House of Representatives

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

DESIGNATION OF THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,
June 27, 2019.

I hereby appoint the Honorable Veronica Escobar to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

NANCY PELOSI,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Patrick J. Conroy, offered the following prayer:

God, You created us endowed with freedom. We give You thanks for giving us another day.

As Congress heads into a recess to celebrate the Fourth of July, America’s national holiday, may all citizens be mindful of the wonder of our Nation’s inception.

Men and women of goodwill from various backgrounds and sections of the Colonies from disparate faith traditions came together in prayer and united by a vision of political and economic autonomy, courageously placed their lives, their liberty, and their fortunes on the line to found these United States.

May all Americans be renewed in their commitment to our representative government. May each American expect of themselves intelligent participation in the political process so that the Members of Congress they elect might be statesmen and -women who are able to represent the interests of their constituents while also faithfully honoring their oath to defend the Constitution in doing what is best for our Nation.

In all the celebrations of this week to come, may all that is done be for Your greater honor and glory.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

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

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

Ms. PINGREE. 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 ayes appeared to have it.

Ms. PINGREE. Madam Speaker, pursuant to clause 8, rule XX, further proceedings on this question will be postponed.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

Mr. BROWN of Maryland 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.

REPORT ON RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF THE SENATE AMENDMENT TO H.R. 3401, EMERGENCY SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS FOR HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE AND SECURITY AT THE SOUTHERN BORDER ACT, 2019

Mr. McGovern, from the Committee on Rules, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 116–130) on the resolution (H. Res. 466) providing for consideration of the Senate amendment to the bill (H.R. 3401) making emergency supplemental appropriations for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2019, and for other purposes, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

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.

IT IS TIME TO PUT HARRIET TUBMAN ON THE $20 BILL

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

Mr. Brown of Maryland. Madam Speaker, it is time to put Harriet Tubman on the $20 bill.

The Treasury has had this design in the works for years, and now, all of a sudden, it is backpedaling. It takes 10 years, they say, to complete this work. During a 10-year period, Harriet Tubman made 19 round trips on the underground railroad to lead over 300 slaves to freedom; and, in less time, Treasury can’t put this American hero on a piece of paper.

How long must it take to reflect our Nation’s rich diversity on our currency?

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

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.
How long must it take to recognize an icon of freedom and courage?

How long must it take to rightfully acknowledge the work of a woman who helped countless enslaved Americans of African descent?

How long must it take when the American people overwhelmingly select her as the face of the new $20 bill?

Harriet Tubman embodies the American spirit of strength and hope.

It is time to put a woman on the $20 bill. In this year, the 100th anniversary of women’s suffrage, we want to guarantee that Treasury will follow through on this promise and this commitment.

RECOGNIZING DuBois AREA MIDDLE SCHOOL

(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 to recognize students, teachers, and staff at DuBois Area Middle School. For the fourth consecutive time, DuBois Area Middle School was one of over 465 schools from around the country named as a school to watch by the National Forum to Accelerate Middle-Grades Reform.

The Schools to Watch recognition is based on a comprehensive 3-year review of the entire school. Only one other middle school in Pennsylvania has remained at the top with DuBois for their continuous designations.

The students, teachers, and faculty members have joined together to create a learning community where everyone is supported. Every year, the community is challenged to maintain their success by continuing to put their best foot forward. This week, they were recognized for their 12 years of excellence at the National Forum to Watch Conference here in Washington, D.C.

I look forward meeting representatives from the DuBois Area Middle School later today. Madam Speaker, the entire 15th Congressional District of Pennsylvania is proud of their continuous success.

CRISIS AT THE BORDER

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

Ms. SPEIER. Madam Speaker, this is not my America. This is not the values of our America. Look at this picture.

Now, some critics think that this should not have been published, but I disagree, because these people are not rapists or murderers or drug dealers. This is Oscar Ramirez and his 23-month-old daughter, Angie Valeria. They died on the Rio Grande River. Angie clinging to Oscar’s neck and tuck under his shirt in a desperate attempt to survive.

Their story isn’t unique. Last Saturday, a mother and three children were found dead on U.S. soil. Children have been found freezing. We now know that many of them don’t even have simple items of hygiene like soap and toothbrushes.

A group of women from my district, 20 of them, created a nonprofit called Bay Area Border Relief. They are in McAllen right now. They took 490 boxes of clothes, and it was actually reduced in less than 2 weeks. We need to address this issue now.

RECOGNIZING LIEUTENANT GENERAL ROBERT SCOTT WILLIAMS ON HIS RETIREMENT

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

Mr. DUNN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Lieutenant General Robert Scott Williams as he retires after 32 years of service to the United States Air Force.

On June 20, General Williams completed his tenure as dual commander of Air Forces Northern and First Air Force headquarters at Tyndall Air Force Base, capping a long and distinguished career.

His service to the Air Force included a tour as commander of the 168th Operations Group and Fighter Wing at McEntire Joint National Guard Base in South Carolina.

General Williams’ leadership during and after Hurricane Michael was top tier. He and his team at Tyndall Air Force Base overcame numerous obstacles and exceeded expectations by opening First Air Force headquarters way ahead of schedule. This is only 2 short months after the category 5 storm Michael devastated the panhandle.

Madam Speaker, I applaud the work he has accomplished over his last 3 years of command and his 32-year career. Please join me in saluting Lieutenant General Robert Scott Williams for his great service to the Air Force.

RECOGNIZING AMERICAN GROWN FLOWERS MONTH

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

Ms. PINGREE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize July as American Grown Flowers Month.

As co-chair of the House Cut Flowers Caucus, I know the buy local movement has encouraged customers to buy not only their food, but also their flowers, from local farmers. People want to support the small family farm down the road, whether it is lettuce or lilies. The cut flower industry creates jobs, benefits our local economies, and naturally encourages us to embrace our planet’s natural beauty.

For farmers, cut flowers allow us to preserve open spaces, participate in sustainable agriculture, and, many times, support women-owned businesses.

In my home State of Maine, where I represent many small farms, more than 250 farms sell cut flowers, from the Snell Family Farm in Buxton to Lazy Acres Farm in Farmington. This is an industry worth upwards of $1 million to our economy and has seen such rapid growth in recent years that we have many flower CSAs for local customers. The new interest in locally sourced flowers has allowed farmers to diversify their crops and boost their income.

In Maine, nationally recognized as “Vacationland,” cut flowers are essential to our tourism industry. Flowers decorate wedding venues, hotels, and restaurants across our State. And when you are celebrating something as special as a wedding or a long-awaited vacation, shouldn’t everything, down to the flowers on the table, have some meaning?

RECOGNIZING PARALYMPIC ATHLETE LIZZI SMITH

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

Mr. PENCE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize an individual from Muncie, Indiana, who has made her community and State proud. Lizzi Smith, a Paralympic athlete who competed in the 2016 Paralympic Games, is now working toward her goal of swimming in the 2020 Paralympic Games in Tokyo.

Lizzis has already accomplished so much in her swimming career. She helped Muncie Central High School win a sectional in high school. She won two world medals at the age of 17, and she came away from the 2016 Paralympics with two medals. Just this year, Lizzis set the Pan American record in the S10 100-meter butterfly.

I thank Lizzis for inspiring us to dream big and for setting a strong example for young Hoosiers and all Americans. I wish her the best of luck on the road to Tokyo. Bring home the gold.

HIGHLIGHTING THE DAIRY MARGIN COVERAGE PROGRAM

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

Mr. DELGADO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge the end of Dairy Month, which is recognized throughout June. I also rise to highlight the USDA’s new Dairy Margin Coverage program, which is enrolling farmers right now.

My district in upstate New York is home to hundreds of dairy farmers, and way too many are struggling to survive with years of plummeting milk prices.

Now at the mercy of not just a complex pricing system, but also trade wars, our farmers need real support. I
encourage all dairy farmers in New York’s 19th Congressional District to begin making coverage decisions. The Dairy Margin Coverage program is retroactive until the beginning of the year, with applicable payments following soon after enrollment.

As dairy farmers continue to face low prices and increased market consolidation, I hope this program will provide much-needed support during this challenging farm economy.

As a member of the Agriculture Committee, I am deeply committed to supporting our dairy farmers, and I will be closely following implementation of the Dairy Margin Coverage program. I will continue fighting to give our farmers the support and the certainty they need.

SECURING AMERICA’S FEDERAL ELECTIONS ACT
Ms. LOFGREN. Madam Speaker, pursuant to House Resolution 460, I call up the bill (H.R. 2722) to protect elections for public office by providing financial support and enhanced security for the infrastructure necessary to carry out such elections, 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 460, in lieu of the amendment in the nature of a substitute recommended by the Committee on House Administration printed in the bill, an amendment in the nature of a substitute consisting of the text of Rules Committee Print 116–20, modified by the amendment printed in part A of House Report 116–126, is adopted, and the bill, as amended, is considered read.

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

H.R. 2722
Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled.

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; TABLE OF CONTENTS.
(a) SHORT TITLE.—This Act may be cited as the “Securing America’s Federal Elections Act” or the “SAFE Act”.
(b) TABLE OF CONTENTS.—The table of contents of this Act is as follows:

TITLE I—FINANCIAL SUPPORT FOR ELECTION INFRASTRUCTURE
Subtitle A—Voting System Security Improvement Grants

PART 1—PROMOTING ACCURACY, INTEGRITY, AND SECURITY THROUGH VOTER-VERIFIED PERMANENT PAPER BALLOT
Sec. 101. Short title.
Sec. 102. Paper ballot and manual counting requirements.
Sec. 103. Accessibility and ballot verification for individuals with disabilities.
Sec. 104. Durability and readability requirements for ballots.
Sec. 105. Paper ballot printing requirements.
Sec. 106. Study on optimal ballot design.
Sec. 107. Effective date for new requirements.

PART 2—GRANTS TO CARRY OUT IMPROVEMENTS
Sec. 111. Grants for obtaining compliant paper ballot voting systems and carrying out voting system security improvements.
"(u) PRESERVATION AS OFFICIAL RECORD.—The individual, durable, voter-verifiable paper ballot used in accordance with clause (i) shall constitute the official ballot and shall be preserved and used by the ballot for purposes of any recount or audit conducted with respect to any election for Federal office in which the voting system is used.

(ii) COUNTING REQUIREMENTS FOR RECOUNTS AND AUDITS.—(I) Each paper ballot used pursuant to clause (i) shall be suitable for manual counting by hand in any recount or audit conducted with respect to any election for Federal office.

(II) In the event of any inconsistencies or irreconcilable differences between electronic and hand counts of the vote tallies determined by counting by hand the individual, durable, voter-verifiable paper ballots used pursuant to clause (i), and subsequent hand counts (B), the individual, durable, voter-verifiable paper ballots shall be the true and correct record of the vote cast.

(iii) APPLICABILITY TO ALL BALLOTS.—The requirements of this subparagraph shall apply to all ballots cast in elections for Federal office, including ballots cast by absent uniformed services voters and overseas voters under the Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act and other absentee voters.

(b) SPECIAL RULE FOR TREATMENT OF DISPUTED VOTING SYSTEMS.—When paper ballots have been shown to be compromised, or when the determination of the appropriate remedy for a disputed voting system is used.

(c) DISABILITIES.—Nothing in this section shall apply to any election for Federal office in which the voting system is used.

(i) In general.—In the event that an individual, durable, voter-verifiable paper ballots used pursuant to subparagraph (A)(i) with respect to any election for Federal office, and

(ii) It is demonstrated by clear and convincing evidence (as determined in accordance with the applicable standards in the jurisdiction involved) in any recount, audit, or contest of the result of the election that the paper ballots have been compromised (by damage or mischief or otherwise), the individual, durable paper ballots have been so compromised that the result of the election could be changed, the determination of the appropriate remedy with respect to the election shall be made in accordance with applicable State law, except that the electronic tally shall not be used as the exclusive basis for determining the official certified result.

(iii) RULE FOR CONSIDERATION OF BALLOTS ASSOCIATED WITH EACH VOTING MACHINE.—For purposes of clause (i), only the paper ballots containing the information printed or marked on the permanent paper ballots shall be considered eligible, voter-verified paper ballots used pursuant to subparagraph (A)(i), after the voting system is used.

(b) FORMING AMENDMENT CLARIFYING APPLICABILITY OF ALTERNATIVE LANGUAGE ACCESSIBILITY.—Section 301(a)(4) of such Act (52 U.S.C. 21081(a)(4)) is amended by inserting "(in accordance with the applicable standards in the jurisdiction involved) in any recount, audit, or contest of the result of the election that the paper ballots have been compromised (by damage or mischief or otherwise) in the calculation of whether or not the result of the election could be changed due to the compromised paper ballot")

(c) OTHER CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—Section 301(a)(4) of such Act (52 U.S.C. 21081(a)(4)) is amended by inserting "(including the paper ballots required to be used under paragraph (2))" after "voting system".

(d) ELIGIBILITY.—An entity is eligible to receive a grant under this part if it submits to the Director an application containing—

(1) certifications that the entity shall specifically investigate enhanced methods or devices, including non-electronic devices, that will assist such individuals and voters in marking voter-verifiable paper ballots and preventing or transmitting the information printed or marked on such ballots back to such individuals and voters, and casting such ballots;

(2) a certification that the entity shall complete the activity carried out with the grant not later than December 31, 2020; and

(3) such other information and certifications as the Director may require.

(e) AVAILABILITY OF TECHNOLOGY.—Any technology developed with the grants made under this section shall be treated as non-pro prietary and shall be made available to the public, including to manufacturers of voting systems.

