAN, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON APRIL 4, 2019.

ARMY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH KEITH A. ARCHBALD AND ENDING WITH FRANK L. WITTSBERGER, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON APRIL 4, 2019.

ARMY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH JAMES R. ADJNENBACH AND ENDING WITH KEITH B. WEBER, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON APRIL 4, 2019.

ARMY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH TIMOTHY B. ALEXANDER AND ENDING WITH MICHAEL D. LEWIS, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON APRIL 4, 2019.

ARMY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH BODUSLAW A. AUGUSTYN, TO BE MAJOR.

ARMY NOMINATION OF CHRISTOPHER L. MIEGEL, TO BE MAJOR.

ARMY NOMINATION OF JONATHAN W. ANDERSON, TO BE MAJOR.

ARMY NOMINATION OF BRIAN J. BEID, TO BE COLONEL.

ARMY NOMINATION OF THOMAS J. WARGO, TO BE COLONEL.

ARMY NOMINATION OF THERRENCI SOMMERS, TO BE COLONEL.

ARMY NOMINATION OF DAVID M. ROZELLE, TO BE COLONEL.

ARMY NOMINATION OF TONY L. DREDMOND, JR., TO BE COLONEL.

ARMY NOMINATION OF RAY G. MCCULLOCH II, TO BE LIEUTENANT COLONEL.

ARMY NOMINATION OF CORY J. COUSINS, TO BE LIEUTENANT COLONEL.

ARMY NOMINATION OF DAMON L. AUGUSTINE, TO BE LIEUTENANT COLONEL.

ARMY NOMINATION OF PAUL J. STAMBRAUGE, TO BE LIEUTENANT COLONEL.

ARMY NOMINATION OF BRENTON D. GRIFITH, TO BE LIEUTENANT COLONEL.

ARMY NOMINATION OF ANDREW E. RADBILL, TO BE MAJOR.

ARMY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH RICHARD ELLIAS AND ENDING WITH WILLIAM A. WATTS, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON APRIL 29, 2019.

ARMY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH MARILYN G. BURNS AND ENDING WITH MICHAEL F. WOOD, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON APRIL 29, 2019.


ARMY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH TIMOTHY S. ADAMS AND ENDING WITH DENNIS R. TURNER, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON APRIL 30, 2019.

ARMY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH CAROL A. ANDRUS AND ENDING WITH ABDUL K. WILLIS, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON APRIL 30, 2019.

ARMY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH THOMAS A. BRYANT AND ENDING WITH MICHAEL F. YEAGER, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON APRIL 30, 2019.

ARMY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH JEREMY J. BEARDS AND ENDING WITH MICHAELLE THOMPSON, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON APRIL 30, 2019.

ARMY NOMINATION OF REBECCA A. BRAWNER, TO BE MAJOR.

IN THE NAVY

NAVY NOMINATION OF SCOTT A. MUGNO, OF PENNSYLVANIA, TO BE AN ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF THE NAVY (MANAGEMENT).

NAVY NOMINATION OF LISA ANNE RIGOLI, TO BE COMMISSIONER, MERCHANT MARINE.

NAVY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH LESLIE A. ALBERS AND ENDING WITH SEAN E. ZUKOWSKY, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON APRIL 30, 2019.

NAVY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH JOHN E. ADAMS AND ENDING WITH DENNIS R. TURNER, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON APRIL 30, 2019.

NAVY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH ROBERT H. BATTLE AND ENDING WITH KEITH E. WILBER, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON APRIL 11, 2019.

NAVY NOMINATION OF RILEY A. WALLS, TO BE LIEUTENANT COMMANDER.

NAVY NOMINATION OF BENJAMIN D. ADAMS, TO BE LIEUTENANT COMMANDER.

NAVY NOMINATION OF FRANK R. BITTNER, TO BE LIEUTENANT COMMANDER.

NAVY NOMINATION OF DAVID M. GROVES, TO BE LIEUTENANT COMMANDER.

FOREIGN SERVICE


FOREIGN SERVICE NOMINATION OF LISA ANNE RIGOLI, TO BE COMMISSIONER, MERCHANT MARINE.

IN THE MARINE CORPS

MARINE CORPS NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH LESLIE A. ALBERS AND ENDING WITH SEAN E. ZUKOWSKY, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON APRIL 11, 2019.

IN THE NAVY

NAVY NOMINATION OF STEVEN J. DRISCH, TO BE COMMANDER.

NAVY NOMINATION OF NEIL PARTAIN, TO BE COMMANDER.

NAVY NOMINATION OF ROBERT G. GRAHAM, TO BE LIEUTENANT COMMANDER.

NAVY NOMINATION OF LAURA C. GILSTRAP, TO BE COMMANDER.

NAVY NOMINATION OF MICHAEL K. WAGNER, TO BE CAPTAIN.

NAVY NOMINATION OF JASON T. STEPP, TO BE CAPTAIN.

NAVY NOMINATION OF STEPHEN C. FLEW, TO BE CAPTAIN.

NAVY NOMINATION OFANTHONY M. CRIVELLO, TO BE COMMANDER.

NAVY NOMINATION OF GABRIEL J. CONLEY, TO BE COMMANDER.

NAVY NOMINATION OF BRENSTONE R. HELBIG, TO BE COMMANDER.

NAVY NOMINATION OF PATRICK H. O’MAHONY, TO BE CAPTAIN.

NAVY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH GUY W. JENSEN AND ENDING WITH VENITA M. SIMPSON, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON APRIL 4, 2019.

NAVY NOMINATION OF MARISSA A. MAYOR, TO BE LIEUTENANT COMMANDER.

NAVY NOMINATION OF ADAM C. HANCOCK, TO BE CAPTAIN.

NAVY NOMINATION OF JOHN J. EASTMAN, TO BE COMMANDER.

NAVY NOMINATION OF TERENCE R. MCDADO, TO BE LIEUTENANT COMMANDER.

NAVY NOMINATION OF DONALD A. SINITIERE, TO BE LIEUTENANT COMMANDER.

NAVY NOMINATION OF TIMOTHY S. REESE, TO BE LIEUTENANT COMMANDER.


NAVY NOMINATION OF JOHN E. ADAMS AND ENDING WITH DENNIS R. TURNER, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON APRIL 30, 2019.

NAVY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH JEREMY J. BEARDS AND ENDING WITH MICHAELLE THOMPSON, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON APRIL 30, 2019.

NAVY NOMINATION OF REBECCA A. BRAWNER, TO BE MAJOR.

WITHDRAWAL

Executive Message transmitted by the President to the Senate on May 23, 2019 withdrawing from further Senate consideration the following nomination:

SCOTT A. MUGNO, OF PENNSYLVANIA, TO BE AN ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF THE NAVY, VICE DAVID MORRIS MCCHARLES, WHICH WAS SENT TO THE SENATE ON JANUARY 16, 2019.
RECOGNIZING PHÓ 79 FOR BEING AWARDED THE JAMES BEARD FOUNDATION AWARD

SPEECH OF
HON. HARLEY ROUDA
OF CALIFORNIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Wednesday, May 22, 2019

Mr. ROUDA. Madam Speaker, today I’d like to recognize Phó 79 for receiving the James Beard Foundation Award in the America’s Classics category. These awards are also known as the “Oscars of the Food World”, and the America’s Classics category rewards, “quality food that reflects the character of their community”. Phó 79, founded by Lillian Trân and Thọ Trân, is in California’s 48th Congressional District in Garden Grove and was one of the original businesses that comprised what would become Little Saigon.

Founded in 1982 and one of the first phở restaurants in Southern California, Phó 79, with its cozy and modest atmosphere, belies the nondescript corner of Garden Grove it sits on. The restaurant introduced Americans to that eponymous broth soup of Vietnamese cuisine, served with meatballs, tendon, or tripe and seaweed, with bean sprouts, lime, mint leaves, and pepper. But, of course, the restaurant continues to garner acclaim for its signature oxtail soup.

Just as the restaurant introduced Americans to some of the best examples of Vietnamese culture, Phó 79, if only during a meal, connected Orange County’s Vietnamese-American refugee community to their homeland—including those who came seeking asylum in the days and years following the Vietnam War and the children and grandchildren of those refugees. Those memories are reflected in the restaurant’s name, which commemorates the year that the Trâns arrived in the United States. Their story is a testament to entrepreneurship, hard work, and the strength of the Vietnamese-American community.

With the Trâns continuing to prepare the food and work the restaurant, Phó 79 remains a fixture in Little Saigon and has played a crucial role in pioneering Vietnamese cuisine in California’s 48th District and across Southern California. Their James Beard Foundation Award in the America’s Classics category is richly deserved, and I give to them my warmest congratulations and best wishes for continued success.

THE WOMEN’S SUFFRAGE CENTENNIAL AND THE EVERY WORD WE UTTER STATUE

SPEECH OF
HON. JOE NEGUSE
OF COLORADO
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, May 23, 2019

Mr. NEGUSE. Madam Speaker, this week we honored the 100th anniversary of the House passage of the 19th Amendment.

One hundred years ago on May 21st, the House passed HJR 1 proposing an amendment to the Constitution extending the right to vote to women. It took just over a year to ratify this amendment, forever enshrining women’s right to vote in our Constitution.

At the forefront of this effort was a diverse group of women. From their first official call for equality at the Seneca Falls Convention, across multiple generations, from farms and villages throughout our nation, women organized, educated, and demanded enfranchisement. Through this brave and enduring movement, women received the vote.

It is in tribute to the fearlessly bold women who championed equality in our nation that I stand before you today, and ask for your support of H.R. 473 to establish the first outdoor statue dedicated to the Suffrage movement in Washington, D.C.

I want to ensure that my daughter and every girl growing up alongside her feel represented and are assured of the fundamental role they play in our society. Passing H.R. 473 and establishing this monument is a critical way to just that. It honors women to inspire the next generation to continue advocating for justice and equality for one another and for all who will follow them. I urge your support for H.R. 473.

RECOGNIZING JIM SARGENT OF GREAT FALLS

HON. GREG GIANFORTE
OF MONTANA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, May 23, 2019

Mr. GIANFORTE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Jim Sargent of Great Falls, a strong, reliable advocate for Montana’s agricultural and veterans organizations as well as Montana Special Olympics. As a media and public relations professional, Sarge has volunteered countless hours to promote outreach and fundraising efforts for these and other civic groups.

"Sarge," as he is known to his friends and radio listeners, grew up on a farm near Chester, in northcentral Montana. He began his media career 28 years ago covering agriculture news and sporting events. Sarge says the strength of Montana’s close-knit communities grounds his connection to ag and civic organizations.

In his service to Montana’s agricultural organizations, Sarge is closely involved with the Montana FFA Association and Montana 4-H, helping promote and host events for both groups. He also helped launch the Electric City FFA chapter. Both organizations have recognized Sarge with distinguished service awards.

"Jim has always jumped in with both feet where ever we needed him," said Jim Rose, state advisor for Montana FFA. "He’s invaluable as a promoter, but I think his biggest contribution is in the support and encouragement he gives our youth. He helps them gain confidence in their abilities and develop their leadership skills."

A member of the Montana Farm Bureau Federation, Sarge served as membership director, and he served as vice president of the Cascade County Farm Bureau.

For the past five years, Sarge has helped promote and host the Stand Down in Great Falls. The event is a benefits fair for Montana veterans and active-duty members of the military. Organizations at the event provide services, including clothing, health care services, and other resources and benefits.

Sarge also contributes his time and talents to Montana Special Olympics. A past president of the Great Falls chapter, Sarge regularly hosts events and fundraisers for the organization. Jim and Sue, his wife of 35 years, also sponsor the Exceptional Rodeo for the group. In 2018, the organization recognized Jim as its Media Personality of the Year.