(f) COORDINATION WITH GRANTS FOR TECHNOLOGY IMPROVEMENT.—The Director shall carry out this section so that the activities carried out with the grants made under subsection (a) are coordinated with the research conducted under the grant program carried out by the Commission under section 271, to the extent that the Director and Commission determine necessary to provide for the advancement of accessible voting technology.

(g) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is authorized to be appropriated to carry out subsection (a) $5,000,000, to remain available until expended.

(h) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of contents of such Act is amended by redesigning the item relating to section 247 as relating to section 248; and

(i) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by subsection (a) shall apply to elections occurring on or after January 1, 2021.

(i) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by subsection (a) shall apply to elections occurring on or after January 1, 2021.

(j) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by subsection (a) shall apply to elections occurring on or after January 1, 2021.

(k) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by subsection (a) shall apply to elections occurring on or after January 1, 2021.

(l) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by subsection (a) shall apply to elections occurring on or after January 1, 2021.

(m) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by subsection (a) shall apply to elections occurring on or after January 1, 2021.
of individuals to offer the opportunity to cast votes using a pre-printed blank paper ballot.

IV. TRAINING OF ELECTION OFFICIALS.—The chief State election official shall ensure that election officials are aware of the requirements of this clause, including the requirement to display a notice under subsection (III), and are aware that it is a violation of this clause to fail to offer individuals the opportunity to cast a vote using a blank pre-printed paper ballot.

V. PERIODIC APPLICABILITY.—The requirements of this clause apply only during the period in which the delay in is effect under clause (i).

VI. SPECIAL RULE FOR JURISDICTIONS USING CERTAIN NONTABULATING BALLOT MARKING DEVICES.—In the case of a jurisdiction which uses non-tabulating ballot marking devices which automatically deposits the ballot into a privacy sleeve, subparagraph (A) shall apply to a voting system in the jurisdiction as if the reference in such subparagraph to ‘any election for Federal office held in 2020 or any succeeding year’ were a reference to ‘elections for Federal office occurring in 2020 or each succeeding year’.

PART 2—GRANTS TO CARRY OUT SECTION 297

SEC. 297. GRANTS FOR OBTAINING COMPLIANT PAPER BALLOT VOTING SYSTEMS AND CARRYING OUT VOTING SYSTEM SECURITY IMPROVEMENTS

(a) AVAILABILITY OF GRANTS.—Subtitle D of title II of the Help America Vote Act of 2002 (52 U.S.C. 20901 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following new part:

"PART 7—GRANTS FOR OBTAINING COMPLIANT PAPER BALLOT VOTING SYSTEMS AND CARRYING OUT VOTING SYSTEM SECURITY IMPROVEMENTS"

SEC. 297A. VOTING SYSTEM SECURITY IMPROVEMENTS DESCRIBED.

(a) PERMITTED USES.—A voting system security improvement described in this section is any of the following:

(1) The acquisition of goods and services from qualified election infrastructure vendors by purchase, lease, or such other arrangements as may be appropriate.

(2) Cyber and risk mitigation training.

(3) A security risk and vulnerability assessment of the State’s election infrastructure which is carried out by a provider of cybersecurity services under a contract entered into between the chief State election official and the provider.

(4) The maintenance of election infrastructure, including addressing risks and vulnerabilities which are identified under either of the security risk and vulnerability assessments described in paragraph (3), except that none of the funds provided under this part may be used to renovate or replace a building or facility which is used primarily for purposes other than the administration of elections for public office.

(b) PROVIDING INCREASED TECHNICAL SUPPORT.—The chief State election official is deemed to be part
of the State’s election infrastructure or designates as critical to the operation of the State’s election infrastructure.

(6) Enhancing the cybersecurity and operations (information technology infrastructure described in paragraph (4)).

(7) Enhancing the cybersecurity of voter registration systems.

(8) By redesigning ELECTION INFRASTRUCTURE VENDORS DESCRIBED.—

(a) In general.—For purposes of this paragraph, a ‘‘qualified election infrastructure vendor’’ is any person who provides, supports, or maintains, or who seeks to provide, support, or maintain, election infrastructure on behalf of a State, unit of local government, or election agency, who meets the criteria described in paragraph (2).

(b) Criteria.—The criteria described in this paragraph are such criteria as the Chairman, in coordination with the Secretary of Homeland Security, shall establish and publish, and shall include each of the following requirements:

(A) The vendor must be owned and controlled by a citizen or permanent resident of the United States.

(B) The vendor must disclose to the Chairman and the Secretary, and to the chief election official of the State to which the vendor provides any goods and services with funds provided under this part, of any sourcing outside the United States for parts of the election infrastructure.

(C) The vendor agrees to ensure that the election infrastructure will be developed and maintained in a manner that is consistent with the best practices issued by the Technical Guidelines Development Committee.

(D) The vendor agrees to maintain its information technology infrastructure in a manner that is consistent with the cybersecurity best practices issued by the Technical Guidelines Development Committee.

(E) The vendor agrees to meet the requirements of paragraph (3) with respect to any known or suspected cybersecurity incidents involving any of the goods and services provided by the vendor pursuant to a grant under this part.

(F) The vendor agrees to permit independent cybersecurity testing by the Commission in accordance with section 231(a) and by the Secretary of the goods and services provided by the vendor pursuant to a grant under this part.

(3) CYBERSECURITY INCIDENT REPORTING REQUIREMENTS.—

(A) In general.—A vendor meets the requirements of this paragraph if, upon becoming aware of the possibility that an election cybersecurity incident occurred, the vendor submits a notification meeting the requirements of subparagraph (B) to the Secretary and the Chairman of the assessment as soon as practicable (but in no case later than 3 days after the vendor first becomes aware of the possibility that the incident occurred).

(i) The vendor promptly assesses whether or not such an incident occurred, and submits a notification meeting the requirements of subparagraph (B) to the Secretary and the Chairman of the assessment as soon as practicable (but in no case later than 3 days after the vendor first becomes aware of the possibility that the incident occurred), and cooperates with the agency in providing any other necessary notifications regarding the incident; and

(ii) The vendor provides all necessary updates to any notification submitted under clause (i) or clause (ii).

(B) CONTENTS OF NOTIFICATIONS.—Each notification submitted under clause (i) or clause (ii) of subparagraph (A) shall contain the following information with respect to any election cybersecurity incident, as identified by the notification:

(1) The date, time, and time zone when the election cybersecurity incident began, if known.

(2) By adding at the end the following new paragraph:

(II) The date, time, and duration of the election cybersecurity incident.

(III) The date, time, and time zone when the election cybersecurity incident was detected.

(IV) Any plan and implemented technical measures to respond to and recover from the incident.

(V) In the case of any notification which is an update to a prior notification, any additional material information relating to the incident, including technical data, as it becomes available.

SEC. 297B. ELIGIBILITY OF STATES.

A State is eligible to receive a grant under this part if the State submits to the Commission, at such time and in such form as the Commission may require, an application containing—

(1) a description of how the State will use the grant to carry out the activities authorized under this part.

(2) A certification and assurance that, not later than 5 years after receiving the grant, the State will carry out voting system security improvements pursuant to a grant under this part—

(A) IN GENERAL.—For purposes of this part, a ‘‘voting system security improvement’’ means an activity designed to enhance the cybersecurity and operations of the goods and services provided by the vendor pursuant to a grant under this part—

(i) The date, time, and time zone when the election cybersecurity incident began, if known.

(ii) The date, time, and duration of the election cybersecurity incident.

(iii) The date, time, and duration of the election cybersecurity incident, including the specific election infrastructure systems believed to have been accessed and impacted, if any.

(iv) Any plan and implemented technical measures to respond to and recover from the incident.

(V) In the case of any notification which is an update to a prior notification, any additional material information relating to the incident, including technical data, as it becomes available.

(2) by adding the following new subparagraph (D) to the following new subparagraph:

(IV) By redesigning subparagraph (D) as paragraph (4): and

(3) by redesigning paragraph (4) as paragraph (5): and

(4) by inserting after paragraph (3) the following new paragraph:

(5) will be secure against attempts to undermine the integrity of election systems by cyber or other means; and

(6) REQUIREMENTS.—

(1) USE OF PAYMENTS FOR VOTING SYSTEM SECURITY IMPROVEMENTS.—Section 251(b) of such Act (52 U.S.C. 20961(b)) is amended by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

(1) by striking ‘‘and’’ at the end of paragraph (3); and

(b) by inserting after paragraph (3) the following new paragraph:

(2) CONTINUATION OF AVAILABILITY OF AMOUNTS.—Any amounts appropriated pursuant to the authorization of appropriations contained in such section shall remain available until expended.

(c) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of contents of such Act is amended by adding at the end of the items relating to subtitle D of title II the following:

‘‘PART 7—GRANTS FOR OBTAINING COMPLIANT PAPER BALLOT VOTING SYSTEMS AND CARRYING OUT VOTING SYSTEM SECURITY IMPROVEMENTS

Sec. 297. Grants for obtaining compliant paper ballot voting systems and carrying out voting system security improvements.

Sec. 297A. Voting system security improvements described.

Sec. 297B. Eligibility of States.

Sec. 297C. Requirements payments.

Sec. 297D. Authorization of appropriations.’’.

(2) INCORPORATION OF ELECTION INFRASTRUCTURE IN STATE PLANS FOR USE OF PAYMENTS.—Section 254(a)(1) of such Act (52 U.S.C. 21004(a)(1)) is amended by striking the period at the end and inserting ‘‘, including the protection of elections.’’.

(3) COMPOSITION OF COMMITTEE RESPONSIBLE FOR DEVELOPING STATE PLAN FOR USE OF PAYMENTS.—Section 253 of such Act (52 U.S.C. 21005) is amended by adding a new subsection (b) to section 253 as follows:

‘‘(b) GEOGRAPHIC REPRESENTATION.—The members of the committee shall be a representative group of individuals from the State’s counties, cities, towns, and Indian tribes, and shall represent the needs of rural as well as urban areas of the State, as the case may be.’’.

(f) ENSURING PROTECTION OF COMPUTERIZED STATEWIDE VOTER REGISTRATION LIST.—Section 302(a)(3) of such Act (52 U.S.C. 21083(a)(3)) is amended by striking the period at the end and inserting ‘‘, and as other measures to prevent acts of election cybersecurity incidents, as authorized by the Commission, the Secretary of Homeland Security, and the Technical Guidelines Development Committee.’’.

SEC. 113. INCLUSION OF DEFINITIONS.

SEC. 297. GRANTS FOR OBTAINING COMPLIANT PAPER BALLOT VOTING SYSTEMS AND CARRYING OUT VOTING SYSTEM SECURITY IMPROVEMENTS.
“SEC. 901. DEFINITIONS.

(1) The term ‘cybersecurity incident’ has the meaning given the term ‘incident’ in section 227 of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 659).”

(2) The term ‘election agency’ means any component of a State, or any component of a unit of local government in a State, which is responsible for the administration of elections for Federal office in the State.

(3) The term ‘election infrastructure’ means storage facilities, polling places, and centralized vote tabulation locations used to support the administration of elections for public office, as well as information and communications technology (including the technology used by or on behalf of election officials to produce and distribute voter guides to elections), including voter registration databases, voting machines, electronic mail and other communications systems (including electronic mail and other systems of vendors who have entered into contracts with election agencies to support the administration of elections, manage the election process, and report and display election results), and other systems used to manage the election process and report and display election results on behalf of an election agency.

(4) The term ‘State’ means each of the several States of the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, Guam, American Samoa, the United States Virgin Islands, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of contents of such Act is amended by amending the item relating to section 901 to read as follows:

“Sec. 901. Definitions.”

Subtitle B—Risk-limiting Audits

SEC. 121. RISK-LIMITING AUDITS.

(a) In General.—Title III of the Help America Vote Act of 2002 (32 U.S.C. 2001 et seq.) is amended by inserting after section 303 the following new section:

“SEC. 303A. RISK-LIMITING AUDITS.

(1) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) RISK-LIMITING AUDIT.—The term ‘risk-limiting audit’ means an audit that, with respect to the administration of elections, manages the election process, and report and display election results on behalf of an election agency.

(2) REPORTED OUTCOME.—The term ‘reported outcome’ means an outcome of an election contest which is determined according to the canons and which will become the official, certified outcome unless it is revised by an audit, recount, or other legal process.

(3) MANUAL ADJUDICATION OF VOTER INTENT.—The term ‘manual adjudication of voter intent’ means direct inspection and determination by humans, without assistance from electronic tabulation devices, of the ballot choices marked by voters on each voter-verified paper record.

(4) BALLOT MANIFEST.—The term ‘ballot manifest’ means a record maintained by each jurisdiction that—

(A) is created without reliance on any part of the electronic tabulation devices described in subparagraph (B), but includes a unique label for each ballot tabulated and a unique label for each group of ballots tabulated, the numbering system for each group, and the number of ballots in each such group.

(B) functions as a sampling frame for conducting a risk-limiting audit; and

(C) accounts for all ballots validly cast regardless of how they were tabulated and includes a precise description of the manner in which the ballots are physically stored, including the ballot choice marked on the group of ballots, the numbering system for each group, a unique label for each group, and the number of ballots in each such group.

(5) REQUIREMENTS.—

(i) IN GENERAL.—(A) AUDITS.—Each State and jurisdiction shall administer risk-limiting audits of the results of all election contests for Federal office held in the State in accordance with the requirements of paragraph (2).

(ii) EXCEPTION.—Clause (i) shall not apply to any election contest for which the State or jurisdiction conducts a full recount through a manual adjudication of voter intent.

(2) FULL MANUAL TABULATION.—If a risk-limiting audit conducted under subparagraph (A) corrects the reported outcome of an election contest, the State or jurisdiction shall use the results of the manual adjudication of voter intent conducted as part of the risk-limiting audit as the official results of the election contest.

(3) AUDIT REQUIREMENTS.—

(A) RULES AND PROCEDURES.—(i) IN GENERAL.—After the completion of the risk-limiting audit and at least 5 days before the election contest sent to the chief State election official of the State shall establish rules and procedures for conducting risk-limiting audits.

(ii) MATTERS INCLUDED.—The rules and procedures established under clause (i) shall include the following:

(1) Rules and procedures for ensuring the security of ballots and documenting that prescribed procedures were followed.

(2) Rules and procedures for the random selection of ballots to be inspected manually during each audit.

(3) Rules and procedures for the calculations and other methods to be used in the audit and to determine the audit of each election contest is complete.

(4) Rules and procedures for testing any software used to conduct risk-limiting audits.

(B) PUBLIC REPORT.—(i) IN GENERAL.—The audit report of any risk-limiting audit conducted under paragraph (2) shall be submitted to the chief State election official of the State and published.

(ii) FORMAT AND CONTENT.—All data published with the report under clause (i) shall be published in machine-readable, open data formats.

(3) The conduct of any risk-limiting audit (as defined in section 303A) with respect to an election for Federal office occurring after the date of the enactment of this section, the chief State election official of the State shall establish rules and procedures for conducting risk-limiting audits.

(i) MATTERS INCLUDED.—The rules and procedures established under clause (i) shall include the following:

(A) Rules and procedures for ensuring the accuracy of ballot manifests produced by jurisdictions.

(B) Rules and procedures for governing the random selection of ballots to be inspected manually during each audit.

(C) Rules and procedures for the calculations and other methods to be used in the audit and to determine the audit of each election contest is complete.

(D) Rules and procedures for testing any software used to conduct risk-limiting audits.

(4) The term ‘State’ means each of the several States of the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, Guam, American Samoa, the United States Virgin Islands, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

(c) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of contents of such Act is amended by amending the item relating to subtitle D of title II the following:

“PART 8—FUNDING FOR POST-ELECTION RISK-LIMITING AUDITS

“Sec. 281. Payments for post-election risk-limiting audits.”

SEC. 123. GAO ANALYSIS OF EFFECTS OF AUDITS.

(a) ANALYSIS.—Not later than 6 months after the first elections for Federal office held under this section for which States must conduct risk-limiting audits under section 303A of the Help America Vote Act of 2002 (as added by section 111) the Comptroller General of the United States shall submit a report on the analysis conducted under subparagraph (a) to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate and the Committee on Oversight and Governmental Affairs of the House of Representatives.
(a) BALLOT TABULATING DEVICES.—Section 301(a) of the Help America Vote Act of 2002 (52 U.S.C. 21081(a)), as amended by section 104 and section 105, is further amended by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

"(10) PROHIBITION OF USE OF WIRELESS COMMUNICATIONS DEVICES IN SYSTEMS OR DEVICES.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—No system or device upon which ballot marking devices or optical scanners are configured, upon which ballots are marked by voters (except as necessary for individuals with disabilities to use ballot marking devices that meet the accessibility requirements of paragraphs (3), (4), and (5)), upon which votes are cast, tabulated, or aggregated shall contain, use, or be accessible by any wireless, power-line, or co-concealed communication device.

(B) EFFECTIVE DATE.—Each State and jurisdiction shall be required to comply with the requirements of this paragraph for the regularly scheduled election for Federal office in November 2020, and for each subsequent election for Federal office.

(ii) PROHIBITING CONNECTION OF SYSTEM TO THE INTERNET.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—No system or device upon which ballot marking devices or optical scanners are configured, upon which ballots are marked by voters, or upon which votes are cast, tabulated, or aggregated shall be connected to the Internet or any non-local computer system, telephone or other communication network at any time.

(B) EFFECTIVE DATE.—Each State and jurisdiction shall be required to comply with the requirements of this paragraph for the regularly scheduled election for Federal office in November 2020, and for each subsequent election for Federal office.

(c) SPECIAL CYBERSECURITY RULES FOR CERTAIN BALLOT MARKING DEVICES.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Section 301(a) of such Act (52 U.S.C. 21081(a)), as amended by section 104, section 105, and subsection (a), is further amended by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

"(12) BALLOT MARKING DEVICES.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—In the case of a voting system that uses a ballot marking device, the ballot marking device shall be a device that—

(i) is not capable of tabulating votes;

(ii) except in the case of a ballot marking device used exclusively to comply with the requirements of paragraph (3), is certified in accordance with the requirements of subparagraph (B); and

(iii) meets the requirements of clauses (iii) through (viii) of section 301(a)(9)(B).

(B) REQUIREMENTS FOR BALLOT MARKING DEVICES.—

(i) The device utilizes technology that enables election officials, cybersecurity researchers, and voters to verify that the software running on the device—

(I) was built from a specific, tampered version of the code that is described in clause (v); and

(II) uses the system build tools and compilation parameters that are described in clause (v).

(ii) The device contains such other security requirements as the Director of Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security requires.

(iii) The device utilizes technology that enables election officials, cybersecurity researchers, and voters to verify that the software running on the device—

(I) satisfies parameters that are described in clause (v).

(iv) The device contains such other security requirements as the Director of Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security requires.

(ii) The device shall be required to comply with the requirements of this paragraph for the regularly scheduled election for Federal office in November 2024, and for each subsequent election for Federal office.

(b) OTHER CYBERSECURITY REQUIREMENTS.—Section 301(a) of such Act (52 U.S.C. 21081(a)), as amended by section 104, section 105, and subsection (a), is further amended by adding at the end the following new section:

"SEC. 232. TESTING AND CERTIFICATION OF BALLOT MARKING DEVICES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—A State or jurisdiction which intends to use a ballot marking device (other than a ballot marking device used exclusively to comply with the requirements of section 301(a)(9)(B) in an election for Federal office may submit an application to the Commission for testing and certification under this section.

(b) APPLICATION, ASSIGNMENT, AND TESTING.—

(1) GENERAL.—An application under subsection (a) shall be submitted not later than 18 months before the date of the election for Federal office in which the ballot marking device is intended to be used and shall contain such information as the Commission requires.

(2) ASSIGNMENT.—Upon receipt of an application for testing under this section, the Commission shall contract with a qualified independent user experience research laboratory for the testing of whether the ballot marking device intended to be used by the State or jurisdiction meets the requirements of section 301(a)(12)(B).

(3) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The contract described in paragraph (2) shall require the qualified independent user experience research laboratory to—

(A) not later than 30 days before testing begins, submit to the Commission for approval the protocol for the simulated election scenario used for the ballot marking device intended to be used in the election for Federal office; and

(B) use only protocols approved by the Commission in conducting such testing; and

(c) REPORTS.—(1) The Commission shall submit to the Governor of the State in which the election is to be held and the Secretary of Homeland Security a report—

(I) on the results of the testing; and

(ii) on the results of the testing.

(2) QUALIFIED INDEPENDENT USER EXPERIENCE RESEARCH LABORATORY.—For purposes of this section—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The term ‘‘qualified independent user experience research laboratory’’ means a laboratory accredited under this sub-section by the Election Assistance Commission in accordance with standards determined by the Commission, in consultation with the Director of the National Institute of Standards and Technology and the Secretary of Homeland Security.

(B) CRITERIA.—A laboratory shall not be accredited under this subsection unless such laboratory—

(i) no employee of, or individual with an ownership in, such laboratory, has or has had during the 5 preceding years, any financial relationship with a manufacturer of voting systems; and

(ii) any group of individuals conducting tests under this section collectively meet the following qualifications:

(I) Experience designing and running user research studies and experiments using both qualitative and quantitative methodologies.

(II) Experience with voting systems.

(d) REVIEW BY INDEPENDENT BOARD.—

(1) GENERAL.—The Commission shall submit for approval to an independent review board established under paragraph (3) the following:

(2) PROCEDURE FOR TESTING.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Submit a report to the Independent review board established under paragraph (3) if the following:

(B) Any report submitted to the Commission under subsection (b)(3)(C).

(C) FINAL APPROVAL.—Not later than the date that is 12 months before the date of the election for Federal office in which a State or jurisdiction intends to use the ballot marking device, the Commission shall submit the report to the Independent review board which shall—

(A) Any protocol submitted to the Commission under subsection (b)(3)(C).

(2) INDEPENDENT REVIEW BOARD.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—An independent review board established under this paragraph shall be composed of 5 independent scientists appointed by the Commission for testing the ballot marking device intended to be used by the State or jurisdiction in the manner prescribed by the Independent review board established under paragraph (b)(3)(C).

(B) Any report submitted to the Commission under subsection (b)(3)(C).
“(B) QUALIFICATIONS.—The members of the independent review board—

“(i) shall have expertise and relevant peer-reviewed publications in the following fields: cognitive psychology, experimental design, statistics, and user experience research and testing; and

“(ii) may not have, or have had during the 5 preceding years, any financial relationship with a manufacturer of voting systems.

“(4) PUBLICATION.—The Commission shall make public—

“(A) any protocol approved under this sub-section;

“(B) any report submitted under subsection (b)(3)(C); and

“(C) any determination made by an independent review board under paragraph (2).

“(d) CERTIFICATION.—If—

“(1) a ballot marking device is determined by the qualified independent user experience research laboratory to meet the requirements of section 301(a)(2); and

“(2) the report submitted under subsection (b)(3)(C) is approved by a majority of the members of the independent review board under subsection (d)(2),

then the Commission shall certify the ballot marking device.

“(e) PROHIBITION ON FEES.—The Commission may not charge any fee to a State or jurisdiction, a developer or manufacturer of a ballot marking device, or any other person in connection with testing and certification under this section.”.

(B) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—

(1) Section 231(a) of the Help America Vote Act of 2002 (52 U.S.C. 20961(a)) is amended by inserting “and ballot marking devices” after “hardware and software”.

(ii) The heading for subtitle B of title II of such Act is amended by inserting at the end “Ballot Marking Devices”.

(iii) The table of contents of such Act is amended—

(1) by inserting “; Ballot Marking Devices” at the end of the item relating to subtitle B of title II; and

(2) by inserting after the item related to section 231 the following:

“Sec. 232. Testing and certification of ballot marking devices.”.

SEC. 202. TESTING OF EXISTING VOTING SYSTEMS TO ENSURE COMPLIANCE WITH ELECTION CYBERSECURITY GUIDELINES AND OTHER GUIDELINES.

(a) REQUIRING TESTING OF EXISTING VOTING SYSTEMS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Section 231(a) of the Help America Vote Act of 2002 (52 U.S.C. 20961(a)) is amended by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

“(3) TESTING TO ENSURE COMPLIANCE WITH GUIDELINES.—

“(A) TESTING.—Not later than 9 months before the date of each regularly scheduled general election for Federal office, the Commission shall provide for the testing by accredited laboratories under the testing system hardware (including hardware and software that is used—

(1) the voting system hardware (including software) that is used—

(2) the voting system software that is used—

(iii) the total combination of mechanical, electromechanical, or any other person in connection with testing and certification under this section.”.

“(B) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—

(1) Section 231(a) of the Help America Vote Act of 2002 (52 U.S.C. 20961(a)) is amended by inserting “and ballot marking devices” after “hardware and software”.

(ii) The heading for subtitle B of title II of such Act is amended by inserting at the end “Ballot Marking Devices”.

(iii) The table of contents of such Act is amended—

(1) by inserting “; Ballot Marking Devices” at the end of the item relating to subtitle B of title II; and

(2) by inserting after the item related to section 231 the following:

“Sec. 232. Testing and certification of ballot marking devices.”.

SEC. 202. TESTING OF EXISTING VOTING SYSTEMS TO ENSURE COMPLIANCE WITH ELECTION CYBERSECURITY GUIDELINES AND OTHER GUIDELINES.

(a) REQUIRING TESTING OF EXISTING VOTING SYSTEMS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Section 231(a) of the Help America Vote Act of 2002 (52 U.S.C. 20961(a)) is amended by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

“(3) TESTING TO ENSURE COMPLIANCE WITH GUIDELINES.—

“(A) TESTING.—Not later than 9 months before the date of each regularly scheduled general election for Federal office, the Commission shall provide for the testing by accredited laboratories under the testing system hardware (including software) that is used—

(1) the voting system hardware (including software) that is used—

(2) the voting system software that is used—

(iii) the total combination of mechanical, electromechanical, or electronic components or component thereof in such source code, except that the manufacturer may prohibit a person who obtains such software from using the software in a manner that is primarily intended for or directed toward commercial advantage or private monetary compensation that is unrelated to carrying out legitimate research or cybersecurity activity.

“(B) REQUIREMENTS OF SOFTWARE AND HARDWARE FOR WHICH INFORMATION IS DISCLOSED BY MANUFACTURER.—

“(1) REQUIREMENT.—Section 301(a)(12) of such Act is amended by inserting at the end such subsection—

“(2) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by subsection (a) shall apply with respect to elections for Federal office held in 2020 and each succeeding regular election.

SECTION 190. TREATMENT OF ELECTRONIC POLL BOOKS AS PART OF VOTING SYSTEMS.