Madam Speaker, for selflessly dedicating his time and talents to Montana’s civic organizations, from our agricultural and veterans organizations to Montana Special Olympics, I recognize Jim Sargent for his spirit of Montana.

QUIET COMMUNITIES ACT OF 2019

SPEECH OF
HON. GRACE MENG
OF NEW YORK
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, May 23, 2019

Ms. MENG. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the millions of Americans who suffer from noise pollution caused by aircrafts. Noise from aircraft is a constant source of torment, even if you don’t live right near an airport, but under a regular flight path. Chronic exposure to excessive noise can lead to sleep deprivation, task interruptions, among other negative consequences which result in untold costs on society in diminished work productivity.

That is why today, I introduced the “Quiet Communities Act of 2019”. This bill would re-establish the Office of Noise Abatement and Control (ONAC) in the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. Noise abatement programs across the country currently lie dormant. While the EPA retains the authority to study noise effects and make recommendations to mitigate these effects and limit environmental exposure to noise, it is unable to, its wife of 35 years, also sponsor the Exceptional Rodeo for the group. In 2018, the organization recognized Jim as its Media Personality of the Year.

Madam Speaker, for selflessly dedicating his time and talents to Montana’s civic organizations, from our agricultural and veterans organizations to Montana Special Olympics, I recognize Jim Sargent for his spirit of Montana.

As population growth and air traffic continue to increase, noise pollution is likely to become an even greater problem in the future. Currently, the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) is tasked with air transport-related noise concerns. It is responsible for developing flight paths and regulating the airline industry, but the FAA neither has the resources nor the mission priorities to adequately address intolerable levels of noise.

Madam Speaker, it is time to allow the EPA the resources it requires to resume its role in combating noise pollution and include flight
Robert was born in our nation’s capital on June 12, 1949 to Philip and Marion Pear. Growing up in our nation’s capital, Robert was immediately fascinated with policy and politics—even leading him to produce “The Pear Press” while in high school. He later went on to Harvard University, where he worked on the literary magazine “The Advocate” and eventually graduated magna cum laude in 1971. He would then go on to earn his Master of Philosophy from Balliol College in Oxford, and a Master’s in Journalism from Columbia University Graduate School of Journalism. Robert joined The New York Times in 1981. It was here that he was able to communicate the complexity of issues such as health care with remarkable clarity. It was his meticulous, exacting reporting that most recently helped keep the American public informed and engaged on the failed Republican “repeal-and-replace” efforts in 2017. Robert made it his life’s duty to ensure the American people fully understood the intricacies of Washington. Over his 40 years with the New York Times, he helped produce or support more than 6,700 New York Times articles.

Many a member or press secretary can recount stories of picking up the phone and hearing Robert’s distinctive voice on the other end of the line late at night or early in the morning, working to glean one more insight or critical piece of information for his next article. His follow up questions on both the politics and substance showed he keenly understood the currents swirling well below the surface. While Robert Pear will be missed by all who had the pleasure to get to know him, he will be remembered for his critical work, his persistence, and his lifelong commitment to public service and the American people.

IN HONOR OF STAFF SERGEANT ROBERT STANTON

HON. DAVID LOEBSACK
OF IOWA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, May 23, 2019

Mr. LOEBSACK. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and service of SSGt. Robert Stanton of Davenport, Iowa. On December 11, 1942, at just 18 years of age, Robert enlisted in the United States Marine Corps and went on to serve as a Gunner in Marine Scout Bomber Squadron 142. On March 24, 1945, while flying over the Philippines, engine trouble caused a forced landing on Panay Island. SSGt. Stanton was taken as a prisoner of war by Japanese forces and killed soon after. SSGt. Stanton left behind his loving family, including his father, Bryan Jennings Stanton, and mother, Harriett Elizabeth Conley.

As a military parent, I am honored to recognize the life and service of Robert Pear, a longtime reporter for the New York Times, and someone who has been critical to the conversation around health care for more 40 years. Robert Pear was a fixture in the Halls of Congress with his unassuming style, quiet voice and insightful questions. Robert spent countless hours in the Ways and Means Committee room reporting on health care debates of our generation—the Clinton Health Care legislation, Medicare Part D and the Affordable Care Act. Robert’s knowledge and expertise were unrivaled. His ability to take complex issues and present them in a clear and concise manner was a testament to his understanding of the policy but also what the American people needed to know.

IN REMEMBERANCE OF ROBERT PEAR

HON. RICHARD E. NEAL
OF MASSACHUSETTS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, May 23, 2019

Mr. NEAL. Madam Speaker, today I rise to recognize the life and service of Robert Pear, a longtime reporter for the New York Times, and someone who has been critical to the conversation around health care for more 40 years. Robert Pear was a fixture in the Halls of Congress with his unassuming style, quiet voice and insightful questions. Robert spent countless hours in the Ways and Means Committee room reporting on health care debates of our generation—the Clinton Health Care legislation, Medicare Part D and the Affordable Care Act. Robert’s knowledge and expertise were unrivaled. His ability to take complex issues and present them in a clear and concise manner was a testament to his understanding of the policy but also what the American people needed to know.

HONORING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, LOS ANGELES

HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF
OF CALIFORNIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, May 23, 2019

Mr. SCHIFF. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the University of California, Los Angeles upon its centennial anniversary.

Established in 1919, UCLA is geographically the smallest of the UC campuses, yet the largest student body. Nearly one third of current undergraduates are first-generation students and more than 35% of current undergraduates receive Pell Grants. Notably, UCLA is the most applied to university for undergraduate education and the highest ranked public university in the country, according to the U.S. News and World Report in 2019. UCLA’s graduates have gone on to achieve great success and merit in a variety of professional fields, including 13 MacArthur Fellows, 3 Pulitzer Prize winners, and 38 Academy Award winners. Impressively, UCLA has also produced 14 Nobel Prize winners, including Ralph J. Bunche, the first person of color to receive a Nobel Peace Prize.

It is no surprise to learn that UCLA is a vital contributor to the California economy, contributing $11 billion annually, including $4 billion in the Los Angeles area. During the 2016–2017 school year alone, 251 patents were issued to UCLA and 24 startup companies launched using technologies developed at UCLA. UCLA’s athletic programs are among the best in the nation, with UCLA Bruins having won 261 Olympic medals, 133 of which were gold.

UCLA is a wonderful resource to the Los Angeles region, California, and the nation as a whole, providing an outstanding education to students from a variety of backgrounds.

It is my pleasure to honor UCLA for marking 100 years of exceptional achievement. I ask all members to join me in commending their accomplishments.

HONORING JUDGE WILEY DANIEL

HON. JOE NEGUSE
OF COLORADO
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, May 23, 2019

Mr. NEGUSE. Madam Speaker, today I offer you my heartfelt condolences to the Daniel family on the loss of their father and husband Judge Wiley Daniel. Judge Daniel was a chief judge for the U.S. District Court of Colorado and was my home state’s first African-American federal judge.

Judge Daniel was not only an incredible legal mind, but also a role model for aspiring attorneys. I was lucky enough to try several cases in Judge Daniel’s court, and found him to be tough and fair-minded, always pushing the attorneys before him to present the best and most sound case that we could put forward. He made each of us better at our craft. Being a “first” for any community is difficult and brave, but if the work stops at getting through the door, then it does not leave a true legacy. Judge Daniel was the first through but then spent so much of his energy ensuring...
that door remained open and welcoming for every generation that followed. In my mind, his legacy is not just that he was the first, it is that he ensured he would not be the last.

I am grateful to have known Judge Daniel and ask that my colleagues join me in sending condolences to the family of this pioneer of our legal system and inspiration to our entire nation.

IN HONOR OF THE VA ANN ARBOR HEALTHCARE SYSTEM FOR THEIR EXEMPLARY SERVICE

HON. DEBBIE DINGELL
OF MICHIGAN
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, May 23, 2019

Mrs. DINGELL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the VA Ann Arbor Healthcare System for their critical work providing medical services to our nation’s veterans. Their continued excellence in patient-centered healthcare is worthy of commenda-tion.

Since its foundation in 1953, the VA Ann Arbor Healthcare System has provided essential healthcare services to veterans throughout Michigan and northeastern Ohio. The main campus operates as a referral center for complex specialty care and boasts state-of-the-art facilities and several satellite outpatient clinics. Beyond the medical care it offers, VAAAHS is a major research center, participating in over 400 active studies in basic science, health services, and rehabilitation.

The VA Ann Arbor Healthcare System stands as a role model in providing exemplary healthcare to our nation’s veterans. Their work has had a profound impact on Michigan and Ohio by ensuring access to preventive and active treatment. We thank VAAAHS and its staff for their continued dedication to providing high-quality medical services to veterans, supporting clinical research, and promoting education on public health programs. We also congratulate the VA Ann Arbor Healthcare System as they begin construction of a new veteran welcome center. Once finished, this new structure will expand the available capacity of the medical center and expedite critical care for its visitors.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the VA Ann Arbor Healthcare System for their exemplary work in healthcare access, education, and research. Their efforts have been instrumental in ensuring care for the brave servicemen and women that protect our country.

CELEBRATING THE 100 YEAR ANNIVERSARY OF UCLA

HON. KEVIN MccARTHY
OF CALIFORNIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, May 23, 2019

Mr. MCCARTHY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the University of California, Los Angeles, which has distinguished itself as one of the finest institutions of higher learning in the State of California and across the country.

In the past 100 years, 14 Nobel Prize winners, 13 MacArthur Fellows, 9 National Medal of Science winners, 3 Pulitzer Prize winners, 1 Field Medalist, 2 Turing Award winners, and 38 Academy Award winners have called UCLA home. Every year, UCLA receives more applications for admission than any other university. It is for these reasons and more that UCLA was ranked this year as the number one public university in the country by U.S. News and World Report.

The influence of UCLA and its impact on California is wide-reaching and expansive. Even in my district, two hours away from Westwood, thousands of constituents call UCLA their alma mater. UCLA’s influence in my district cannot be overstated. For many students who are unfamiliar with the challenges of applying for college, UCLA provides mentorship and a tangible path to higher education, actively organizing workshops and school visits to guide them. UCLA does not limit itself to just educating the next generation of leaders; it has tracked groundwater loss in my district and throughout the Central Valley, demonstrating the need to expand our current water storage and infrastructure. As many people know, the Meskwaki Meskwaki Veteran Welcome Center provides world-class care for countless individuals, but it also directs clinical trials back home in my district—ensuring that the residents of the 23rd District receive cutting-edge treatment and care. On behalf of California’s 23rd District, I am proud to congratulate UCLA on 100 years of great accomplishments.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE LIFE, LEGACY, AND SERVICE OF MASTER SERGEANT DONALD CHARLES BETTINE

HON. MIKE GALLAGHER
OF WISCONSIN
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, May 23, 2019

Mr. GALLAGHER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life, legacy, and service of Master Sergeant Donald Charles Bettine.

MSG Bettine, stationed in Korea for a second time where he was sent to Korea for a second time where he was assigned to Fort Marshall.

Upon completion of basic training, MSG Bettine was assigned to Fort Marshall. Once there, he was ultimately stationed near Moscow, Idaho. After his service in the Korean War, MSG Bettine returned to the United States.

Over the next four decades, MSG Bettine served with distinction, rising to the rank of Chief Warrant Officer, with service in the Army Reserves and Army National Guard, and with the 9th Armored Division, 9th Armored Division, 9th Armored Division.

Today, MSG Bettine is a proud Vietnam veteran who has dedicated his life to serving the country. He is a true American hero and an inspiration to us all.

IN HONOR OF THE VA ANN ARBOR HEALTHCARE SYSTEM FOR THEIR EXEMPLARY SERVICE

HON. DEBBIE DINGELL
OF MICHIGAN
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BIRTHDAY OF DR. IRENE HUSTON

HON. MARK DESAULNIER
OF CALIFORNIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, May 23, 2019

Mr. DESAULNIER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the service of a long-time community leader, Dr. Irene Huston.