(a) INCLUSION IN DEFINITION OF VOTING SYSTEM—Section 300(a)(10) of the Help America Vote Act of 2002 (52 U.S.C. 20961(b)) is amended—

(1) in the matter preceding paragraph (1), by striking “this section” and inserting “this Act”;

(2) by striking “and” at the end of paragraph (1);

(3) by redesigning paragraph (2) as paragraph (3); and

(4) by inserting after paragraph (1) the following new paragraph:

“(3) any electronic poll book used with respect to the election; and

(b) DEFINITION.—Section 301 of such Act (52 U.S.C. 21081) is amended—

(1) by redesigning subsections (c) and (d) as subsections (d) and (e);

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

“(c) ELECTRONIC POLL BOOK DEFINED.—In this Act, the term ‘electronic poll book’ means the total combination of mechanical, electromechanical, or electronic components or components of such system.

“(1) to retain the list of registered voters at a polling location, or voter center, or other location at which voters cast votes in an election for Federal office; and

“(2) to identify registered voters who are eligible to vote in an election.

“(2) EFFECTIVE DATE.—Section 301(e) of such Act (52 U.S.C. 21081(e)), as amended by section 107 and as redesignated by subsection (b), is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1), by striking “paragraph (2)” and inserting “paragraphs (2) and (3)”;

(2) by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

“(3) SPECIAL RULE FOR ELECTRONIC POLL BOOKS.—In the case of the requirements of subsection (c) (relating to electronic poll books), each State and jurisdiction shall be required to comply with such requirements on or after January 1, 2020.”.

SEC. 205. PRE-ELECTION REPORTS ON VOTING SYSTEM USAGE.

(a) REQUIRING STATES TO SUBMIT REPORTS.—Title III of the Help America Vote Act of 2002 (52 U.S.C. 21081 et seq.) is amended by inserting after section 301 the following new section:

“Sec. 301A. PRE-ELECTION REPORTS ON VOTING SYSTEM USAGE.

“(a) REQUIRING STATES TO SUBMIT REPORTS.—Not later than 120 days before the date of each regularly scheduled general election for Federal office, the Chief State Election official of a State shall submit a report to the Commission containing a detailed voting system usage plan for each election system for which the State will administer the election, including a detailed plan for the use of electronic poll books and other equipment and components of such system.

“(B) EFFECTIVE DATE.—Subsection (a) shall apply with respect to the regularly scheduled general election for Federal office held in November 2020 and each succeeding regularly scheduled general election for Federal office.”.

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of contents of such Act is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 301 the following new item:

“Sec. 301A. Pre-election reports on voting system usage.”.

SEC. 204. TREATMENT OF ELECTRONIC POLL BOOKS AS PART OF VOTING SYSTEMS.

(a) INCLUSION IN DEFINITION OF VOTING SYSTEM—Section 300(a)(10) of the Help America Vote Act of 2002 (52 U.S.C. 20961(b)) is amended—

(1) in the matter preceding paragraph (1), by striking “this section” and inserting “this Act”;

(2) by striking “and” at the end of paragraph (1);

(3) by redesigning paragraph (2) as paragraph (3); and

(4) by inserting after paragraph (1) the following new paragraph:

“(3) any electronic poll book used with respect to the election; and

(b) DEFINITION.—Section 301 of such Act (52 U.S.C. 21081) is amended—

(1) by redesigning subsections (c) and (d) as subsections (d) and (e);

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

“(c) ELECTRONIC POLL BOOK DEFINED.—In this Act, the term ‘electronic poll book’ means the total combination of mechanical, electromechanical, or electronic components or components of such system.

“(1) to retain the list of registered voters at a polling location, or voter center, or other location at which voters cast votes in an election for Federal office; and

“(2) to identify registered voters who are eligible to vote in an election.

“(2) EFFECTIVE DATE.—Section 301(e) of such Act (52 U.S.C. 21081(e)), as amended by section 107 and as redesignated by subsection (b), is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1), by striking “paragraph (2)” and inserting “paragraphs (2) and (3)”;

(2) by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

“(3) SPECIAL RULE FOR ELECTRONIC POLL BOOKS.—In the case of the requirements of subsection (c) (relating to electronic poll books), each State and jurisdiction shall be required to comply with such requirements on or after January 1, 2020.”.

SEC. 205. PRE-ELECTION REPORTS ON VOTING SYSTEM USAGE.

(a) REQUIRING STATES TO SUBMIT REPORTS.—Title III of the Help America Vote Act of 2002 (52 U.S.C. 21081 et seq.) is amended by inserting after section 301 the following new section:

“Sec. 301A. PRE-ELECTION REPORTS ON VOTING SYSTEM USAGE.

“(a) REQUIRING STATES TO SUBMIT REPORTS.—Not later than 120 days before the date of each regularly scheduled general election for Federal office, the Chief State Election official of a State shall submit a report to the Commission containing a detailed voting system usage plan for each election system for which the State will administer the election, including a detailed plan for the use of electronic poll books and other equipment and components of such system.

“(B) EFFECTIVE DATE.—Subsection (a) shall apply with respect to the regularly scheduled general election for Federal office held in November 2020 and each succeeding regularly scheduled general election for Federal office.”.

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of contents of such Act is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 301 the following new item:

“Sec. 301A. Pre-election reports on voting system usage.”.

SEC. 204. TREATMENT OF ELECTRONIC POLL BOOKS AS PART OF VOTING SYSTEMS.
outcomes. Ineffective and vulnerable equipment can also discourage participation in Federal elections.

It comes to the floor after the Committee on House Administration held three hearings in the first 6 months of this year on the individual and likely effects on the integrity of our elections. In February the committee held the “For the People: Our American Democracy” hearing, where the integrity of our democracy—including critical steps to improve the security and reliability of our election infrastructure—was addressed. On May 8 the committee held an election security hearing where we heard testimony about the urgent need to upgrade our election infrastructure and the lack of ongoing investment in the wake of new threats. And on May 21 the committee held an oversight hearing of the Election Assistance Commission, an agency that plays a central role in supporting election administration in this country. I will remind this House that earlier this year, the Director of National Intelligence published a report stating that our adversaries and strategic competitors “probably already are looking to the 2020 U.S. elections as an opportunity to advance their interests.” They may also use cyber means to ‘directly manipulate or disrupt elections systems—such as by tampering with voter registration or disrupting the vote tallying process—either to alter data or to call into question our voting process.”

Last year he said that “the warning lights are blinking red.” Special Counsel Robert Mueller noted in Volume One of his report that the Russian military “targeted individuals and entities involved in the administration of the elections. Victims included U.S. State and local entities, such as State boards of elections, secretaries of State, and county governments, as well as individuals who worked for those entities. The GRU also targeted private technology firms responsible for manufacturing and administering election-related software and hardware, such as voter registration software and electronic polling stations.”

In April, FBI Director Christopher Wray called Russia’s interference efforts a “significant counterintelligence threat,” and said that the 2018 midterm elections were “a dress rehearsal for the big show” of the 2020 Presidential elections.

Early voters in Georgia in 2018 saw machines deleting votes and switching them to other candidates. The machines were used in 78 of 254 Texas counties.

In June of 2016 the Russian GRU compromised the computer network of the Illinois State Board of Elections by exploiting a vulnerability in their website. They gained access to a database with information on millions of Illinois voters and extracted data on thousands before the activity was detected.

H.R. 2722 responds to this emergency that we find ourselves in as a nation. We ought to be doing everything we can to bolster the security and integrity of our elections from interference and hacking.

The bill’s section 102 requires that States transition to voting systems that use individual, durable, voter-verified paper ballots, which means a paper ballot marked by the voter by hand or through the use of a non-tabulating ballot marking device or system. Voter-verified paper ballots are the best way to ensure that a voter’s ballot accurately reflects their choices and is counted as cast. Paper can be audited. In the last Presidential election, Wayrows XRF-20 per which registered voters cast their ballot on voting machines that do not have any kind of paper backup.

The National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine concluded that paperless systems “should be removed from service as soon as possible.”

In at least 40 States, elections are carried out using machines that are at least a decade old. And like any technology, they are susceptible to increasing failure with age. One witness at our election security hearing, Lawrence Norden of the Brennan Center for Justice at NYU Law School, explained that some States had “had to turn to eBay to find critical components like dot-matrix printer ribbons, decades old storage devices, and analog modems.”

Aging systems also frequently rely on unsupported software and hardware, such as Windows XP and 2000, which may not receive regular security patches and are thus more vulnerable to the latest methods of cyberattack.

This bill addresses many other cybersecurity best practices besides paper-based systems.

The bill in section 111 authorizes a $600 million Election Assistance Commission grant program to assist States in securing election infrastructure. States may use the money to replace their aging equipment with voter-verified paper ballot voting systems, but also ongoing maintenance of election infrastructure, enhanced cybersecurity and operations of IT infrastructure, and enhanced cybersecurity of voter registration systems.

Originally, the bill, as introduced, would have authorized $1 billion for this initial round of surge funding; however, during the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs, the committee approved an amendment in the nature of a substitute that authorized $600 million instead. Combined with the $380 million that Congress appropriated last year in election security grants, this funding reaches the $1 billion that experts have said is necessary to implement these necessary protections.
The bill also provides in section 111 $175 million in biennial maintenance funding. Cybersecurity threats will not dissipate, they will only evolve. State election officials have told us repeatedly they need more funding and a sustained level of funding.

Section 103 of the SAFE Act fosters innovation for voters with disabilities. It provides grant funding for the study, development, and testing of accessible ballot voting, verification, and casting mechanisms. It expressly requires States to ensure that individuals with disabilities and others are given an equivalent opportunity to vote, including with privacy and independence, in a manner that produces voter-verified paper ballots as for other voters.

The bill fosters accountability for election technology vendors. It would create a qualified election infrastructure cybersecurity program administered by the Election Assistance Commission, in coordination with the Department of Homeland Security, to foster cybersecurity standards and practices. States would be allowed to invest in cybersecurity improvements which would have to be certified by the EAC and the Department of Homeland Security. The bill also provides in section 111 $175 million in biennial maintenance funding to States to upgrade their election infrastructure, while also requiring States to implement risk-limiting audits because, in many cases, they don’t have security clearance.

Our bill clears this up. Those State officials deserve the right to know who is trying to attack their elections in each State in this great Nation.

My good friend, Congresswoman Torres, stated at the Rules Committee hearing on Monday night that she doesn’t trust her State election officials in California to have security clearances. Personally, I don’t feel that way, and I think other Members of Congress may agree with me.

Second, as amended in committee, the bill in section 201 requires States to adopt risk-limiting audits. Risk-limiting audits are the gold standard of post-election audits. They involve hand counting a certain number of ballots using advanced statistical methods to determine with a high degree of confidence that the reported election outcome is accurate. The SAFE Act requires States to implement risk-limiting audits because they go hand in hand with paper ballots. We need audits to ensure that ballot marking devices or optical scanners were not hacked and that the reported results are accurate.

Second, as amended in committee, the bill in section 201 includes specific cybersecurity standards to apply to optical scanner voting systems and another level of audits to apply to ballot marking devices. These will apply equally to current and future technology. For example, H.R. 2722 prohibits the use of wireless communications devices and internet connectivity in voting, which means known ballots are marked by voters or that otherwise mark and tabulate ballots.

Madam Speaker, H.R. 2722 is an essential step forward in shoring up our election infrastructure and investing in secure elections. I ask the House to pass this legislation and bolster the trust and confidence in our system that all Americans expect and deserve.
Mr. BAIRD. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Illinois for yielding me time.

Madam Speaker, keeping our elections safe from cyberattacks and fraud is not and should not be a partisan priority.

H.R. 2722 has been rushed to the House floor without giving the Science, Space, and Technology Committee the opportunity to hold even a single hearing on the bill or the subject matter.

The problem with rushing this bill through Congress is that it will have a significant negative impact on NIST’s ability to work with State and local governments to identify standards and best practices for election security.

Our priority in Congress should be to develop useful tools that empower States and local officials to ensure their elections are secure, accessible, and accurate.

In fact, our secretary of state in Indiana, Ms. Connie Lawson, has done a remarkable job leading the effort to add safeguards to our elections process, ensuring it is completed with integrity.

Given the opportunity, I believe that our committee could come to an agreement, in a bipartisan manner, to update NIST’s election security activities.

Congress should focus on legislation that provides much-needed improvement and reinforcements for local officials without overstepping the States’ authority to maintain their elections.

Madam Speaker, because of the lack of following regular order, the committee has never been given the opportunity to ensure those issues are addressed.

Ms. LOFGREN. Madam Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. RASKIN), a member of the House Administration Committee.

Mr. RASKIN. Madam Speaker, I rise in support of the SAFE Act because Vladimir Putin conducted a sweeping attack on our elections, and that is the way we were designed.

Article IV, Section 4 of the Constitution, Madam Speaker, says Congress “shall guarantee to every State in this Union a republican form of government, and shall protect each of them against invasion.”

What does it mean by “republican form of government”? It doesn’t mean a Republican Party form of government. It means a representative form of government. That means we must have a system that accurately translates the popular will into the election of a Congress.

This is a massive technical challenge in a country of hundreds of millions of people, 50 States, and thousands of jurisdictions, especially in the computer age. We need voter-certified, paper-ballot voting systems in every State in the country, and strong auditing authorities. We need real accountability for election vendors. We need voting machines manufactured in the United States, where our democracy is created.

Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I certainly hope my good friend from Maryland (Mr. RASKIN) changes his mind and wants more Republican governments, but I don’t think it’s going to happen, even today, on the House floor.

Madam Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Florida (Mr. Yoho).

Mr. YOHO. Madam Speaker, I thank my friend from Illinois for yielding.

I rise today as a Member from the great State of Florida. We all recall the 2000 Presidential election. What happened in Palm Beach County turned into a national punchline, “the hanging chad.”

The Democratic bill before us today would mandate paper ballots and make our elections a technology-free zone. I, too, am worried about malign actors like Russia and China when it comes to our cybersecurity network. However, let us not throw out the baby with the bathwater.

Many of my colleagues submitted commonsense amendments that would improve the bill, amendments addressing ballot harvesting and ensuring State matching funds. Yet, Democrats, under another closed rule, are forcing passage on a one-sided bill with no prospect in the Senate and no chance of being signed by the President.

Madam Speaker, I sincerely hope we address these issues in a bipartisan manner today, not one party’s bill on this body and the American people.

Ms. LOFGREN. Madam Speaker, I am pleased to yield 1 minute to the gentlewoman from Georgia (Mrs. McCARTY), a new Member of Congress.

Mrs. McCARTY. Madam Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 2722. Our elections are the foundation of our democracy, but they face increasing threats.

There is bipartisan agreement that we must do more to guard against these threats to our most fundamental democratic process. Our elections must allow us to truly hear the voices of every American voter.

My home State of Georgia has recently taken steps to safeguard its voting processes from cybersecurity threats, and this bill would provide necessary funding to support these efforts in Georgia and across our country.

This legislation will strengthen the partnership of the Election Assistance Commission, the Department of Homeland Security, and our State election officials.

Together, we must modernize our election infrastructure and ensure the security of our democracy.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this critical measure.

Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Florida (Mr. WALTZ), another good friend of mine from the great State of Florida.

Mr. WALTZ. Madam Speaker, election security is especially significant to Floridians. Two Florida counties were breached in the 2016 election as a result of Russian spear phishing targeting county election officials.

As Members of Congress, obviously, we are not here to relitigate 2016 but to work toward bipartisan solutions to defend the 2020 elections from foreign intrusion.

I am disappointed that the majority is rushing this partisan proposal to the floor this week and has bypassed Republicans who have shown interest in working on election security. Just yesterday, the Science, Space, and Technology Committee held a hearing on election vulnerabilities and potential solutions.

That hearing occurred after—after this proposal had been introduced and a day before it will receive a vote on the House floor.

This proposal throws $1.3 billion at the problem without careful consideration by the authorizing committees. This proposal also excludes bipartisan solutions, like the one I am drafting with Representative STEPHANIE MURPHY from Florida.

Our proposal, the ALERTS Act, would require Federal agencies to report to the Department of Homeland Security if an election intrusion is identified and require DHS to notify State and local officials of the breach, unless the information is deemed to compromise intelligence sources.

Federal, State, and local officials have a duty to notify voters in Florida and voters across the country impacted by election attacks, a duty that was not upheld by the FBI in the wake of the 2016 elections and a duty that the ALERTS Act, this bipartisan proposal, would require.

At yesterday’s Science, Space, and Technology Committee hearing, the secretary of Oklahoma’s State Election Board recommended a State and local reporting requirement like the ALERTS Act.

So, testimony and a recommendation—both—were not considered by the authors of this bill.

Madam Speaker, I request that my colleagues oppose this bill, and immediately following this vote, I ask Democrats and Republicans to come together to work toward a bipartisan election security package.

Ms. LOFGREN. Madam Speaker, I am pleased to yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. CASTEN).

Mr. CASTEN of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 2722, the SAFE Act.

Among the many disturbing revelations in the Mueller report, we learned that Russian intelligence officers successfully infiltrated the computer network in my home State at the Illinois
Mr. CASTEN. Madam Speaker, we want our elections and our voters to be safe in the upcoming election. Our democratic system depends on the consent of the governed. That is far too fragile to take lightly. And our constituents’ trust and the independence of our democracy depend on it. Madam Speaker, for these reasons, I urge my colleagues to vote for the SAFE Act on the floor today.

Mr. BRUCE CALVERT of Maryland. Madam Speaker, American voters deserve better. I urge my colleagues to oppose this bill until we can get serious about real threats to our democracy.

Mr. BRUCE CALVERT. Madam Speaker, as a member of the House Administration Committee, I am especially concerned about real threats to our elections. Let’s be clear: We want to give people who need it an opportunity to vote by mail, and we want to look for ways to make it easier for disabled or elderly Americans to participate in our elections. My threat to our democracy is not about one adversary. It is about our elections from all threats, foreign or otherwise. These threats are coming for us in every State, red or blue, rural or urban. In 2016, State election websites in Illinois and Arizona were hacked by intruders that installed malware and downloaded sensitive voter information.

In 2018, electronic voting machines in Georgia and Texas deleted votes for certain candidates or switched votes from one candidate to another. In Johnson County, Indiana, e-ballots failed in 2018, halting voting entirely for 4 hours, with no extension of polling hours.

It is clear that Congress must take action. Passage of the SAFE Act will secure our elections by updating our election infrastructure, speeding up the transition to paper ballots, and making necessary investments in cybersecurity.

Every Member of Congress took an oath to protect this Nation from threats foreign and domestic, and I urge my colleagues to honor that oath. Let’s protect our democracy while we still have one.

Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. LOUDERMILK), my fellow House Administration Committee Republican and one of my good friends here in Congress.

Mr. LOUDERMILK. Madam Speaker, I thank my good friend from Illinois, an exceptional baseball player, as well, for yielding this time. Look, this is something I am very passionate about, and I am a bit surprised that one of my colleagues from Georgia would speak against this bill or even support this bill.

Let’s be frank. Yes, the Russians are bad. They are very bad. They seek to do harm to America, and they have been attempting to influence our elections for many years.

Yes, we need to be concerned about election security. But if you want to secure our election system, this is the exact opposite of what we should be doing.

The State of Georgia has recognized this. Just this year, our State legislature overwhelmingly passed a bill to spend $150 million to upgrade our electronic voting machines so that they will produce a verifiable ballot that represents the way the person voted at the machine.

This is the direction we should be going, not to eliminate electronic ballots, but to enhance the efficiency that you get when you can walk in.

The verifiable aspect of it, a voter is given a card, after it is verified who the voter is. When a voter walks into a voting precinct, they fill out the paper-work and show their ID, and they are given a card that identifies that they have been certified. They insert that card and vote electronically, and then it will produce a printed receipt that they can verify that this is the way they voted. That receipt goes into a box that is used for a recount. That is a secure voting system that also embraces technology.

This bill will take us back decades. It is like when a student takes an SAT exam. They fill out the little bubbles, and then it runs through an electronic counter.

Look, even in our own hearing, the chief technologist at the Center for Democracy and Technology agreed when I brought this scenario. He said that we use the technology of DREs that then will print a verifiable ballot or a receipt. He said that those were absolutely safe.

Mr. CASTEN. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from California (Mr. CALVERT).

Mr. CALVERT. Madam Speaker, as a Member from California, it is hard for me to believe that the majority could possibly propose an election security bill that doesn’t address the major vulnerabilities related to ballot harvesting.

Ballot harvesting is where paid campaign operatives collect up to hundreds or even thousands of ballots and drop them off at polling places or an election office. The practice is ripe for fraud and a recipe for disaster. Any serious effort to secure elections would address it.

Let’s be clear: We want to give people who need it an opportunity to vote by mail, and we want to look for ways to make it easier for disabled or elderly Americans to participate in our elections. My threat to our democracy is not about one adversary. It is about our elections from all threats, foreign or otherwise. These threats are coming for us in every State, red or blue, rural or urban.

In Johnson County, Indiana, e-ballots failed in 2018, halting voting entirely for 4 hours, with no extension of polling hours.

Mr. CASTEN. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from California (Mr. CALVERT).

Mr. CALVERT. Madam Speaker, as a Member from California, it is hard for me to believe that the majority could possibly propose an election security bill that doesn’t address the major vulnerabilities related to ballot harvesting.

Ballot harvesting is where paid campaign operatives collect up to hundreds or even thousands of ballots and drop them off at polling places or an election office. The practice is ripe for fraud and a recipe for disaster. Any serious effort to secure elections would address it.

Let’s be clear: We want to give people who need it an opportunity to vote by mail, and we want to look for ways to make it easier for disabled or elderly Americans to participate in our elections. My threat to our democracy is not about one adversary. It is about our elections from all threats, foreign or otherwise. These threats are coming for us in every State, red or blue, rural or urban.

In Johnson County, Indiana, e-ballots failed in 2018, halting voting entirely for 4 hours, with no extension of polling hours.

Mr. CASTEN. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from California (Mr. CALVERT).

Mr. CALVERT. Madam Speaker, as a Member from California, it is hard for me to believe that the majority could possibly propose an election security bill that doesn’t address the major vulnerabilities related to ballot harvesting.

Ballot harvesting is where paid campaign operatives collect up to hundreds or even thousands of ballots and drop them off at polling places or an election office. The practice is ripe for fraud and a recipe for disaster. Any serious effort to secure elections would address it.

Let’s be clear: We want to give people who need it an opportunity to vote by mail, and we want to look for ways to make it easier for disabled or elderly Americans to participate in our elections. My threat to our democracy is not about one adversary. It is about our elections from all threats, foreign or otherwise. These threats are coming for us in every State, red or blue, rural or urban.

In Johnson County, Indiana, e-ballots failed in 2018, halting voting entirely for 4 hours, with no extension of polling hours.

Mr. CASTEN. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from California (Mr. CALVERT).

Mr. CALVERT. Madam Speaker, as a Member from California, it is hard for me to believe that the majority could possibly propose an election security bill that doesn’t address the major vulnerabilities related to ballot harvesting.

Ballot harvesting is where paid campaign operatives collect up to hundreds or even thousands of ballots and drop them off at polling places or an election office. The practice is ripe for fraud and a recipe for disaster. Any serious effort to secure elections would address it.

Let’s be clear: We want to give people who need it an opportunity to vote by mail, and we want to look for ways to make it easier for disabled or elderly Americans to participate in our elections. My threat to our democracy is not about one adversary. It is about our elections from all threats, foreign or otherwise. These threats are coming for us in every State, red or blue, rural or urban.

In Johnson County, Indiana, e-ballots failed in 2018, halting voting entirely for 4 hours, with no extension of polling hours.

Mr. CASTEN. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from California (Mr. CALVERT).

Mr. CALVERT. Madam Speaker, as a Member from California, it is hard for me to believe that the majority could possibly propose an election security bill that doesn’t address the major vulnerabilities related to ballot harvesting.

Ballot harvesting is where paid campaign operatives collect up to hundreds or even thousands of ballots and drop them off at polling places or an election office. The practice is ripe for fraud and a recipe for disaster. Any serious effort to secure elections would address it.

Let’s be clear: We want to give people who need it an opportunity to vote by mail, and we want to look for ways to make it easier for disabled or elderly Americans to participate in our elections. My threat to our democracy is not about one adversary. It is about our elections from all threats, foreign or otherwise. These threats are coming for us in every State, red or blue, rural or urban.

In Johnson County, Indiana, e-ballots failed in 2018, halting voting entirely for 4 hours, with no extension of polling hours.
Now, here is the problem. When we go to paper ballots, and everyone is going to fill out these paper ballots, we are talking long lines. We are talking about fewer people being able to get to the polls.

Madam Speaker, when we decide to vote on this bill, the last thing you are going to say from that rostrum is Members will cast their votes via electronic device. Why? It is efficient. We have a verifiable way of making sure that we can see the way we voted on this board up here or on a printed piece of paper we can get in the back. This is because of efficiency.

Madam Speaker, can you imagine if we had to do paper ballots or voice vote every one of the many amendments we have on these appropriations bills? We would never go home. We would be here 24 hours a day.

The American people expect us to live by the standards that they have to live by. We should embrace technology and make it secure, not revert back decades to old technology.

Look, the reality is, this bill would subjected us to the problem of people walking up with boxes full of preprinted ballots, all across the Nation, and they could drop those in at the last minute. We need to verify that people voting are who they are.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Madam Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON LEE), my colleague from the House Judiciary Committee and Homeland Security Committee.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman from California for her leadership.

There is not a time that I go home that they don’t ask me how we will secure our elections. I am proudly supporting the legislation. As a member of the Subcommittee on Cybersecurity, I urge this House to pass the SAFE Act so comprehensive elections can be implemented.

Specifically, the SAFE Act authorizes a $600 million Election Assistance Commission (EAC) grant program to assist in securing election infrastructure and a $5 million grant program to study and report on accessible paper ballot voting systems.

The bill provides grants to State and local election officials to replace aging voting machines with voter-verified paper ballot voting systems and grants to support hiring IT staff, cybersecurity training, security and risk vulnerability assessments, and other activities to secure election infrastructure.

These audits, which involve hand counting a certain number of ballots and using statistical methods to determine the accuracy of the original vote tally, are effective at detecting any incorrect election outcomes, whether caused by a cyberattack or something more mundane like a programming error.

The SAFE Act also directs the National Science Foundation to administer a $5 million grant program to test and report on accessible paper ballot verification mechanisms, including for individuals with disabilities, voters with difficulties in literacy, and voters whose primary language is not English.

Madam Speaker, another salutary feature of the SAFE Act is that it requires accountability for election technology vendors and sets cybersecurity standards and prohibits wireless and internet connectivity on systems that count ballots or upon which voters mark their ballots or systems are configured.