In her early years, Irene and her family moved from Mississippi to the Bay Area in the “Second Great Migration” to escape racist labor and housing practices. Irene attended Contra Costa College before earning a Bachelor’s Degree from Indiana University in Plymouth, Florida. Today, Dr. Huston holds graduate degrees from Phoenix University, Antioch Christian University, and Elbon-Solution College of Ministry, as well as an honorary degree from the National Theological Seminary of the Commonwealth University.

Although her interests and successes cast a wide net—she has served as a lecturer at San Jose State University, opened her own clothing boutique, and authored several books and a play—her focus has always been the church.

Dr. Huston has been in the ministry for 50 years, and has devoted the majority of this time to supporting women and families. She is internationally ordained and has ministered around the world, including in India, Nigeria, England, and Israel. Additionally, at home in California, she worked with the West Contra Costa Unified School District’s adult education program.

Irene has founded a number of faith-based service organizations, including Irene’s Women’s Faith Foundation, and she continues her efforts today to motivate and empower young women and serve her community.

Please join me in wishing Dr. Irene Huston a happy 81st birthday, and in thanking her for a life of service and dedication.
HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF JEFFREY MCDONALD OF CARMEL, INDIANA

HON. SUSAN W. BROOKS
OF INDIANA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, May 23, 2019

Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of Jeffrey McDonald, an entrepreneneur, youth mentor, and community leader. Born in Woodland, California on April 5, 1967, to Alan and Mary McDonald, Jeffrey would come to Indiana and graduate from Indiana University, earning a Bachelor of Science in Business and Marketing. Jeffrey was known throughout his community for his selfless leadership in business and his desire to help those in need of guidance to reach their full potential.

As longtime lauded business leaders in their community, Jeffrey and his wife Shellie McDonald started their e-commerce pet food and treat supply business, Raw Paws Pet Food, in 2014. Their mission in business was not only to provide a profitable living for themselves and their employees, but to create products that better served the health of pets through proper nutrition and diet. Sourcing their products from responsible and ethical farms they have become leaders in their industry.

Beyond his many successes in the business world, Jeffrey's impact was also felt throughout his community through his participation and exemplary leadership in philanthropic organizations. Jeffrey served on the boards of many community groups including The United Way, The Indianapolis Zoo, and The Young Presidents' Organization (YPO). Jeffrey's community engagement allowed him to pursue his passions of animal welfare and the empowerment of women. His remarkable talent for connecting with people ensured that his vital work with these organizations made a lasting impact on Central Indiana, not to be forgotten. His many contributions show us the immense influence one person can have within their community and inspire us to aim higher. Jeffrey's zest for life was infectious to those in his presence. His legacy shows us that we can make a difference, both through our professional work and through our personal efforts, to create a better world for ourselves and for future generations.

On behalf of Indiana's Fifth Congressional District, I extend my deepest condolences to Jeffrey's wife Shellie, and numerous friends and relatives who mourn his loss.

IN HONOR OF KARL W. MICHLER

HON. ANDY BARR
OF KENTUCKY
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, May 23, 2019

Mr. BARR. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of a special man, Mr. Karl Michler of Lexington, Kentucky. Mr. Michler is part of a special group of heroes that served our nation during World War II. Mr. Michler celebrates his 99th birthday on June 5.

Mr. Michler enlisted in the service at the age of 22. He was a proud member of the United States Army. He served as a medical corpsman. His assignments took him to locations in the United States, France and Germany. He served for 4 years and was honorably discharged in February of 1946.

Mr. Michler returned home and married Jean Vogt. Following his service in the Army, he took over the family business, Michler's, which was started by his grandfather Carl Michler in 1900. He continued that very successful business for many years. His son, John, and later his grandson, Robin, kept the business growing and thriving.

Mr. Michler and his fellow veterans are true heroes. As members of the “Greatest Generation”, they willingly served to protect and defend the freedoms that we enjoy today. I am humbled to honor the service of Mr. Karl W. Michler and to celebrate his upcoming 99th birthday before the United States Congress.

RECOGNIZING PRESIDENT HARRY S. TRUMAN’S LEGACY IN FIRE PREVENTION, FIRE SAFETY, AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

HON. BILL PASCRELL, JR.
OF NEW JERSEY
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, May 23, 2019

Mr. PASCRELL. Madam Speaker, between May 5 and 7 of this year, national leaders representing every facet of the fire service gathered together in Key West, Florida for three days of discussions on the future of fire prevention, public education, and fire service challenges in general. They attended the event at the invitation of the Harry S. Truman Foundation. Each year, the Truman Foundation conducts an annual symposium at the Truman Little White House to reflect on the legacy of our nation’s 33rd President. The theme of the 2019 symposium was, “Truman’s Legacy Towards Fire Prevention, Fire Safety, and Historic Preservation.” In 1947, President Truman convened a conference on fire prevention following a series of devastating fires that captured the attention of the nation. Hundreds of representatives from government, business, non-government organizations, and the fire service attended the Washington conference. In his remarks to the attendees, Truman stated, “Safety from fire should not be a topic for discussion during only one or two weeks of the year. It is definitely a year-round public responsibility.” Seventy-two years later, President Truman’s words inspired the assembly of prominent fire service leaders to meet in Key West.

The Truman Foundation asked the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation to serve as a co-facilitator of the recent program. By every account, both organizations did an exemplary job in conducting the event. Presentations by notable fire service leaders addressed a broad range of issues that span the important work in fire prevention. For example, on the third day, the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation conducted a forum to identify key areas that will be covered in the future. Watching the recent success in Florida, I remain so impressed by the ability of the national fire organizations to work together to address the needs of firefighters and public safety. This ability is something I have witnessed throughout my years as a co-Chair of the Congressional Fire Services Caucus. Seventy-two years have passed since the 1947 conference, and during that time, the number of victims dying in fires has decreased to approximately 3,000 each year. This isn’t a coincidence. But the fire service leaders assembled in Key West this month didn’t see this as an achievement; instead, they recognized that more work needs to be done.

The strength of our nation has always been the indomitable spirit of our citizens. The fire service personifies that spirit. I commend the Harry S. Truman Foundation and the National Fallen Firefighters Foundations for bringing together our nation’s leading fire officials. And I pledge my continued support for the more than one million firefighters across the nation who are prepared to respond to the next call for help and to the family members who lose loved ones in the line of duty. God bless all of them.

HONORING JOANN GAMA

HON. VICENTE GONZALEZ
OF TEXAS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, May 23, 2019

Mr. GONZALEZ of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor JoAnn Gama, an educator, innovator, and leader.

JoAnn Gama was born and raised on the north side of Houston, Texas. In 1997, she joined Teach For America, committing two years to teaching in public schools in underserved communities. After moving to the Rio Grande Valley, JoAnn enrolled at the University of Texas-Pan American, now known as the University of Texas Rio Grande Valley, and earned her master’s degree in Educational Leadership. In 1998, JoAnn co-founded the IDEA Academy within the Donna Independent School District with fellow Teach For America corps member, Tom Torkelson. After one year as a “school within a school,” JoAnn and Tom applied for a state charter. Nearly 20 years ago, in August of 2000, they opened the IDEA Academy Charter School with 150 students, grades 4 through 8.

JoAnn is the co-founder and chief of schools, and led many efforts to replicate the original school. Currently, IDEA Public Schools educate nearly 45,000 students in 79 schools across five regions—the Rio Grande Valley, San Antonio, Austin, El Paso and Southern Louisiana. In 2017, U.S. News & World Report ranked IDEA Donna, IDEA Quest, and IDEA Flour Bluff in the top 1 percent of all public high schools in the United States and the top 40 best public charter schools in the nation.

Madam Speaker, JoAnn Gama has worked tirelessly to give countless students the tools they need to succeed. She is a pillar of our community and an example to us all. It is an honor to represent a selfless, committed individual like her who has forever changed and strengthened the foundation of education in South Texas. I wish JoAnn, her husband Juan, and her children Gaeland and Jimena the best in their future endeavors.
Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Madam Speaker, I ask for the House's attention to recognize the 100th birthday of Tommie Louise Caudle.

Ms. Caudle was born on June 5, 1919 to J.H. Caudle and Sallie White Caudle in Sylacauga, Alabama. She graduated from Sylacauga High School in 1937 and started working at Southern Bell Telephone as a telephone operator at age 16.

She attended Judson College her freshman year during which she was a member of Baptist Young People's Union. She also attended the University of Alabama. Ms. Caudle worked for South Central Bell until she retired in 1974.

Madam Speaker, please join me in wishing Ms. Caudle a happy 100th birthday.

Hon. Mike Rogers of Alabama in the House of Representatives

Mr. ROGERS. Madam Speaker, it is my honor to recognize today's guest chaplain, Chaplain Thomas E. Fussell, Jr., and welcome him to the United States House of Representatives.

Chaplain Fussell, a major in the United States Air Force, is currently assigned to the 45th Space Wing, stationed at Patrick Air Force Base in Brevard County, Florida. The duties of the 45th Space Wing—including supporting the Department of Defense (DOD), the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA), and commercial manned and unmanned space programs at Patrick Air Force Base—are critical to the success of space programs operating out of Cape Canaveral.

As Deputy Wing Chaplain to the 45th Space Wing, Chaplain Fussell advises commanders and first sergeants, ensures the free exercise of religion, and provides spiritual care, moral and ethical advice, and pastoral care and counseling to all military personnel and their families. Along with other chaplains serving in the Space Command, he is part of the spiritual backbone of American operations in space.

Chaplain Fussell received his Master of Divinity degree from Asbury Theological Seminary in 2000. In 2004, he was ordained as a pastor in the South Georgia Conference and, in nary in 2000. In 2004, he was ordained as an ordination (NASA), and commercial manned and unmanned space programs at Patrick Air Force Base—are critical to the success of space programs operating out of Cape Canaveral.

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Chaplain Fussell received his Master of Divinity degree from Asbury Theological Seminary in 2000. In 2004, he was ordained as an elder in the South Georgia Conference and, in 2005, he commissioned as a chaplain.

In light of his many years of service, I am thankful that Chaplain Fussell could be with us today and offer a prayer in anticipation of Memorial Day. May the Lord bless all the brave men and women in uniform who have given their lives to protect our great nation, the United States of America.

In the House of Representatives

Mr. ROGERS. Madam Speaker, I was unable to vote due to a classified briefing. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 222.

Hon. Michael R. Turner of Ohio in the House of Representatives

Mr. TURNER. Madam Speaker, on May 22, 2019, I was unable to vote due to a classified briefing. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 222.

Recognizing Laveda Brown of Texas

In the House of Representatives

Mr. FLORES. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Laveda Brown of Waco, Texas, who is retiring as the president of the Cen-Tex African American Chamber of Commerce.

Laveda comes from a strong business background and knows the value of hard work. Prior to joining the chamber, Laveda worked as a Procurement Specialist/Business Consultant at McLennan Community College Small Business Center and the Caruth Small Business Development Center at Abilene Christian University.

Her successful history of business development made her a compelling choice to lead the Cen-Tex African American Chamber of Commerce. Laveda's many years of experience in minority business certification, purchasing, economic development, and government contracting has helped her provide many small businesses with the tools to succeed.

When Laveda assumed leadership of the Chamber in 2007, its membership hovered around 30 members and numbers were dwindling quickly. Thanks to her efforts, membership is now above 250 members and their financial support has expanded dramatically. Some of her biggest contributions, however, go beyond numbers. Under Laveda’s direction, the chamber opened Esther’s Closet, an initiative to assist unemployed women by providing interview and workplace clothing at no cost. Additionally, Esther’s Closet assists with resume writing, interview skills, job performance, and financial management. Since its grand opening in 2016, Esther’s Closet has helped more than 400 individuals and provided more than 5,000 outfits.