The SAFE Act also limits state expenditures on goods and services with grant monies provided under this Act to purchases from “qualified election infrastructure vendor,” which includes maintaining IT infrastructure in a manner consistent with the best practices provided by the EAC and agreeing to report any known or suspected security incidents involving election infrastructure.

Madam Speaker, there is compelling reason for the Congress to pass the SAFE Act by overwhelming margins in the House and Senate because to date the President and his Administration has shown little interest or inclination in taking effective action to deter and prevent interference by foreign powers in American elections.

Let us remember that the Intelligence Community Assessment (“ICA”) of January 2017 assessed that Russian President Vladimir Putin ordered an influence campaign in 2016 aimed at the U.S. presidential election in which Russia’s goals were to undermine public faith in the U.S. democratic process, denigrate Democratic presidential candidate and implacable foe of Vladimir Putin, former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, facilitate the election of Vladimir Putin’s preferred candidate, Donald J. Trump.

Russia’s interference in the election processes of democratic countries is not new but a continuation of the “Translator Project,” an ongoing information warfare effort launched by Vladimir Putin in 2014 to use social media to manipulate public opinion and voters in western democracies.

Instead of supporting the unanimous assessment of the U.S. Intelligence Community, the President attacked and sought to discredit and undermine the officials responsible for detecting and assessing Russian interference in the 2016 presidential election as well as those responsible for investigating and bringing to justice the conspirators who committed crimes against the United States our law enforcement.

And to add shame to insult and injury, at a meeting in Helsinki, Finland, rather than embracing the conclusions of the U.S. Intelligence Community, the President of the United States sided with Russian President Vladimir Putin in heaping scorn on the IC’s assessment regarding Russian interference and called the U.S. Justice Department investigation into Russia’s interference led by Special Counsel Robert Mueller “the greatest political witch hunt in history.”

As the Mueller Report concluded, “The Russian government interfered in the 2016 presidential election in sweeping and systematic fashion.”

In his only public remarks made since he was appointed Special Counsel, Robert Mueller reiterated at his farewell press conference held at the Department of Justice on May 29, 2017, the “central allegation of our investigation—that there were multiple, systematic efforts to interfere in our election” and that “allegation deserves the attention of every American.”
Madam Speaker, American elections are to be decided by American voters free from foreign interference or sabotage, and that is why I support and urge all my colleagues to vote to pass H.R. 2722, the “Securing America’s Federal Elections Act” or SAFE Act.

Mr. PALMER of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Alabama (Mr. PALMER), our Republican Policy Committee chair.

Mr. PALMER. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Illinois, who is also a good friend, for the work he is doing on this, trying to bring some transparency to what is really going on here.

There are numerous reasons that mandating paper ballots isn’t workable. They are susceptible to fraud; they are inefficient; and they are antiquated. I have seen, over the years, where the joke was “one man, one vote,” where it was “one suitcase, one vote,” with people bringing in paper ballots, and a situation around the country now where that is still a bit of a problem.

For argument’s sake, though, let’s just say that paper ballots were foolproof and didn’t come with their own set of security concerns. I would still be concerned about the impact this bill would have on the majority of our States.

The mandate, in and of itself, is troubling. Twenty-nine out of our 50 States, including the District of Columbia, would have to completely revamp their current election systems. This is both costly and time-intensive. There is nearly zero chance this can be adopted by the 2020 elections. The funding in the bill makes it clear that they realize this is not enough money to pay for this and, if it is not, it would be on a pro rata share. That means it is an unfunded mandate in violation of the Unfunded Mandate Reform Act.

It is easy for Federal lawmakers here in D.C. to gloss over the impact this Federal mandate would have, but the numbers don’t lie. Only 18 States currently use a paper-only voting system, as the bill would mandate. To not mention, this bill would also impact those 18 States, including my home State of Alabama.

Just a few days ago, the House Committee on Science, Space, and Technology held a hearing on “Election Security: Voting Technology Vulnerabilities,” where Oklahoma’s Secretary of the State Election Board Ziriax pointed out that this bill would require the use of recycled paper, which would be impossible to use with Oklahoma’s current paper ballot system because the fibers found in recycled paper would cause repeated false readings.

While this may seem like a small or silly detail, this is just one example of the great impact this bill will have on all States, with many considerations that have yet to be vetted properly.

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

Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois. I yield the gentleman from Alabama an additional 30 seconds.

Mr. PALMER. My colleagues on the other side continue to offer radical and unworkable policies to revamp our election system. Security risks do exist within our ballot boxes, but this bill is not the answer. This bill will just add to the existing risks, and I cannot support it.

I urge my colleagues to oppose the bill.

Ms. LOFGREN. Madam Speaker, may I inquire how much time remains on each side.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Gentleman from Alabama is recognized for 3 minutes.

Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding. I very strongly support the SAFE Act. This is something that the Democrats have been focused on from day one. Day one meaning, the day after the 2016 election, when we saw the attacks that had come in against our democracy, we realized we were very exposed, and we needed to take action.

This is our chance to stand up against interference from foreign adversaries who are trying to hack in, sow discord, undermine our elections, and create havoc here in our own country. This is fundamental to protecting our democracy.

So we were on the case from the beginning. We convened the Election Security Task Force, which was led by Zoe Lofgren, Bob Brady, Bonnie Thompson and others. They looked at all of the best practices that we need to put in place to make sure that our elections are strong and sturdy, and how do we fortify them, and they produced those recommendations.

We then took those recommendations and we put them into H.R. 1, the For the People Act, and we passed those on March 8 of this year, because we knew that this was a priority and that there is no time to waste.

Now, our Republican colleagues, unfortunately, did not want to go along with those broad, sweeping reforms that were contained in H.R. 1, including election security measures. So we made it easy on them, we said, “Okay. We will start to break those things out. We will take the election security piece and we will bring it as a separate bill to the floor of the House.” That is the SAFE Act. But we still, apparently, don’t have their support.

This is their opportunity, this is their chance to stood up and show their patriotism, to defend our democracy, to protect our Constitution, to make sure that our elections are going to be safe.

So let’s talk about what is in the SAFE Act, the Safeguarding America’s Federal Elections Act.

We have significant resources that are going to be brought to bear to build up, to fortify the election infrastructure of our country. This is what the public wants to see. They want to be ready for the 2020 election. We have risk-limiting audits to make sure that States actually are figuring out what is going on. Where do we make changes? How do we protect ourselves?

Paper ballots. We have had a lot of discussion about that. Paper ballots are incredibly important in terms of boosting the confidence of the public that elections will be carried out in a way that you can verify the tally, people have the confidence that when they go to the ballot box, they put their ballot in there, that that vote will be counted.

We have no time to waste. We need to get this done now if we are going to be ready for the 2020 election.

Bob Mueller came along with his report, he said the Russian interference was sweeping and systemic in 2016.

Every leader in our intelligence community has also echoed the fact that 2016 was a dress rehearsal. They are coming in 2020.

We need to be ready. We need to protect our elections. Let’s support the SAFE Act.

Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I yield myself as much time as I might consume.

Madam Speaker, I agree with my good friend from Maryland. We as Republicans and Democrats need to do the patriotic thing and make sure that our elections are protected.

And I do agree that the Russians tried to interfere in our election process with misinformation campaigns. But I also want to ask my colleagues on the other side of the aisle, if their concentration on election security happened the day after the 2016 election, why in the world didn’t the administration who was in the White House at the time when the intelligence analysts were talking about how other foreign entities, including Russia, were wanting to interfere in our elections, why didn’t they do something about it?

Why are we here today?

Why didn’t it happen before the 2016 election, when our intelligence analysts said nefarious activity was moving against the United States of America?

They did nothing. The Obama administration did nothing. They let it go.

Now we are here watching the new Democrat majority that was elected in 2018, after explosive turnout in our midterm elections, their first bill, H.R. 1, that every member of the Democratic majority cosponsored and supported, that is the solution?

The solution is to add millions of taxpayer dollars and then the first ever corporate dollars to our own congressional campaign accounts?

No one has ever said that is the solution to too much money in politics or
to election security. Not one time have I had a constituent say that to me.

Now, we have got to come together and do what is right.

We have yet to address any of the issues that were laid out in the Mueller report. We are debating H.R. 1 and the reforms that do not address any of them. This is a discussion about what happened in 2016 without a discussion of what is needed in our States and local election authorities.

This is what is wrong with this bill, too. It is hypocrisy at its greatest.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. LOFGREN. Madam Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentlewoman from California (Ms. PELOSI), the Speaker of the House.

Ms. PELOSI. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman for yielding, the chair of the House Administration Committee, Congresswoman ZOE LOFGREN, of whom we are very proud in California, for her leadership on this path of patriotism and respecting the oath of office we take.

Madam Speaker, it is just a joy to be having this opportunity to speak out for the sacred oath to vote, the sacred blessing, the right to vote as we leave to go on the Fourth of July break.

Madam Speaker, I thank the members of the House Administration Committee: Mr. BUTTERFIELD, whom we heard from yesterday; Mr. RASKIN; Mr. AUCILAR; Congresswoman NANCY DAVIS, who presented to us earlier; and to all of you.

Madam Speaker, I thank Mr. SARABANES. He has been the face of the future. He has been speaking out against the misrepresentations that have happened, the propagandizing that has happened by foreign governments in our election.

Yes, we won the election. We won the election because the American people were sick and tired of what the Republicans were putting forth. We won the election in the most gerrymandered, voter suppressed political arena you could imagine, and yet the American people came forward.

One of the biggest messages we had in the campaign was H.R. 1, to reduce the role of dark, special-interest money in politics, to stop the systemic intentional voter suppression by the Republicans across the country, to stop political gerrymandering on all sides.

Let's do it in a nonpartisan way. Let the chips fall where they may, and to do so in a way that we are taking a piece of it today to talk about protecting our electoral system.

In a short while, we will take up the Voting Rights Act that is also part of H.R. 1.

So this H.R. 1 was very supported by the Democrats, very publicized to the American people, and part of our For the People agenda: lower healthcare costs by lowering the cost of prescription drugs and protecting the pre-existing conditions benefit; bigger paychecks by building the infrastructure of America in a green way; cleaner government by passing H.R. 1—one of the component parts of what we are coming together around today.

As we approach the Fourth of July, we must remember the oath that we took and the constitutional responsibility to protect the American people, which demands that this House of Representatives take urgent action.

We must legislate, we must investigate, and we must litigate to protect our national security, defend our democracy for the people.

Special Counsel Robert Mueller's report revealed an all-out attack on our elections by the Russians, concluding that they "interfered in the 2016 Presidential election in sweeping and systematic fashion."

Top intelligence and security officials have made clear that these attacks continue. They are happening, and they are happening now.

This spring, FBI Director Chris Wray warned from the facts, 'from the Russian reality': from the Russians, explaining that their attacks in our elections were simply "a dress rehearsal for the big show in 2020."

This House has a patriotic duty to protect our democracy from these attacks. This is a matter of national security. That is why the Democrats first act in the majority was to advance, as I mentioned, H.R. 1, For the People Act, to secure our elections.

Today we need to continue on that progress with the Securing America's Federal Elections Act, which takes urgently needed action to further strengthen America's defenses.

This bill closes dangerous gaps in our election systems and brings our security into the 21st century.

I know that other Members have spoken about the provisions of the bill, but I just would really like to know from my Republican friends what is wrong with replacing outdated, vulnerable voting equipment? What is wrong with requiring paper ballot voting systems to ensure the integrity of our elections? What is wrong with enacting strong cybersecurity requirements for elections technology vendors and voting systems?

We must be relentless in the defense of our democracy, fighting on all fronts to keep America safe.

There is a reason why the Russians are interested in our elections, and other countries may be too, but we can document with full confidence from the intelligence community that the Russians are. It is because they want to affect the outcome of the elections, so they can change the policy.

I think it was really sad, I was sad to hear, and, hopefully, it will be retracted, that the President gave a green light to the Russians to do it again. Really? Really?

This Congress is advancing appropriations legislation that provides $800 million for election security grants to States, and increases funding for the Election Assistance Commission, which has been starved for funding for years, a couple of dollars for every person in our country to honor the vision of our Founders of a democracy where everyone who is eligible to vote can vote and everyone's vote is counted as cast.

Next month, we will also advance further legislation to protect our national security and prevent foreign interference in our elections.

Madam Speaker, I commend the distinguished chairman of the Homeland Security Committee, Mr. BENNIE THOMAS, for the work that he has been doing with his task force and his committee and other members who are working with him as we go forward.

We are pleased that the administration has agreed to provide an all-Member briefing on election security that will happen in July, so we can get the facts. We have been trying to get the facts.

Some people around here may think that it is okay to just make policy without the facts. We are evidence-based, scientifically oriented, truth-and-knowledge based on how we go forward, and we look forward to that briefing.

We also look forward to July 17, when Special Counsel Robert Mueller will come forward and give testimony.

Our national security is being threatened, and the American people need answers.

This is not to be fearmongering. This is to be smart and to anticipate a known challenge that exists and to do something about it.

We can't just talk about the Mueller report and saying what it says about the Russian interference in our elections, unless we are ready to do something about it. Today we are, thanks to our distinguished chair, Chairwoman LOFGREN.

There is a need for bipartisan support for our critical common sense action to secure our elections.

Unfortunately, Senator MCCONNELL, a self-described crepe-hanger, has vowed to kill our bills in the Senate, while the President openly declares that he sees no problem with foreign interference in our elections.

The GOP Senate and the White House are giving foreign countries the green light to attack our country, but the House will do our patriotic duty to protect America.

Madam Speaker, as we approach the Fourth of July holiday, I urge my colleagues to remember the oath we took and the democracy we defend, and to join me in a strong bipartisan vote to defend America's security.

This isn't about politics. It is about patriotism. As our Founders said at the beginning of the Constitution in its preamble, we do this for the people.

Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as my colleagues may wish to use.

Madam Speaker, I agree with my distinguished colleague from California that we do need to have the ability for the Department of Homeland Security
and our intelligence officials to notify our State and local election officials if they see nefarious activity, but right now under the bill we are debating today, that would not be the case, because in many cases, DHS won't talk to local election officials or State election officials because they don't have security clearances.

Our bill, pushed by the Republicans on the House Administration Committee, would allow the communication to take place.

You know, we hear a lot of talk about patriotism coming up on the Fourth of July. I believe we are all patriots in this institution, but I believe, also, we have to govern together.

We were working on a bipartisan solution to election security, and all of the sudden, we were told no more negotiations. That is not how I thought this institution worked. I thought we could work together.

Well, I do want to respond to a couple of comments that my colleague from California made. She may have mentioned H.R. 1. H.R. 1 was the Democrats' attempt to address not only too much money in politics, they said; they also wanted to address election security.

Clearly, what H.R. 1 did was do nothing to affect the money that is coming into politics, and it is not doing enough to ensure that our elections are not impacted by foreign entities with nefarious intentions.

Our bill today that we hoped could have been debated but was voted down on a party-line vote in the House Administration Committee earlier this week, just a few days ago, we hoped we could have come up with that; that is, a bipartisan solution that would have worked. What works, our last speaker said, was this. Clearly, that is not what works.

What works isn't voting for a bill like H.R. 1 that puts to the first ever corporate money directly into every Member of Congress' campaign accounts. What works, clearly, is not taxpayer money to fix that problem when there are not enough corporate malfeasance funds. That is not what the American people wanted.

And what would have worked would have been the last administration, the Obama administration, listening to their intelligence agencies and doing something about nefarious activities before the 2016 election, not the day after, when Democrats decided to take this issue on.

And then all I ever hear is they are going to blame Mitch McConnell. Well, before that, before 2016, the Obama administration ceded Presidential authority to the Senate majority leader. I had no idea that happened.

Everything is Mitch McConnell's fault, right? He is the one who told the intelligence community to stand down. Are you kidding me?

And now we hear we should have done something. You are darn right we should have done something. You are darn right the Obama administration should have done something. You are darn right they should have done it when they first heard about it before the 2016 election, and now here we are to fix it.

And today's bill is clearly not a fix.

We have got some issues, and it is really interesting to see my colleagues from California come up and not want to address a practice like ballot harvesting that is illegal in North Carolina, where a Republican who did it is likely to go to jail for it, but the same process is legal in the State of California—disastrous.

You want to talk about trying to determine the outcome of elections? We have put forth amendment after amendment to address ballot harvesting, with complete party-line votes against making sure the process that is illegal in California that a Republican operative will likely go to jail for is completely legal in States like California.

And you want to talk about determining the outcome of an election? Come on.

I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. LOUDERMILK), my good friend.

Mr. LOUDERMILK. Madam Speaker, I thank my friend from Illinois for yielding this minute to me.

The distinguished Speaker talked about misinformation out there about elections and election security and a lot of that that goes on around here. Let's be factual here.

There has been zero solid evidence of voter suppression during the last election, which had the largest turnout in the history of this Nation. Our own committee held seven field hearings across the Nation, with zero solid evidence of voter suppression, but the only way they try to suppress that is they tried to bring in something that had to deal with purging voter rolls.


But yet this is the direction we are going in, and the distinguished Speaker said we are taking it into the 21st century. Show me how. How is this taking us into the 21st century? It is taking us back decades.

Look, if the Russians were actually physically invading our Nation with bombers and tanks, this bill would be the equivalent of giving our military pelot guns and paper airplanes to thwart the attack. This is taking us away from election security.

Ms. LOFGREN. Madam Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. BUTTERFIELD), a valued member of the House Administration Committee.

Mr. BUTTERFIELD. Madam Speaker, I thank the chair of our committee for yielding me time this morning.

Madam Speaker, I rise this morning in strong support of H.R. 2722. It is past time that this Congress act boldly in response to the foreign interference that took place in our 2016 elections, and that is exactly what this bill does. Then gentlemen from Ohio, the ranking member of the committee, today to him is disingenuous to point the finger at the Obama administration. That may or may not be accurate, but let us look forward.

The legislation provides $600 million in grants to State and local officials to secure election infrastructure and replace aging voting machines with voter-verified paper ballot voting systems; $175 million to States every 2 years to maintain elections infrastructure. It requires States to implement risk-limiting audits; it prohibits internet accessibility or connectivity for devices on which ballots are marked or tabulated; and it sets long-needed cybersecurity standards for vendors.

Let's take this bill off the floor. Let's get back to bipartisan negotiations, because in States like North Carolina and States like Illinois where local election officials have bought machines, they bought machines, maybe they have current optical scan machines, but the requirement in this bill, as the Oklahoma secretary of state said, the requirement of this bill to have recycled ballots through all States, that we already purchased optical scan machines that would be required for every local and State election official to purchase after the year 2022 may not be able to read the ballots on recycled paper. So you are going to have to reinvest hard-earned tax dollars where many local communities in our great States have already invested in updating their election security with the most secure election equipment that they felt was going to protect them.

I do not think we should not be telling our local officials what to buy, especially when there are provisions in this bill that make equipment that would fit
those guidelines illegal to use or are inoperable even if they have purchased it. We have got to do better.

We all want to protect this great Nation. We all want free and fair elections so that every vote is counted and protected. Let’s do it together. Let’s do it right.

Let’s make sure we address some DHS concerns. Let’s put a cybersecurity assistance unit together like we have tried to do.

Let’s outlaw ballot harvesting, because I know we have got bipartisan support in working together on that issue, especially with my good friend from North Carolina, Mr. BUTTERFIELD. I look forward to working with him on this. I know he and I both have concerns about this process, and I thank him for his willingness to sit down and talk.

We can do better. The bill on the floor today is not better. Let’s do it. Let’s work together. Pull this bill off the floor today is not better. Let’s do it. Let’s do it.

Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois. Madam Speaker, how much time do I have left?

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Ms. JACKSON LEE). The gentleman from Illinois has 2 3⁄4 minutes remaining. The gentleman from California has 9 minutes remaining.

Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois.

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

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. LOFGREN. Madam Speaker, I have no additional speakers, so if the gentleman would like to yield back, I will close.

Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois. Madam Speaker, how much time do I have left?

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Ms. JACKSON LEE). The gentleman from Illinois has 2 3⁄4 minutes remaining. The gentleman from California has 9 minutes remaining.

Madam Speaker, well, clearly the timekeeper is wrong. I obviously thought I had more, but I am not able to debate that today. I will go ahead and close.

I do want to thank my colleagues from California and also the members of the House Administration Committee, where we have an opportunity to come together, but this bill is just simply another partisan bill by the majority aimed at federally mandating election standards, like mandating that States exclusively use paper ballots, effectively banning any type of digital recording device that would have even a verified paper backup.

There had one hearing on this issue with Commissioners from the EAC—remember, that agency that one speaker earlier said was getting a pittance of dollars, small amounts of dollars over the last few years. Only in this institution is $380 million given by the Republican majority here in the House in the last Congress and signed into law by the President of the United States, only in this institution is $380 million a little bit. A lot of that money still has not been spent by our local election officials.

So here we are today debating a bill that is going to basically commit 1.3 billion taxpayer dollars toward so-called election security. We still have not addressed the problem that if DHS, if our same intelligence officials who told the Obama administration that there was foreign interference in our 2016 elections and the Obama administration did not act—because, why? Because of MITCH MCCONNELL. It is MITCH MCCONNELL’s fault.

Seriously, come on. Get real here. We are legislators. We are an equal branch of government. There is absolutely no way the administration cedes authority to anybody in this legislative institution.

The Obama administration failed to address the problem of election interference system in 2016. We are doing it. We are trying to make sure that we fix it. This attempt to fix it is a partisan attempt at ensuring that our elections authorities and our States and our local election officials have a top-down, federally mandated approach that is going to potentially cost them millions of taxpayer dollars that they have already inserted into their own budgets over the last few years.

Our local officials have told us they want flexibility. Cybersecurity concerns are where they have invested much of the $380 million that we put forth in the last Congress.

Let’s make sure we spend the money that we have already appropriated; let’s make sure take a commonsense approach; and let’s give our election officials, Republicans and Democrats from throughout this great Nation, the ability to address the concerns they know are weakest in their own system. Let’s not have some bureaucrat out here in a concrete building determining what is going to work best in the State of Texas, in the State of Illinois, in the State of California, or anywhere else.

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

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

I think it is important to address a few of the issues that have been raised in the course of this debate.

First, we are moving forward with the SAFE Act because of a sense of urgency that we have about the 2020 election. That sense of urgency was fueled by the Director of National Intelligence, and it was fueled by the Director of the FBI who told us that red lights, warning lights were flashing and that the 2016 election was just a precursor to what the Russians were going to do in the 2020 election. We feel a sense of urgency.

As has been mentioned by others, H.R. 1 included provisions about ballot security. But I introduced this bill, the SAFE Act, in May 14 because it was specifically addressing election security, and, also, we made some additional enhancements to H.R. 1 relative to cybersecurity and the like.

We drafted the bill with the assistance of the Parliamentarian so that it was entirely within the jurisdiction of the House Administration Committee, with one exception. There was a line on page 11 of the committee mark that authorized a study by the NSF. The Science, Space, and Technology Committee waived jurisdiction on markup because it was just a study, and that was very clear.

This bill has proceeded in the regular order. It has been noticed according to our rules. And it brings us here today to test whether we are going to meet the challenge that faces us in ballot security: whether we are going to allow the Russians to attack our country by trying to steal our election next year or not.

Mention has been made about the need for bipartisanship, I work often on a bipartisan basis with Members of the other party. I will say that we have tried in vain to have the Republican Members buy into the need to require best practices for next year’s election, and we couldn’t do it.

We decided that it is our responsibility to move forward, and that is why we are here today.

Just a mention on unfunded mandates, we are authorizing about $1 billion. $380 million was appropriated last year, and as the Speaker mentioned, we are appropriating this year an additional $600 million for ballot security.

This bill authorizes the $600 million that we are appropriating, and we think it is important that that money flow to the States to harden our systems so the election cannot be stolen by our enemies. It is ironic that some on the other side of the aisle have complained about unfunded mandates at the same time they tried to impose a 25 percent match requirement on States for receiving these funds that they need to get to harden our system.

Just a comment on DREs, DREs are not as unsafe as pure electronic voting, but they are not best practices.

Much has been mentioned about the State of Georgia. It is worth noting that the Georgia legislature ignored the advice they got from computer scientists that what they were doing did not meet best practices for ballot security.

A study published by Georgia Tech indicated that most voters did not actually look at the receipt when it was printed. They also point out that even though printed ballots do look at them, include the names of candidates, votes will be encoded in barcodes that humans can’t authenticate and that are subject to hacking.

“There’s nothing speculative about these vulnerabilities,” said a Georgia Tech computer professor and former chief technology officer for Hewlett-Packard. “If exploited, it would affect the result of the election. It’s not a secure system.”

There is need to fix these things not because it is partisan but because we need to protect America.

The idea that we would allow this just to be decided at a local level is
wrongheaded. If the Russians launched missiles at the counties of the United States, we wouldn’t say, well, that is just a local issue. We would say, no, that is an attack on the United States of America. We must harden our systems and protect our country.

Madam Speaker, I strongly urge the adoption of this measure.

I would like to read from a letter that we received just yesterday from the NETWORK Lobby for Catholic Social Justice. In their last paragraph, the Catholics say: In a secular democracy, elections are the closest thing we have to a sacrament. We know that nefarious foreign and domestic actors continue to meddle in our democratic systems, and we have been put on notice that previous efforts were only trial runs, presumably for our next election in 2020. The NETWORK Lobby for Catholic Social Justice considers our elections to be sacrosanct and that Congress must pass the SAFE Act to protect them.

This bill is supported by a broad sector of civil rights groups, including the NAACP and Common Cause. It deserves all of our support. I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 2722 to ensure the security of our Nation’s election infrastructure.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Massachusetts is recognized for 10 minutes.

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

Madam Speaker, the bill before us today provides no CBO cost estimate, so we literally have no idea as to whether or not there are additional unfunded mandates being imposed on the States. We do know that the States are already having to use their scarce resources to deal with this border crisis, and the legislation before us today does nothing to alleviate that.

Indeed, my colleague from Texas (Mr. BURGESS) made that very point and offered an amendment, which was rejected by the committee, to consider reimbursing the State of Texas over $800 million for their expenses. Those same kinds of expenses—probably not to that magnitude—have been undertaken by other States. Madam Speaker, we don’t think that we should proceed until we have that information and the House has a chance to consider that.

Resolved, That upon adoption of this resolution it shall be in order to take from the Speaker’s table the bill (H.R. 3401) making emergency supplemental appropriations for fiscal year ending September 30, 2019, and for other purposes, with the Senate amendment thereto, and to consider in the House, without intervention of any point of order, a motion offered by the chair of the Committee on Rules, and of which the House concur in the Senate amendment with an amendment consisting of the text of Rules Committee Print 116–21. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Oklahoma.