In addition to her chamber duties, Laveda has been a member of many organizations including the Waco Education Alliance, the Baylor Research and Innovation Collaborative, the City of Waco, the Waco Academy, and the Junior League Advisory Committee. She also served on the boards of the City of Waco Public Improvement and Development, the Texas Partnership for Out of School Time, and the YMCA of Central Texas. She was also the Vice President of the Texas Association of African American Chambers of Commerce.

She is a person of great courage, faith, insight and wisdom who has a very unselfish and loving spirit. She has dedicated her life to sharing her wealth of knowledge and experience to enlightening and motivating those around her to do the same. Laveda has a way of getting others to see the big picture and to overcome their differences in order to work together for the common good of all. Her greatest gift is her passion for encouraging and empowering others.

Madam Speaker, I would like to thank Laveda Brown for her many years of impactful service to our Central Texas community. I wish her the best in her future endeavors and look forward to seeing the Cen-Tex African American Chamber of Commerce’s continued success.

I have requested that a United States flag be flown over our Nation’s Capitol to recognize the community service and accomplishments of Laveda Brown.

I urge all Americans to continue praying for our country, for our veterans, for our military men and women who protect us, and for our first responders who keep us safe at home.

In honor of Reverend Fran Hayes for her exemplary service to the community of Dearborn

Hon. Debbie Dingell of Michigan in the House of Representatives

Mrs. DINGELL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Reverend Fran Hayes for her tireless work in service of the residents of Dearborn, Michigan. She has been an instrumental member of the community as the head of the Dearborn Area Interfaith Network.

Reverend Fran Hayes has served the Dearborn community for 22 years as the pastor of Littlefield Presbyterian Church. A graduate of Princeton Theological Seminary, Reverend Hayes dedicated her career to celebrating diversity of faith and culture. As the head of the Dearborn Area Interfaith Network; she has made a concerted effort to celebrate the vibrant, diverse community of Dearborn by building deep relationships between Christians and Muslims. Under her leadership, the church has engaged in deliberate efforts to educate parishioners in Islamic scripture through interfaith programs and activities.

Reverend Hayes’ work represents a celebration of creed and culture. She has been a voice for diversity, Reverend Hayes leaves a legacy of inclusivity and justice through her continued efforts to transcend barriers of faith and culture. We thank Reverend Hayes for her commitment to embracing people of all faiths and cultures and we congratulate her on her retirement. Her dedicated leadership will be missed, but we wish her good health and every happiness in her retirement years.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Reverend Fran Hayes for her exemplary service to Dearborn. Her work celebrating diversity of faith is worthy of commendation.

Commemorating the 150th Anniversary of the Lafayette Church of Christ

Hon. John W. Rose of Tennessee in the House of Representatives

Mr. ROSE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Lafayette Church of Christ in honor of their 150th anniversary on June 19, 2019.
SUPPORTING THE SECURE ACT

HON. TERRI A. SEWELL
OF ALABAMA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 23, 2019

Ms. SEWELL of Alabama. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of the Setting Every Community Up for Retirement Enhancement Act—aka SECURE Act.

Almost 60 percent of Americans do not have any retirement account assets. That means they haven’t put away a single dollar for retirement. Not one.

The SECURE Act includes many provisions to expand opportunities for Alabamians to increase their retirement savings. The bill: makes it easier for small businesses to offer retirement plans to their employees; provides retirement benefit opportunities to home care workers; allows long-term, part-time workers to participate in a 401(k) plan; and much more.

Also included in the SECURE Act is a provision that I introduced with my colleagues earlier this month. It will deliver an urgently-needed fix for Golden State teachers who saw a drastic tax hike as a result of the Republican tax bill.

The SECURE Act goes a long way in ensuring that Americans get the economic security they deserve, and I urge my colleagues to vote “yes.”

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF PHYLLIS WATT WUSTENBERG

HON. KURT SCHRADER
OF OREGON
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 23, 2019

Mr. SCHRADER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of Phyllis Watt Wustenberg a constituent of mine from Bay City, Oregon who recently passed away at the age of 92.

Phyllis was a remarkable woman and beloved member of the community who leaves behind an incredible legacy of a life that was dedicated to service. The Tillamook County Board of Directors would like to honor her today. I would like to include in the RECORD Phyllis’ obituary and extend my sincere condolences to Phyllis’ family and the people of Tillamook County.

OBITUARY FOR PHYLLIS WATT WUSTENBERG

Phyllis Wustenberg, age 92, passed away peacefully on May 7, 2019 while seated at the desk of her home in Bay City, OR. There were messages on the answering machine, minutes and notes from recent nonprofit board and public commission meetings, and treasured memories from five generations of her Oregon family within arm’s reach. Phyllis Watt Wustenberg—pioneer, matriarch, scholar, mink rancher, gardener, civic leader, philanthropist, sorority sister, and great grandmother—was busy living right to the last moment. She died, dedicated to the betterment of her family, community, and state she loved so dearly.

She was born and raised in Vancouver, WA to Robert, son of settler, farmer, logger and lumber mill owner Robert Watt, and Jean Morris Watt, who he met in Haines, AK. The Watt family journey from Scotland and contributions as pioneers in the coastal region are documented in the 1974 book, Five Generations of the Watt Family. Phyllis was born in 1954 and William (Bill) in 1957. Their shared ideal for raising a family. Mark grew up in Tillamook, OR 97141.

Mark recalls that his mother said, “Heaven is our memories carried forward in the lives of those we love and hold dear.” The memory paneled doors of the Tillamook County Pioneer Museum, 2106 2nd St. Tillamook, OR 97141, Sunday June 9, 2019 from 2-5 p.m. Memorials are requested in lieu of flowers to: Phyllis Wustenberg Scholarship Fund. 150 Church Street, Bay City, OR, 97107. For more information, call 503-842-7975.

Donated to the Oregon State University Cascades, the donating family requests all four-year university education was available to the eastward half of the state. Former Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs Shirley Clark noted with great admiration that, “Phyllis changed the world and made friends along the way.”

Phyllis did indeed bestow her deepest love upon family and close friends. She nurtured her sons through Willamette University and Oregon State Veterinary College and was deeply proud that they’ve accomplished distinguished careers and raised close-knit families with core values that mirrored her own. Her home was a destination for large gatherings of family and friends. The Delta Delta Delta Sorority Picnics, international guests, drop-by visitors, and the occasional ecclesiastical socials are survived by: son, Dr. Mark Wustenberg (Judy), Bay City, OR; Dr. William Wustenberg (Wendy), Farmington, MN; four grand-children—Dr. Ben Wustenberg (Dr. Leticia), Carlton, OR and their children Tristan and Emma; Liam Wustenberg (Jennifer), Forest Grove, OR and their son Everett; Russell Wustenberg, living in Toronto, CA; and Lauren Wustenberg, South Royalton, VT; her sisters Barbara and Joan; beloved nephews and nieces and extended family by birth and marriage here and abroad. She is preceded in death by her husband, Don, both parents and her brother Robert.

Tillamook County Pioneer Museum, c/o Gary Albright, 2106 2nd St. Tillamook, OR 97141.
leaders in service to others and prepared a diverse student body to thrive, and positively impact local and global communities.

As you and I know, strong leadership is critical to academic success. President Jusseaume’s clear vision and unwavering commitment to students has shaped Walsh University into one of our nation’s finest academic institutions, attracting the best and brightest. I congratulate and thank President Jusseaume for living out the passion and principle of the university’s mission statement and wish him and his family all the best.

INTRODUCTION OF THE NATIONAL VACCINE INJURY COMPENSATION PROGRAM IMPROVEMENT ACT OF 2019

HON. VICKY HARTZLER
OF MISSOURI
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, May 23, 2019

Ms. HARTZLER, Madam Speaker, on Wednesday, May 22, 2019, I was unable to vote on roll call no. 222. If I had been present, I would have voted Yes.

HONORING WALSH UNIVERSITY’S PRESIDENT RICHARD JUSSEAUME RETIREMENT

HON. ANTHONY GONZALEZ
OF OHIO
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, May 23, 2019

Mr. GONZALEZ of Ohio. Madam Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to President Richard Jusseaume, who is retiring this year after 18 years of leadership at Walsh University. Ohio’s second longest serving president of a four-year private university, President Jusseaume has ushered in unprecedented growth in almost every facet of the university’s operations. In total, he has spent five decades at Walsh University in various roles including student, Dean of Students, Board of Directors member, and President.

Through the tireless work and effort of President Jusseaume, Walsh University has cemented its status as a leading academic institution. During his tenure, full-time undergraduate enrollment has increased by more than 60 percent, the university has more than doubled its number of undergraduate majors and launched its first doctorate programs, and the number of buildings on Walsh’s North Canton campus has more than doubled from 11 to 27 buildings.

What happens at a university is richer than passing on intellectual knowledge. Classrooms shape our habits, thoughts, and practice, thus developing the future citizens of our liberal society. President Jusseaume has steadfastly dedicated himself to developing students into
immigrant rights. Mr. Lopez passed away on Sunday, May 20th.

Mr. Lopez grew up in Los Angeles County in a family that had lived in the United States for six generations. He studied Spanish literature at California State University, Dominguez Hills.

Nativo Lopez was best known for changing the political landscape in Orange County. His determination and ability to organize volunteers, workers, people who had never been active in politics, led the start of the Orange County blue wave. Nativo began advocating and organizing at an early age. At the age of 13, he joined picket lines to protest funding cuts at a community center in East Los Angeles. As an 18-year-old at Excelsior High School, he and his brothers led a walkout of more than 200 Mexican American students to raise awareness for educational reform.

As a young professional, Mr. Lopez was a court interpreter in Los Angeles County. Mr. Lopez founded a Santa Ana chapter of Hermandad Mexican National, a group that provides services to and protects the needs of undocumented immigrants. Nativo Lopez led Hermandad Mexicana for more than 30 years. His passion for ensuring that immigrant workers and their families, with or without documents, were treated with dignity and respect often sparked controversy, but his commitment to the cause never wavered.

In 1985, his name made national news when he helped more than 500 Santa Ana families stage a successful rent strike. Mr. Lopez won a seat on the Santa Ana Unified School District Board of Trustees in 1997. One of his most influential efforts was his creation of Assembly Bill 60, allowing unauthorized immigrants to apply for driver’s licenses. Mr. Lopez was soon recognized as the undisputed champion of immigrant rights in Southern California.

Unfortunately, his life was cut short by cancer. Nativo Lopez leaves behind a legacy in the history of Latino leaders in Orange County and Los Angeles. His dedication and passion for ensuring the political rights of Spanish-speaking immigrants. Ms. Hudak has worked with nearly every department of Miami-Dade County as well as Director of the Solid Waste Management Department.

Alina has worked with nearly every department of Miami-Dade’s extensive administration, and she possesses an unrivaled knowledge of the County. Throughout her career, she has overseen an impressive portfolio of departments, including the nationally recognized Police and Fire Rescue, Animal Services, Elections, Transit, Public Works, the Citizen’s Independent Transportation Trust, and the Public Health Trust. She spearheaded the County’s Haitian Relief Effort, the United Way campaign, the Making Strides Against Breast Cancer campaign, and has acted as a liason for numerous county tournaments and events.

Alina continues to give to the Miami-Dade community. She is an active alumna of the University of Miami, where she earned a bachelor’s degree in Business Administration and a master’s degree in Public Administration. She is also deeply involved in the American Society for Public Administration and the International Women’s Forum.

We have all witnessed Alina’s extraordinary skill and dedication to Miami-Dade County. She has been a hard worker and I look forward to seeing the impact she will continue to make on our community for years to come.

IN RECOGNITION OF ALINA T. HUDAK’S 35 YEARS OF SERVICE TO MIAMI-DADE COUNTY

HON. DONNA E. SHALALA
OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 23, 2019

Ms. SHALALA. Madam Speaker, I rise in honor of my friend, Alina Hudak, Deputy Mayor of Miami-Dade County, and her 35 years of public service to the greater Miami community.

Alina began her career in the Miami-Dade County government as a management trainee in 1984. In 1993, she became the first Hispanic woman appointed to the position of Assistant County Manager. In 1996, she was tapped for the position of Director of the General Services Administration. In 1998, she rejoined the County Manager’s Office, and she took over the post of County Manager in 2011. She currently serves as Deputy Mayor of Miami-Dade County as well as Director of the Solid Waste Management Department.

Alina has worked with nearly every department of Miami-Dade’s extensive administration, and she possesses an unrivaled knowledge of the County. Throughout her career, she has overseen an impressive portfolio of departments, including the nationally recognized Police and Fire Rescue, Animal Services, Elections, Transit, Public Works, the Citizen’s Independent Transportation Trust, and the Public Health Trust. She spearheaded the County’s Haitian Relief Effort, the United Way campaign, the Making Strides Against Breast Cancer campaign, and has acted as a liason for numerous county tournaments and events.

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We have all witnessed Alina’s extraordinary skill and dedication to Miami-Dade County. She has been a hard worker and I look forward to seeing the impact she will continue to make on our community for years to come.
Madam Speaker, as Providence United Church of Christ celebrates this historic milestone this weekend, its congregation can take pride in an inspiring 165 years of fellowship, worship and service. I would like to congratulate Reverend Dr. A. Jerome Danage, Sr. and all the members of the church’s congregation for this significant accomplishment and I wish them many more years full of growth, prosperity and service to our community.

IN SUPPORT OF H.R. 2898 THE “BUDDY CHECK WEEK ACT”

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE
OF TEXAS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, May 23, 2019

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Madam Speaker, yesterday, I introduced H.R. 2898, the “Buddy Check Week Act of 2019,” which provides support and training to organize outreach events and educate veterans on how to conduct peer wellness checks and recognize signs of problems in fellow veterans that indicate suicide risks.

The Buddy Check Week Act directs the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, in consultation with veterans, non-profit that serve veterans, mental health experts, and members of the Armed Forces, to develop and implement collaborative education opportunities for veterans to learn how to conduct wellness checks.

A wellness check involves contacting veterans who may be demonstrating signs having difficulty and making sure they receive visits to see how they are doing and provide support for any needs.

The VA will provide online or in-person training to individuals, as well as provide opportunities for Veterans Service Organizations (VSOs) to learn how to: train individuals to conduct peer wellness checks, transfer phone calls to the Veterans Crisis Line, and be resilient when handling a veteran in crisis.

The bill inspired by the American Legion’s “Buddy Check National Week of Calling,” held March 11–16, 2019.

The American Legion unveiled this new initiative to connect past and present veterans and ensure that they receive the care they need.

A Buddy Check Week will provide the time, space, and resources needed to help these veterans through personal interaction and kindness.

This legislation will amplify the work of the American Legion and support efforts to conduct outreach to veterans across the nation.

Madam Speaker, veteran suicide is a pervasive and critical issue, threatening the lives of many of our bravest and most patriotic Americans.

Although, the VA has screening protocols designed to aid veterans and stage suicide interventions, some 6,000 veterans a year tropically fall through the cracks of this system, finding themselves without the necessary aid and resources that were promised to them by the VA and commit suicide.

Many Suicide Prevention Coordinators and offices specializing in veterans affairs report being overwhelmed to keep up with their many responsibilities.

On average, about 20 veterans die every day by suicide, and since 2017, 25 veterans have taken their lives on the grounds of Veterans Affairs hospitals, including seven this year and at least four last month, actively seeking help from an unprepared agency before committing suicide.

It is long past time for the federal government to provide the necessary legislation to address the troubling upturn in veteran suicides and help improve suicide prevention and mental health resources at the VA.

To truly address this issue, we need to make sure that the VA and veterans aid organizations have the tools needed to serve every veteran that walks through their doors.

It is critically important that we provide training on the signs that a veteran may be in crisis and the needed make it easier to get them the help that they need.

I believe this bill is a step in the right direction toward making sure the help is there.

Madam Speaker, it is unconscionable that a veteran will commit suicide every hour.

The fact that veterans make up just 20 percent of the male population, yet make up close to 32 percent of all male suicides is shocking and must spur our action.

It does not have to be this way, Madam Speaker, and we can do something about it, starting with the passage of H.R. 2898, the “Buddy Check Week Act.”

CONGRATULATING THE CHURCH OF CHRIST IN CHESAPEAKE, VIRGINIA

HON. JAOQUIN CASTRO
OF TEXAS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, May 23, 2019

Mr. CASTRO of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the CHURCH OF CHRIST IN CHESAPEAKE, VIRGINIA on its 165th anniversary.

Founded in 1854, Providence Church was officially organized by Reverend Scott. Under his leadership, the congregation met every Sunday and grew rapidly as the number of parishioners increased, the church was able to purchase property on Railroad Road and build a church. The church was built in 1872 and was located in the city of South Norfolk, Virginia. South Norfolk later became Chesapeake, Virginia in 1963.

Providence Church was renamed Providence United Church of Christ in 1957 when they joined the United Church of Christ family. Twenty years after joining the denomination and more than 100 years after the church's founding, Providence United Church of Christ expanded again in 1978. They were fortunate to build another addition in the form of an educational wing in 2003. Today many of their ministries take place in this new space.

Over the last 165 years, Providence United Church of Christ has continued to be a leader in the Hampton Roads community. The church serves the community through several ministries including the Christian Education Ministry, Senior Citizens Ministry and the Foodbank Ministry. Annual events include vacation in January, the number of parishioners.

community confirmation classes, youth revivals and senior citizen celebrations. A unique feature of the church is that its congregation is divided into 12 tribes.

These tribes provide a way for Providence United Church of Christ to reach different parts of the community.

It is fitting to commemorate the 165th anniversary of Providence United Church of Christ without recognizing its former pastors who helped build and grow this historic church—Reverends Scott, J. Jones, A. Harris, G.T. McPherson, A.B. Jones, J.J. Faulk, J.R. Alston, R.R. Bingle, F. Cox, V. Chambers, Clifton Thomas, Dr. Isaac McDonald, Dr. Samuel Varner, Dr. Alexander Jamison, Sr. and currently Dr. A. Jerome Danage, Sr.
and provider of quality, faith-based compassionate healthcare. Patients served by CHRISTUS Santa Rosa, including my constituents of the 20th District, are grateful to each of the thousands of nurses, doctors, associates and volunteers who have helped their communities through the years with a commitment to the CHRISTUS Santa Rosa mission of “extending the healing ministry of Jesus Christ.”

IN RECOGNITION OF THE FITZPATRICK FAMILY AND THE RED LION INN

HON. RICHARD E. NEAL
OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, May 23, 2019

Mr. NEAL. Madam Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to recognize and congratulate the Fitzpatrick Family on their 50th anniversary as owners of the iconic Red Lion Inn in Stockbridge, Massachusetts. The Red Lion Inn has been a cultural and historic institution of western Massachusetts for more than two centuries and has continued on as such in the modern era thanks to the Fitzpatrick Family. Our community has benefitted immeasurably as a result, and we are incredibly grateful.

The Town of Stockbridge was founded in 1734 and became a popular resort destination during the Gilded Age. It also became home to one of America’s greatest 18th century hotels, the Red Lion Inn, which first opened in 1773. The World Wars of the 20th century, however, as well as the Great Depression, took a toll on the region and the Red Lion Inn with it. But 1969 would prove to be a monumental year for Stockbridge and the rest of the Berkshires. As new attractions reenergized the area, the grand reopening of the Red Lion Inn took place on account of Senator Jack Fitzpatrick and his wife, Jane. The Fitzpatricks did more than just save the Red Lion Inn from being razed. They renovated it and preserved most of the art, antiques, furniture, and—thus—charm that are essential to the Inn’s character and allure. They also continued to grow their impact on the community by helping local projects thrive and injecting a fresh sense of prosperity to the Berkshires. Still further, they have prided themselves on providing high quality service and hospitality to all of their guests and making them feel right at home in the heart of the Berkshires.

Once again, Madam Speaker, the 50th year of Fitzpatrick Family ownership of the Red Lion Inn is certainly worthy of celebration and recognition. It is a testament to the vibrancy and cultural substance of Stockbridge and the Berkshires. Jane and Jack Fitzpatrick’s bountiful legacy lives on through the Fitzpatrick Trust, the Red Lion Inn, and—most importantly—the new generation of family members. I wish the Fitzpatrick Family, including of course Jack and Jane’s daughter Nancy, and Nancy’s stepdaughter Sarah Eustis, who is the third-generation owner and operator of the Inn, all the best in their future endeavors and at the 50th Anniversary Gala Dinner to be hosted on May 29.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, May 23, 2019

Mr. CHABOT. Madam Speaker, I rise today as a Co-chair of the Congressional Azerbaijan Caucus, to honor the Republic of Azerbaijan, as it celebrates its 101st Republic Day on May 28, 2019. This important milestone marks the very first time a parliamentary democratic republic was established in any predominantly Muslim country.

Unfortunately, Azerbaijan’s independence was short-lived, as it was soon occupied by the Soviets. Many Azerbaijanis lost their lives in 1920, trying to keep their independence alive and after years of living under Soviet rule regained their independence in 1991. Since regaining its independence, Azerbaijan has become a key ally to the United States in a strategically important region. It is a secular state with a predominantly Muslim population that has been home to vibrant Christian and Jewish communities for over a millennium.

Azerbaijan continues to offer critical support for NATO operations in Afghanistan, particularly by enabling supplies to reach Coalition forces. Azerbaijan also provides vital support to U.S. nonproliferation efforts in a very tough neighborhood.

In addition to supporting U.S. security interests in the region, Azerbaijan plays an important role in contributing to the energy security of our European allies and Israel. It is very remarkable that roughly 40% of Israel’s oil is provided by Azerbaijan.

I believe the U.S. should stand with Azerbaijan and work with them to strengthen their independence as our proven partner is subjected to substantial pressure from Russia and Iran.

It is my pleasure to encourage my colleagues to join me in honoring Azerbaijan on its 101st Republic Day and celebrate the robust U.S.-Azerbaijan partnership.

HONORING JESPY HOUSE AND THE MICHAEL OCH HOUSE

HON. DONALD M. PAYNE, JR.
OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, May 23, 2019

Mr. PAYNE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate a nonprofit organization that helps serve the intellectually and developmentally disabled community in my district. For the past forty years, JESPY House has been a vital part of South Orange, New Jersey. JESPY House has provided housing, job training, and life skills to hundreds of disabled people during its long history as a public service organization. In two weeks, JESPY House will host the grand opening of its newest expansion—the Michael Och House, a Center for Aging at JESPY.

The Och House is part of JESPY’s “Aging in Place” program, which provides for people with intellectual or developmental disabilities to live in a client-centered, community-based setting during their senior years.

The Och House will help JESPY ensure its clients are able to age with dignity. They will have increased nursing and health care screenings, healthy living workshops, on-site physical therapists, and age-appropriate accessibility furnishings.

I am proud to represent organizations that are doing great things for those in need. JESPY House is a model for advancing independence among adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities. I ask that my colleagues join me in honoring them.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, May 23, 2019

Mr. HUDSON. Madam Speaker, I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 222, 223, 224, and 225; NAY on Roll Call No. 226; YEA on Roll Call No. 227; and NAY on Roll Call No. 228.

IN HONOR OF REVEREND DOCTOR EMMETT SCOTT ANITON, JR.

HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.
OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, May 23, 2019

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor an outstanding Man of God, a devoted spiritual leader, and dear friend of longstanding, Rev. Dr. Emmett S. Aniton, Jr., who will be celebrating his 40th anniversary as the distinguished pastor of Friendship Baptist Church in Columbus, Georgia on Friday, May 24, 2019, at 6:30pm.

Emmett Scott Aniton, Jr. was born on March 8, 1940, in Oneonta, Alabama to the union of Mr. Emmett Scott Aniton, Sr. and Mrs. Estella Aniton Woods. He attended Southside High School in Etowah County, Alabama, where he graduated in 1959, before earning his Bachelor of Theology degree from Selma University in 1964. He entered the United States Army and completed a tour of duty in Qui Nhon, Vietnam, and returned home to Alabama where he matriculated at Alabama A&M University, earning Bachelor of Arts degree in Sociology in 1971.

After responding to God’s call to preach the Gospel of Jesus Christ, Rev. Aniton pastored the First Baptist Church in Jacksonville, Alabama from 1966 to March of 1979. For more than 12 years, Rev. Aniton was the shepherd at First Baptist where he ministered to the needs of his flock christening babies, baptizing believers, performing marriages, and consoling bereaved families, while developing and honoring his skills as a church administrator and inspiring preacher.

Then in November of 1978, the congregation of Friendship Baptist Church called and the Holy Spirit sent Rev. Aniton to Columbus, Georgia. His pastoral duties began in April of 1979 and he has faithfully and effectively served for over 40 years. Under Reverend Aniton’s dynamic and spirit-filled leadership, the Friendship Baptist Church has experienced tremendous growth—spiritually, numerically, and in its physical facilities. But most importantly, under his leadership, Friendship has
been a beacon of hope and salvation for the congregation through its many ministries which share the good news of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

Yet, Madam Speaker, the outstanding serv-

ant leadership demonstrated by Rev. Aniton
did not stop at Friendship Baptist Church. His
impact has been felt in the larger community
and beyond. He has served on the boards of
the Pastoral Institute, the Liberty Theatre, the
Metro Columbus Urban League, and the
Fourth Street Towers. He has been President
of the Mount Calvary Congress of Christian
Education and the Muscogee County Clergy
Association; instructor for the General Mis-

sionary Baptist Convention of Georgia Con-
gress of Christian Education and the American
Baptist Theological Seminary (off-campus). He
received the NAACP Religious Affairs Award,
Rainbow PUSH Coalition Lifetime Achieve-
ment Award, the PUHL (Peace, Unity, Hon-
esty, and Leadership) Award; and in May of
2011, received an Honorary Doctorate of Di-

vinity Degree from St. Thomas Christian Col-
lege in Jacksonville, Florida.

Rev. Aniton has achieved much in his
life, but none of it would have been possible
without the Grace of God and the love and the
support of his late wife, Mrs. Dorothy Rigby
Aniton; his children, Minister Rhonda Aniton
Bell, Emmett Scott Aniton III, and Keisha
Aniton Simmons; his grandchildren and other
family members. He is an outstanding mentor,
a strong leader, and a faithful servant of God.

On a personal note, I have been blessed by
Rev. Aniton's sage counsel and enduring
friendship over the four decades I have known
him and I am grateful to call him my friend.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join
my wife, Vivian, and me, along with the
730,000 residents of Georgia's Second Con-
gressional District, in congratulating Rev. Dr.
Emmett S. Aniton, Jr. for 40 outstanding years
of leadership at Friendship Baptist Church, for
over 50 remarkable years of ministry, and for
a lifetime of selfless service to God, the
church, and to humankind. To God be the
glory for the things He has done through His
humble servant, Rev. Dr. Emmett S. Aniton,
Jr.

INTRODUCTION OF RESOLUTION
FOR AUTHORIZING AND DIRECT-
ING THE COMMITTEE ON THE
JUDICIARY TO INVESTIGATE
WHETHER SUFFICIENT GROUNDS
EXIST FOR THE HOUSE OF RE-

PRESENTATIVES TO EXERCISE
THE POWER VESTED BY ARTI-
CLE 1, SECTION 2, CLAUSE 5 OF
THE CONSTITUTION IN RESPECT
TO ACTS OF MISCONDUCT BY
DONALD JOHN TRUMP, PRESI-
DENT OF THE UNITED STATES

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE
OF TEXAS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, May 23, 2019

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Madam Speaker, I rise
announced to the House that I have intro-
duced H. Res. 396, a resolution authorizing
and directing the Committee on the Judiciary
to investigate whether sufficient grounds exist
for the House of Representatives to exercise
the power vested by Article 1, Section 2,
Clause 5 of the Constitution in respect to acts
of misconduct by Donald John Trump, Presi-
dent of the United States.

I invite every Member of the House to join
me in cosponsoring this important and nec-
essary step to uphold the rule of law, preserve
the strength of our democracy, and affirm the
importance of the Constitution in invested as a
equal branch of government with the constitutional
duty to check and hold accountable a way-
ward head of the Executive Branch.

This resolution is both necessary and timely.

Last week, the House Judiciary Committee was
to vote to hold Attorney General Bill Barr in contempt of congress, the
President indicated that he intended to assert
effective privilege to deny Congress and the
American people the Mueller Report.

Yesterday, the White House Counsel indi-
cated that it believes that the House Judiciary
Committee's inquiry was an improper exercise
of its oversight powers and was instead in-
tended to "harass" the President.

The White House Counsel, in mistaken be-
lief that the Mueller Investigation was the final
word on history, on the law, and on the Constitu-
tion, but more than that, it is reckless and desta-
bilizing.

It disregards or misapprehends the nature,
structure, and purpose of the system of gov-

demer

American people the Mueller Report.

The White House position is clearly wrong
on history, on the law, and on the Constitu-
tion. It contemplates branches of government su-

merior to others and represents an indiffer-
ence, belligerence and disrespect towards Ar-
ticle I of the Constitution unseen in American
history.

Congressional requests for documents have
been ignored, subpoenas have been flouted,
witnesses refuse to appear for congressional
oversight hearings, norms shattered.

This is intolerable and why, in consultation
with and by working with my colleagues, I
have introduced H. Res. 396, a resolution au-
thorizing and directing the Committee on the
Judiciary to investigate whether sufficient

grounds exist for the House of Representa-
tives to exercise the power vested by Article 1,
Section 2, Clause 5 of the Constitution in re-

spect to acts of misconduct by Donald John

Trump, President of the United States.

This is a significant measure because it
involves not just the standing committees but
the whole House of Representatives, the body
that is vested by the Constitution with the
"sole power of impeachment." Madam Speaker, if approved by the House,
H. Res. 396 gives the Committee on Judiciary a
broad and affirmative mandate by the body
that is vested with the sole power conveyed
by Article 1, Section 2, Clause 5 to investigate
the areas of possible misconduct listed in the
Resolving Clause in history, will do its job to ensure the

strength of our democracy, and affirm the
necessity to which the House takes its re-

responsibilities to act as a check on a wayward
Executive and the gravity of the findings and

Finally, nothing in the resolution compels the
Committee on the Judiciary to reach a par-
ticular result or make a particular rec-

ommendation; rather, the resolution charges
the Committee with undertaking a comprehen-

sive investigation following the evidence where
it leads and reporting its conclusions and rec-

ommendations to the full House.

Madam Speaker, the time has come to re-
assert proper oversight in our system of gov-

ernment.

During the first two years of this administra-
tion, House Republicans shirked their over-

sight responsibilities.

This new House majority, propelled by the
largest class of women and the most diverse
classes in history, will do its job to ensure the
preservation of this government of the people,
by the people, and for the people.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY
OF GOLF LEGEND, ALICE DYE

HON. SUSAN W. BROOKS
OF INDIANA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, May 23, 2019

Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana. Madam Speaker,
I rise today to honor the life and legacy of
Alice Holliday Dye, an Indiana golf legend and
accomplished amateur champion. Known as the "First Lady" of golf course architecture,
Alice, her husband and co-designer, have
some of the country's most high-profile cham-
pionships golf courses, including Crooked Stick
Golf Club in Carmel, Indiana. The people of Indiana's Fifth Congressional District are for-
ever grateful for Alice's significant contribu-
tions to the City of Carmel, Hamilton County,
the state of Indiana, and the nation.

Alice was born on February 19, 1927, in
Indianapolis, Indiana, where she won the Indi-
ana State Junior championship at the age of
15. She graduated from Shortridge High
School and graduated from Rollins College in
Florida, where she was captain of the women's
golf team and a member of the men's team. Follow-

hers' graduation, she worked as a life insurance
saleswoman, be-

coming one of the few women in the business
at the time, eventually earning a spot in the
Women's Quarter Million Dollar Roundtable.

A trailblazer, Alice was a female pioneer in
the golfing community. Alice's passion for golf
began at a young age, spending time at the
Woodstock Club in Indianapolis. It was there
where she fell in love with the game and the
game itself. Later, Alice went on to have a
standout career in golf, winning over 50
amateur championships during her lifetime in-
cluding nine State Championships in Indiana,
the Woman's North and South, the Woman's
Eastern, the National Ladies Club Champion-
ship, two USGA Senior and two Canadian
Senior Tournaments, as well as five Women's
Western Senior Tournaments, National Ladies
Club Championship, and played on the 1970
Curtis Cup Team. Alice also won a gold medal
in golf at the Senior Olympics.

Collaborating with her husband, Pete Dye,
she co-designed Crooked Stick Golf Club
in Carmel, Indiana, where she and Pete had a
home on the 18th hole. Alice and Pete also
worked together to design Harbour Town Golf Links in Hilton Head, South Carolina, Whistling Straits in Kohler, Wisconsin, and the TPC Sawgrass, with its famous par-3 17th hole with an island green, in Ponte Vedra Beach, Florida. Through her success on the greens and the remarkable courses she designed, Alice was relentlessly dedicated to ensuring that women players were not forgotten and is credited as the champion for the two tee system that made formidable courses more playable for women.

Alice’s work is a true testament to her outstanding career and selfless contributions. Alice served the sport by becoming the first woman president of the American Society of Golf Course Architects in 1997 and the first woman to serve as an independent director of the PGA of America in 1999. She was honored with numerous awards and accolades, including being inducted into the Indiana Golf Hall of Fame in 1976 and was voted PGA’s First Lady of Golf in 2004.

In her personal life, Alice was known as a loving mother. She truly loved the sport and the fairways became one of her favorite places to go with her family and close friends. Born and raised in Indianapolis, she worked to bring affordable junior golf programs to youth of all backgrounds through the establishment of The Indiana. Children of all ages can practice their swings on four 9-hole courses, named in their honor, at the Pete & Alice Dye Golf Experience, part of the Sports Legend Experience at the Children’s Museum of Indianapolis. Over the years, Alice’s passion for golf and countless individuals and her leadership as the First Lady of golf architecture has left a remarkable legacy. Alice will be forever missed by her family, friends, colleagues, and the entire golf community. On behalf of Indiana’s Fifth Congressional District, I extend my deepest condolences to Alice’s husband, Pete, her son, Perry, and his wife, Ann, her son, P.B., and his wife, Jean, her two grandchildren, her two great grandchildren, and to her entire extended family and the friends who mourn her loss.

RECOGNIZING THE LIFE AND SERVICE OF FRANK BRYANT

HON. MARK DeSAULNIER
OF CALIFORNIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, May 23, 2019

Mr. DeSAULNIER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the life and service of longtime Walnut Creek resident, Mr. Frank Bryant. Frank was born on April 24, 1936 in Elko, Nevada to parents Howard and Charlotte Bryant. After his family moved to California, Frank attended San Jose State University before settling in Walnut Creek with his wife Susan. Frank and Susan resided in Walnut Creek for over 50 years. Throughout this time, Frank was deeply committed to serving the East Bay community.

An architect by trade, Frank designed several commercial and residential buildings throughout Walnut Creek. A strong partner with the City of Walnut Creek, Frank designed a community center, a homeless shelter, and renovated East Bay landmark, the Barges Ranch House. Frank also used his architectural expertise in his positions on the Walnut Creek Design Review Commission, the Civic Arts Association, and the Walnut Creek Planning Commission. As a further testament to his commitment to the community, Frank was a founding member and the first president of the Kennedy King Memorial College Scholarship Fund, an organization that pays tribute to two American heroes while helping provide students access to educational opportunities.

Please join me in honoring Frank Bryant, whose devotion to public service had a profound impact on his community.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE TRADITION OF BREAKFAST ON THE FARM IN BROWN COUNTY

HON. MIKE GALLAGHER
OF WISCONSIN
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, May 23, 2019

Mr. GALLAGHER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the tradition of Breakfast on the Farm in Brown County.

Breakfast on the Farm is an iconic Wisconsin tradition that provides the community an opportunity to see first-hand how a dairy farm operates, and to learn about the significant role the dairy industry plays in Wisconsin’s economy. Community members meet dairy farmers, explore the barns and equipment, and enjoy a delicious meal prepared on the farm.

In 1997, Dennis and Mary Zirbel moved from Collins, WI, to establish DenMar Acres, their dairy farm in Greenleaf, WI. Their sons Jeremy, Jeff, and Jesse are partners on the farm where the family milks 950 cows and manages 1,900 acres. Always pursuing innovative practices, DenMar Acres implements advanced technologies such as the Juno robot Feed Pushers, to help increase yields and improve efficiency on their farm. I am grateful to DenMar Acres for hosting the 2019 Brown County Breakfast on the Farm.

Brown County Dairy Promotion has been organizing Breakfast on the Farm since 2001, recruiting farm hosts, sponsors, and volunteers to support this terrific event. To continue the promotion of agriculture throughout the year, all proceeds of Breakfast on the Farm are donated to provide free educational programs to students studying agriculture in Brown County.

Madam Speaker, I urge all members of this body to join me in commending the efforts of Breakfast on the Farm to educate the community through this time-honored tradition. Thank you to the Zirbels, Brown County Dairy Promotion, and the countless sponsors and volunteers for their continued support of Wisconsin’s dairy industry.

RECOGNITION FOR VIRGINIA DeANGELIS, PH.D.

HON. KEVIN McCARTHY
OF CALIFORNIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, May 23, 2019

Mr. McCARTHY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Dr. Virginia DeAngelis for her life of work and service to our community. Jinny is stepping down as the Chief Executive Officer of Desert Area Regional Training (DART), an organization that advocates for, and employs, people with disabilities in Ridgecrest, California, which I represent.

Jinny was born and raised in Wisconsin, graduating cum laude from the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point, and later obtained her Master’s degree and Doctorate in Business Administration, with an emphasis in Organizational Leadership. After all those years in the cold Midwest, Jinny wanted warmer weather, eventually bringing her to the community of Ridgecrest. She taught at the Sierra School Unified School District, and later obtained her Master’s degree and Doctorate in Business Administration, with an emphasis in Organizational Leadership. After all those years in the cold Midwest, Jinny wanted warmer weather, eventually bringing her to the community of Ridgecrest.

Because of the generosity in our community, DART recently had to open a new, bigger location that allowed for more space in the shop and greater work experience. Jinny’s presence in our community has been prolific; she serves on multiple boards and volunteers her time for many local organizations, including the Rotary Club of China Lake, Girl Scouts USA, and Ridgecrest Mayor Peggy Breeden’s Special Committee on the Handicapped for the City of Ridgecrest. Jinny is a true believer in the power of education and has lent her expertise to others in Kern County through her work with the Autism Task Force in Kern County and the Kern Community College District Adult Education Consortium. For her service and dedication to people with disabilities, she has received many awards, including Rotarian of the Year in 2014, 2015, and 2016.

On behalf of the constituents of the 23rd Congressional District of California, I applaud Jinny for her over 40 years of dedication, hard work, and service to educating and advocating on behalf of people with disabilities. I wish her well as she embarks on the next chapter in her life.

IN HONOR OF CHIEF ROBERT PFANNES FOR HIS EXEMPLARY SERVICE

HON. DEBBIE DINGELL
OF MICHIGAN
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, May 23, 2019

Mrs. DINGELL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Police Chief Robert Pfannes for his dedicated service to the city of Ann Arbor. His exceptional work ensuring the safety of his community is worthy of commendation.

A graduate of Madonna University and the Eastern Michigan University School of Police Staff and Command, Chief Robert Pfannes committed his career to protecting the community. Initially serving in the Detroit and Garden
City Police Departments, Chief Pfannes joined the Ann Arbor Police Department in 1998 as a patrol officer. He worked in the patrol, major crimes, and narcotics divisions, before being promoted to Detective Lieutenant in 2012, where he served as the commander of the Detective Section. Beyond his work in public safety, Chief Pfannes has dedicated numerous hours in service of education, teaching at the Western Wayne Regional Police Academy for the last 23 years.

Chief Pfannes’ efforts demonstrate a deep commitment to justice, public safety, and education. His critical work has been instrumental in protecting the Ann Arbor community. Chief Pfannes’ 21 years as a member of the Ann Arbor Police Department exemplifies the selflessness of public service. We are grateful for the exceptional work he has done protecting the Ann Arbor community, and we congratulate him on his retirement. His dedicated leadership will be missed, and we wish him good health and every happiness in his retirement years.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Police Chief Robert Pfannes for his many years of exemplary service. He has effectively served Michigan and its residents through his selflessness and leadership.
Daily Digest

HIGHLIGHTS

Senate passed S. 151, TRACED Act, as amended.

Senate passed H.R. 2157, Supplemental Appropriations Act, as amended.

Senate

Chamber Action

*Routine Proceedings, pages S3065–S3137*

**Measures Introduced:** Sixty-nine bills and eight resolutions were introduced, as follows: S. 1627–1695, and S. Res. 219–226.  

**Measures Reported:**

- 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, and with an amended preamble.

**Measures Passed:**

- **TRACED Act:** By 97 yeas to 1 nay (Vote No. 127), Senate passed S. 151, to deter criminal robocall violations and improve enforcement of section 227(b) of the Communications Act of 1934, after agreeing to the committee amendment in the nature of a substitute.
- **Supplemental Appropriations Act:** By 85 yeas to 8 nays (Vote No. 129), Senate passed H.R. 2157, making supplemental appropriations for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2019, after agreeing to the motion to proceed, and the following amendment proposed thereto:

  Adopted:
  - McConnell (for Shelby/Leahy) Amendment No. 250, in the nature of a substitute.
  - During consideration of this measure today, Senate also took the following action:
    - By 84 yeas to 9 nays (Vote No. 128), three-fifths of those Senators duly chosen and sworn, having voted in the affirmative, pursuant to section 904 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 and the waiver provisions of applicable budget resolutions, Senate agreed to the motion to waive all applicable sections of the Act and applicable budget resolutions with respect to the bill, as amended.

**National Public Works Week:** Committee on the Judiciary was discharged from further consideration of S. Res. 213, designating the week of May 19 through May 25, 2019, as “National Public Works Week”, and the resolution was then agreed to.

**Vision To Learn:** Senate agreed to S. Res. 222, recognizing Vision To Learn as a national leader in improving access to prescription eyeglasses for students in low-income communities, thereby helping those students succeed in school, and for providing vision exams to 200,000 students since its founding.

**DIPG Pediatric Brain Cancer Awareness Day:** Senate agreed to S. Res. 223, expressing support for the designation of May 17, 2019, as “DIPG Pediatric Brain Cancer Awareness Day” to raise awareness of and encourage research on diffuse intrinsic pontine glioma tumors and pediatric cancers in general.

**National Nurses Week:** Senate agreed to S. Res. 224, supporting the goals and ideals of National Nurses Week, to be observed from May 6 through May 12, 2019.

**International Myalgic Encephalomyelitis/Chronic Fatigue Syndrome Awareness Day:** Senate agreed to S. Res. 225, supporting the goals of International Myalgic Encephalomyelitis/Chronic Fatigue Syndrome Awareness Day.

**National Foster Care Month:** Senate agreed to S. Res. 226, recognizing National Foster Care Month as
an opportunity to raise awareness about the challenges of children in the foster care system, and encouraging Congress to implement policy to improve the lives of children in the foster care system.

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**Republic of the Marshall Islands:** Committee on Energy and Natural Resources was discharged from further consideration of S. Con. Res. 3, recognizing the rich history, heritage, and strategic importance of the Republic of the Marshall Islands and the Marshallese population residing in the United States, and the resolution was then agreed to.

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**National Flood Insurance Program:** Senate passed S. 1693, to reauthorize the National Flood Insurance Program.

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**Congressional Budget—Agreement:** Senate began consideration of the motion to proceed to consideration of S. 1332, to set forth the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2020 and setting forth the appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2021 through 2029. A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing that the motion to proceed to consideration of the bill, and, in accordance with the provisions of Rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, and pursuant to the unanimous-consent agreement of Thursday, May 23, 2019, a vote on cloture will occur at 5:30 p.m. on Monday, June 3, 2019. A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing that at approximately 3 p.m. on Monday, June 3, 2019, Senate resume consideration of the motion to proceed to consideration of the bill; and that notwithstanding the provisions of Rule XXII, the cloture motions filed during the session of Thursday, May 23, 2019 ripen at 5:30 p.m. on Monday, June 3, 2019.

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**Indian Water Rights Settlement Extension Act—Referral:** A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing that the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources be discharged from further consideration of S. 886, to amend the Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2009 to make the Reclamation Water Settlements Fund permanent, and the bill be referred to the Committee on Indian Affairs.

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**Pro Forma Sessions—Agreement:** A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing that the Senate adjourn, to then convene for pro forma sessions only, with no business being conducted on the following dates and times, and that following each pro forma session, the Senate adjourn until the next pro forma session: Friday, May 24, 2019, at 9:45 a.m.; Tuesday, May 28, 2019, at 11:30 a.m.; Friday, May 31, 2019, at 10:30 a.m.; and that when the Senate adjourns on Friday, May 31, 2019, it next convene at 3 p.m., on Monday, June 3, 2019.

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**Saul Nomination—Cloture:** Senate began consideration of the nomination of Andrew M. Saul, of New York, to be Commissioner of Social Security. A motion was entered to close further debate on the nomination, and, in accordance with the provisions of Rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, a vote on cloture will occur upon disposition of S. 1332, to set forth the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2020 and setting forth the appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2021 through 2029.

Prior to the consideration of this nomination, Senate took the following action:

Senate agreed to the motion to proceed to Executive Session to consider the nomination.

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**Schenker Nomination—Cloture:** Senate began consideration of the nomination of David Schenker, of New Jersey, to be an Assistant Secretary of State (Near Eastern Affairs). A motion was entered to close further debate on the nomination, and, in accordance with the provisions of Rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, a vote on cloture will occur upon disposition of the nomination of Andrew M. Saul, of New York, to be Commissioner of Social Security. Prior to the consideration of this nomination, Senate took the following action:

Senate agreed to the motion to proceed to Legislative Session.

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**Tarbert Nomination—Cloture:** Senate began consideration of the nomination of Heath P. Tarbert, of Maryland, to be Chairman of the Commodity Futures Trading Commission. A motion was entered to close further debate on the nomination, and, in accordance with the provisions of Rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, a vote on cloture will occur upon disposition of the nomination of David Schenker, of New Jersey, to be an Assistant Secretary of State (Near Eastern Affairs).

Prior to the consideration of this nomination, Senate took the following action:

Senate agreed to the motion to proceed to Legislative Session.

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Tarbert Nomination—Cloture: Senate began consideration of the nomination of Heath P. Tarbert, of
Maryland, to be a Commissioner of the Commodity Futures Trading Commission.

A motion was entered to close further debate on the nomination, and, in accordance with the provisions of Rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, a vote on cloture will occur upon disposition of the nomination of Heath P. Tarbert, of Maryland, to be Chairman of the Commodity Futures Trading Commission.

Prior to the consideration of this nomination, Senate took the following action:

- Senate agreed to the motion to proceed to Legislative Session.
- Senate agreed to the motion to proceed to Executive Session to consider the nomination.

Combs Nomination—Cloture: Senate began consideration of the nomination of Susan Combs, of Texas, to be an Assistant Secretary of the Interior.

A motion was entered to close further debate on the nomination, and, in accordance with the provisions of Rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, a vote on cloture will occur upon disposition of the nomination of Heath P. Tarbert, of Maryland, to be a Commissioner of the Commodity Futures Trading Commission.

Prior to the consideration of this nomination, Senate took the following action:

- Senate agreed to the motion to proceed to Legislative Session.
- Senate agreed to the motion to proceed to Executive Session to consider the nomination.

Holte Nomination—Cloture: Senate began consideration of the nomination of Ryan T. Holte, of Ohio, to be a Judge of the United States Court of Federal Claims.

A motion was entered to close further debate on the nomination, and, in accordance with the provisions of Rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, a vote on cloture will occur upon disposition of the nomination of Susan Combs, of Texas, to be an Assistant Secretary of the Interior.

Prior to the consideration of this nomination, Senate took the following action:

- Senate agreed to the motion to proceed to Legislative Session.
- Senate agreed to the motion to proceed to Executive Session to consider the nomination.

Alston Nomination—Cloture: Senate began consideration of the nomination of Rossie David Alston, Jr., of Virginia, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Virginia.

A motion was entered to close further debate on the nomination, and, in accordance with the provisions of Rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, a vote on cloture will occur upon disposition of the nomination of Ryan T. Holte, of Ohio, to be a Judge of the United States Court of Federal Claims.

Prior to the consideration of this nomination, Senate took the following action:

- Senate agreed to the motion to proceed to Legislative Session.
- Senate agreed to the motion to proceed to Executive Session to consider the nomination.

Hertling Nomination—Cloture: Senate began consideration of the nomination of Richard A. Hertling, of Maryland, to be a Judge of the United States Court of Federal Claims.

A motion was entered to close further debate on the nomination, and, in accordance with the provisions of Rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, a vote on cloture will occur upon disposition of the nomination of Rossie David Alston, Jr., of Virginia, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Virginia.

Prior to the consideration of this nomination, Senate took the following action:

- Senate agreed to the motion to proceed to Legislative Session.
- Senate agreed to the motion to proceed to Executive Session to consider the nomination.

Baranwal Nomination—Agreement: A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing that at a time to be determined by the Majority Leader, in consultation with the Democratic Leader, Senate begin consideration of the nomination of Rita Baranwal, of Pennsylvania, to be an Assistant Secretary of Energy (Nuclear Energy); and that Senate vote on confirmation of the nomination, with no intervening action or debate, and that no further motions be in order.

Nominations Confirmed: Senate confirmed the following nominations:

- William Bookless, of California, to be Principal Deputy Administrator, National Nuclear Security Administration.
- Christopher Fall, of Virginia, to be Director of the Office of Science, Department of Energy.
- Richard C. Parker, of North Carolina, to be an Assistant Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development.
- John Barsa, of Florida, to be an Assistant Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development.
- Michael J. Fitzpatrick, of Virginia, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Ecuador.
- James S. Gilmore, of Virginia, to be U.S. Representative to the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, with the rank of Ambassador.
Jeffrey Ross Gunter, of California, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Iceland.

Michael G. Bailey, of Arizona, to be United States Attorney for the District of Arizona for the term of four years.

William Travis Brown, Jr., of Louisiana, to be United States Marshal for the Middle District of Louisiana for the term of four years.

Eric S. Gartner, of Pennsylvania, to be United States Marshal for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania for the term of four years.

Brent R. Bunn, of Idaho, to be United States Marshal for the District of Idaho for the term of four years.

Timothy J. Downing, of Oklahoma, to be United States Attorney for the Western District of Oklahoma for the term of four years.

Michael Blaine East, of North Carolina, to be United States Marshal for the Eastern District of North Carolina for the term of four years.

Bridget A. Brink, of Michigan, to be Ambassador to the Slovak Republic.

John Jefferson Daigle, of Louisiana, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Cabo Verde.

Matthew S. Klimow, of New York, to be Ambassador to Turkmenistan.

Kate Marie Byrnes, of Florida, to be Ambassador to the Republic of North Macedonia.

Air Force nominations in the rank of general.

Army nominations in the rank of general.

Navy nominations in the rank of admiral.

Routine lists in the Air Force, Army, and Navy.

Nomination Withdrawn: Senate received notification of withdrawal of the following nomination:

Scott A. Mugno, of Pennsylvania, to be an Assistant Secretary of Labor, which was sent to the Senate on January 16, 2019.

Pages S3128–35

Message from the House:

Records Received:

Executive Communications:

Executive Reports of Committees:

Additional Cosponsors:

Statements on Introduced Bills/Resolutions:

Additional Statements:

Amendments Submitted:

Routine by Committees:

Record Votes: Three record votes were taken today.

Adjournment: Senate convened at 9:30 a.m. and adjourned at 6:34 p.m., until 9:45 a.m. on Friday, May 24, 2019. (For Senate’s program, see the remarks of the Majority Leader in today’s Record on page S3128.)

Committee Meetings

(Committees not listed did not meet)

BUSINESS MEETING

Committee on Finance: Committee ordered favorably reported the nominations of David Fabian Black, of North Dakota, to be Deputy Commissioner of Social Security, and Emin Toro, of Virginia, to be a Judge of the United States Tax Court.

ARIA IN ACTION

Committee on Foreign Relations: Subcommittee on East Asia, the Pacific, and International Cybersecurity Policy concluded a hearing to examine the Asia Reassurance Initiative Act in action, focusing on the benefits of economic diplomacy, after receiving testimony from Carlyle Currier, Colorado Farm Bureau, Centennial; and Matthew P. Goodman, Center for Strategic and International Studies, and Joanna I. Lewis, Georgetown University Edmund A. Walsh School of Foreign Service, both of Washington, D.C.
DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY
BUDGET

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs: Committee concluded a hearing to examine the President’s proposed budget request for fiscal year 2020 for the Department of Homeland Security, after receiving testimony from Kevin K. McAleenan, Acting Secretary of Homeland Security.

House of Representatives

Chamber Action

Public Bills and Resolutions Introduced: 83 public bills, H.R. 2938–3020; and 9 resolutions, H. Res. 400–408, were introduced. Pages H4160–65

Additional Cosponsors: Pages H4167–68

Reports Filed: Reports were filed today as follows:

H.R. 1716, to direct the Secretary of Commerce, acting through the Administrator of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, to conduct coastal community vulnerability assessments related to ocean acidification, and for other purposes, with an amendment (H. Rept. 116–81);

H.R. 988, to provide for a study by the Ocean Studies Board of the National Academies of Science examining the impact of ocean acidification and other stressors in estuarine environments, with amendments (H. Rept. 116–82, Part 1);

H.R. 2960, making appropriations for energy and water development and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2020, and for other purposes (H. Rept. 116–83); and

H.R. 2968, making appropriations for the Department of Defense for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2020, and for other purposes (H. Rept. 116–84). Page H4160

Speaker: Read a letter from the Speaker wherein she appointed Representative Luria to act as Speaker pro tempore for today. Page H4123

Guest Chaplain: The prayer was offered by the Guest Chaplain, Chaplain (Major) Thomas E. Fussell, United States Air Force, Patrick Air Force Base, Cape Canaveral, Florida. Page H4123

Journal: The House agreed to the Speaker’s approval of the Journal by a yea-and-nay vote of 223 yeas to 194 nays with two answering “present”, Roll No. 229. Page H4123, H4146


Rejected the McHenry motion to recommit to the Committee on Ways and Means with instructions to report the same back to the House forthwith with an amendment, by a recorded vote of 200 ayes to 222 noes, Roll No. 230. Pages H4146–48

Pursuant to the Rule, the amendment in the nature of a substitute recommended by the Committee on Ways and Means now printed in the bill, modified by the amendment printed in part B of H. Rept. 116–79, shall be considered as adopted. Page H4124

Agreed that in the engrossment of the bill, the Clerk be authorized to make technical corrections and conforming changes. Page H4149

H. Res. 389, the rule providing for consideration of the bills (H.R. 1500) and (H.R. 1994) was agreed to Tuesday, May 21st. Page H4149

Meeting Hour: Agreed by unanimous consent that when the House adjourns today, it adjourn to meet at 11 a.m. tomorrow, May 24th. Page H4149

Quorum Calls—Votes: Two yea-and-nay votes and one recorded vote developed during the proceedings of today and appear on pages H4146, H4148, and H4148–49. There were no quorum calls.

Adjournment: The House met at 9 a.m. and adjourned at 1:41 p.m.

Committee Meetings

MISCELLANEOUS MEASURE

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on the Departments of Transportation, and Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies held a markup on the Departments of Transportation, and Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill, FY 2020. The Departments of Transportation, and Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill, FY 2020 was forwarded to the full Committee, without amendment.
MISCELLANEOUS MEASURE

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies held a markup on the Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill, FY 2020. The Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill, FY 2020 was forwarded to the full Committee, without amendment.

SUMMER DRIVING DANGERS: EXPLORING WAYS TO PROTECT DRIVERS AND THEIR FAMILIES

Committee on Energy and Commerce: Subcommittee on Consumer Protection and Commerce held a hearing entitled “Summer Driving Dangers: Exploring Ways to Protect Drivers and their Families”. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

THE INSULAR AREAS MEDICAID CLIFF

Committee on Natural Resources: Full Committee held a hearing entitled “The Insular Areas Medicaid Cliff”. Testimony was heard from Esther L. Muna, Chief Executive Officer, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands Healthcare Corporation; Helen C. Sablan, Director, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands State Medicaid Agency; Maria Theresa Arcangel, Chief Administrator, Guam Division of Public Welfare; Michal S.A. Rhymer-Browne, Assistant Commissioner, U.S. Virgin Islands Department of Human Services; Sandra King Young, Medicaid Director, American Samoa Government; and Angela Avilá, Executive Director, Puerto Rico State Health Insurance Administration.

MISSION IMPERATIVE: DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION IN THE INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITY

Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence: Full Committee held a hearing entitled “Mission Imperative: Diversity and Inclusion in the Intelligence Community”. Testimony was heard from Kari Bingen, Principal Deputy Under Secretary of Defense for Intelligence, Department of Defense; Rita Sampson, Chief of Equal Employment Opportunity and Diversity, Office of the Director of National Intelligence; and Harry Coker, Executive Director, National Security Agency.

CREATING A CLIMATE RESILIENT AMERICA

Select Committee on the Climate Crisis: Full Committee held a hearing entitled “Creating a Climate Resilient America”. Testimony was heard from Keith Hodges, State Delegate, 98th District, Virginia; and public witnesses.

BUSINESS MEETING

Select Committee on the Modernization of Congress: Full Committee held a business meeting to consider proposed recommendations on transparency. The proposed recommendations on transparency were ordered reported.

Joint Meetings

No joint committee meetings were held.

COMMITTEE MEETINGS FOR FRIDAY, MAY 24, 2019

(Committee meetings are open unless otherwise indicated)

Senate

No meetings/hearings scheduled.

House

No hearings are scheduled.

Joint Meetings

Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe: to receive a briefing with the House Committee on Financial Services on trade-based money laundering, 9:30 a.m., 2360, Rayburn Building.
Next Meeting of the SENATE
9:45 a.m., Friday, May 24

Program for Friday: Senate will meet in a pro forma session.

Next Meeting of the HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
11 a.m., Friday, May 24

Program for Friday: House will meet in Pro Forma session at 11 a.m.

Extensions of Remarks, as inserted in this issue

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