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

Madam Speaker, the bill that we have passed by the Senate 84–7: a bill where 35 Democrats—about three-quarters of the number of Democrats—supported, a bill that we know would solve, a bill that if we would bring to this floor we can pass immediately and it would go to the President’s desk; it wouldn’t have to go back to the Senate. So my friends, by not accepting an ordinary, immediately by the Senate and simply moving it on, are the ones who are actually imposing a delay here.

What they have got in front of us today is a bill that we have to consider today, if they are successful, frankly, is something we know the Senate is unlikely to accept. I have not heard from the President, but given the scope of the changes inside the bill, these are all changes that, in some cases, failed yesterday in the Senate—reductions in spending for the military and for the Border Patrol—that the administration has already signaled they will reject.

There is a simple solution here. We could simply take the Senate bill up that has passed with some support on both sides of the aisle—get that bill down to the President, and the money could start flowing immediately. If we proceed as my friends want to proceed, we are simply going to be playing ping-pong back and forth.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Madam Speaker, I am surprised that my colleagues on the Republican side hold this institution in such low esteem. We are the House of Representatives. Our voice matters.

On this issue, the House voted first on a measure to try to help provide some assistance to these children at the border. Then the Senate passed a different version. The way it is supposed to work is we have a negotiation and we try to come to an agreement and compromise bill. So the idea that somehow it didn’t happen in the House, that we shouldn’t matter in the House, that we should just accept whatever the Senate does, to me, I find...
that disrespectful of the House of Rep-resentatives.

What we are doing is we are sending the Senate basically all that they want, plus we are adding things to help protect children and to provide for more transparency. We are strengthening requirements for children’s health. We are tightening restrictions for children’s safety. We are supporting nonprofits in communities caring for children’s well-being. I mean, we are embracing compassionate processing for our citizen’s comfort. Again, we are enhancing accountability in transparency and mandating fiscal responsibility.

Who can possibly be opposed to those things? That is what we are trying to do. We are trying to insist that the House’s voice matters, and we are trying to make the Senate bill even better.

Again, what motivates us here is the well-being of these children. We are here for the children. We are here because we are outraged at the way they have been mistreated by this administration. We are tired of excuses as to why we can’t protect the children. We are moving forward with legislation that will protect the children from any abuse at our border.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Madam Speaker, I don’t doubt my friend’s sincerity and compassion and concern for these young people for one minute. I know him well as a person and value him as a friend. Although, I must say, this would have been much nicer 8 weeks ago when the administration first asked for it.

While my friend lays out some of the changes in the House bill, he neglected to mention that the House has agreed to the administration’s request for reimbursement to the military by $124 million. It cuts the administration’s request for money to the Border Patrol, which is probably where the most difficult part is, by, I think, $38 million. So we have substantive disagreements.

Again, we have a bill that has passed overwhelmingly. Many of the items my friends want to add have already been considered by the Senate and rejected by the House. So it seems to me, when we have a bipartisan product that has got substantial support on both sides and that the White House has signaled it would accept, that is the way we should go.

Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. WOMACK), my good friend and the ranking Republican member of the Committee on the Budget.

Mr. WOMACK. Madam Speaker, I thank my friend from Oklahoma for leading in this discussion.

Madam Speaker, I rise in support of the question on consideration. We should be taking up the Senate-passed bill. It has already been mentioned that it passed 84-8.

We don’t have a CBO score for the changes made by the House amendments to the bill, and without a CBO score, we don’t know the cost this bill would have on State and local govern-ments.

Yesterday, in a budget hearing on matters of immigration, we heard testimony from the mayor of Yuma, Arizona, which clearly demonstrates the economic impacts and costs that States and local governments are incurring due to the crisis at the border.

My friends just said changes made by the House on this Senate-passed bill take tens of millions of dollars away from the Department of Defense for re-imbursement and limit the ability of Customs and Border Patrol to ade-quately pay for the services incurred as a result of this ongoing crisis.

Madam Speaker, Democrats have had many opportunities to advance bipartisan solutions that would provide the kind of relief to these communities and begin to address the crisis at the bor-der, and for nearly 2 months, they have refused to act.

This week has been an unfortunate loss of precious time. This is a situa-tion where Congress clearly needs to come together and act swiftly. I am sorry to say we are falling short in this basic obligation of the duties of the Congress of the United States of America.

Madam Speaker, again, I rise in support of the question that we have under consid-eration.

Mr. MCGOVERN. Madam Speaker, I am a little confused. My Republican friends say they want to delay things to have a CBO score, then they say they want to get something to the President’s desk right away. They can talk all they want about a CBO score; we are going to talk about the children.

It is an emergency, and what is happen-ing to those children on the border is unconscionable. It should weigh heavily on the hearts of every single person in this Chamber—Democrats and Republicans, alike.

Enough is enough. We need to make sure that we not only provide the neces-sary resources to alleviate this crisis, but we need to make sure that those resources we provide are provided in such a way that they do go to the pur-poses that we want them to go to.

And as far as the Department of De-fense money, I mean, the bottom line is this administration has been diverting funds from the Department of Defense for this stupid wall, and they have cre-ated that crisis.

The bottom line is we are here for the children, and, again, I urge my кол-leagues to stop the bickering and get down to business. Let us pass this rule; let us go on to pass the legislation; and let us get a deal with the Senate that is better than what is on the table right now.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. COLE. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Geor-gia (Mr. WOODALL), my very good friend and distinguished member of the Rules Committee.

Mr. WOODALL. Madam Speaker, I think folks are going to have a tough time containing their emotions today. We met in the House Rules Committee at 8 a.m. this morning, and folks already had fuses that were running short.

I agree with my friend from Massa-chusetts, enough is enough.

We had an amendment offered in the Rules Committee this morning. I don’t think most folks in this body know because folks weren’t at the Rules Com-mittee this morning. We had an amend-ment offered in the Rules Committee this morning that said, if the gentle-man wants to do this new bill that has been crafted by the Democratic majority, bring that new bill to the floor, but let’s at least consider the bipartisan bill that the Senate passed yesterday.

I agree with my friend from Massa-chusetts (Mr. MCGOVERN), enough is enough, Madam Speaker. We could send a bill to the White House today to stop the money going today.

My friend from Massachusetts said: Let the Republicans talk if they want to. We want to talk about the children.

I am tired of talking about the children. Let’s serve the children. Let’s do it. Let’s do it. Let’s stop talking about it.

It has been almost 60 days that we have been talking about it, with one tragic picture after another rolling across the national headlines. Let’s stop talking about it.

If folks have an alternative view, they can share alternative view as they have, but allow us to vote on what the Senate agreed, 84-8, after roundly re-jecting the previously passed House bill. It was an opportunity to serve the children today.

Madam Speaker, I don’t believe the Members of this institution know what happened in the Rules Committee this morning. I don’t believe the Members of this institution know we rejected that bipartisan opportunity this morn-ing. With this, under a point of order, we will bring the Members of this insti-tution down here to the House floor where they will hear it themselves.

I have an opportunity to act now, as my friend from Oklahoma (Mr. COLE) has offered. The question is: Are we going to take “yes” for an answer or are we just going to continue to talk about the children?

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. MCGOVERN. Madam Speaker, I am really puzzled here. Why is it that the Senate can say no, but the House can’t say no to something? Why is it that we always have to do what the Senate wants?

If the gentleman is so enamored with the Senate, maybe he should work over in the Senate.
But the bottom line is, those of us in the House deserve to have our voices heard, and what we are saying here is that we want to provide a bill that will alleviate this crisis, that will help the children.

Mr. WOODALL. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. MCGOVERN. I will not yield. I do not have enough time to yield.

Mr. WOODALL. Madam Speaker, the gentleman has mischaracterized my statement. Will the gentleman yield?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Massachusetts has the time.

Mr. MCGOVERN. Madam Speaker, I would like us to make sure we provide resources to the border that actually alleviate the crisis. I do not want to be part of an effort to send money to the border to be diverted for whatever this President wants. He has shown us where he is on this issue of the children and on the issue of immigration. And, quite frankly, many of us on this side of the aisle—and, I think, some on the other side of the aisle—are offended by that.

So I want to make sure, when we say we are providing relief to this crisis that is affecting so many children, that, in fact, we are providing relief to those children. And that is all we are saying here.

Madam Speaker, strengthening requirements for children's health, why would anybody in the Senate want to be opposed to that?

Tightening restrictions for children's safety, people are dying in our custody. We should want to prevent that from ever occurring again by supporting nonprofits and community caring for children's well-being.

Madam Speaker, this stuff is something that should not be controversial no matter how you look at it, and yet it is for my Republican friends, and I regret that very much.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. COLE. Madam Speaker, I am puzzled as well. I am puzzled why this wasn't dealt with 8 weeks ago when the administration asked. I am puzzled why, for 16 times when we tried to bring this matter up on the floor, our friends in the majority rejected that.

Now we are in a hurry. Well, if we are in a hurry, the way to act is to take this bill that for children's health we must ensure a higher standard for medical care, nutrition, and hygiene. That is what they are calling partisan. That is what they are saying, oh, it is awful, we can't move forward on that.

The bill we are putting forward, this compromise bill, will meet the needs of the children. That is all that it does.

So I don't know why we in the House can't, in a bipartisan way, stand together and say: Look, we want to improve on what the Senate did, and we want to guarantee that the money we send actually go to help the children and not get diverted to other things like we know this administration has a habit of doing.

Madam Speaker, anybody who has seen the pictures in the newspapers recently, anybody who has read the news articles, again, our hearts should ache. This is not America. This is not what our country is about. We can do much, much better, and that is why we should move forward with consideration.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. COLE. Madam Speaker, may I inquire as to how much time is remaining?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Oklahoma has 1½ minutes remaining. The gentleman from Massachusetts has 3½ minutes remaining.

Mr. COLE. Madam Speaker, I am prepared to close and will yield back the balance of my time at the conclusion of my remarks.

Madam Speaker, we don't think the House bill is a better bill. We don't think reducing the amount the Senate gave to the military by $124 million is a good idea. We don't think reducing the amount that is going to Border Patrol, which is one of the areas that is a problem, by $89 million is a good idea. We don't think a lot of this effort to micromanage a crisis that is thousands of miles away from us by this body here has good suggestions.

We want some flexibility. We think the Senate bill does take care of the needs on the border in terms of unaccompanied minors who have crossed over into our territory. So we just don't think this does it, and we think this prolongs the process.

We have a bipartisan bill—a perfect bill? No. Is our bill a perfect bill? No. As a matter of fact, we like the Senate bill on our side better than this bill. Regardless, that one can pass. That one can pass on this floor. That one can be signed into law.

This one that my friends are embarrassing, they think it is an improvement. I will just tell them, politically, not passing the Senate, not likely to be signed by the President.

So if we want to get help there immediately, we have a way to do it in the Senate bill. We think this leads us to a political dead-end.

Madam Speaker, I would press for my motion, and I yield back the balance of my time.

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

Mr. WOODALL. Madam Speaker, my colleagues have seen the pictures and they have heard the stories. And if that is not convincing to them to move forward, to increase protections for children who are held in our custody, then I don't know what else to say.

What we are asking for here in this compromise bill that we are moving forward is to make sure that there are stronger protections in here, to make sure that the abuse that we have all read about and that we have all seen stops and never, ever happens again.

That is what this is all about.

So I am at a loss because, to me, the evidence is overwhelming that we need to provide stronger protections for these children. If my colleagues disagree, then they can vote against the bill and against consideration, but I would urge all of my colleagues to vote "yes" so that we can move forward with this rule in consideration of this bill and get this passed as soon as possible and get on with our duty of either urging the Senate to pass it or to continue in negotiation, but we can do better than the Senate bill.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is, Will the House now consider the resolution?

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

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

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 226, nays 188, not voting 18, as follows:

[Roll No. 425]

YEAS—226

Adams (MA)    Beatty    Bonamici    Boyd (MD)
Adler    Bera    Beyer    Brindisi
Alfaro    Berman    Bishop (GA)    Blumenauer
Anne     Barragan    Brown (MD)    Brat
Bass     Blunt—Rochester    Brownley (CA)
Mr. Speaker, I am reminded of President Reagan’s final speech in office, where he said: ‘Anybody, from any corner of the world, can come to America to live and become an American. This, I believe, is one of the most American things as is their right under U.S. law.

And they weren’t the only ones to die. Just this past weekend, Border Patrol agents found four more bodies in the river west of Brownsville, Texas: three more young children and a young woman in her twenties. Every single week, people drown in the river and perish in the desert, invisible and unknown. It wasn’t too long ago that we celebrated how immigration made our country stronger, whether it was a Democratic or a Republican administration.

I am reminded of President Reagan’s final speech in office, where he said: ‘Anybody, from any corner of the world, can come to America to live and become an American. This, I believe, is one of the most American things.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. CUELLAR). The gentleman from Massachusetts is recognized for 1 hour.

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, for the purpose of debate only, I yield the time to the gentleman from Massachusetts.

Mr. WELCH. Mr. Speaker, for the purpose of debate only, I yield the time to the gentleman from Massachusetts.

Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to review and extend their remarks.

Mr. Speaker, the Trump administration apparently has the complete opposite view of immigration. They don’t believe in it; they demonize it.

Consider what may have happened to Oscar and his family if they did make it to our border, forced to sleep on concrete floors with the lights on 24 hours a day, with no soap, no medicine, maybe not even a toothbrush. Valeria, her younger sister, saw the unbearable conditions with her own eyes. She watched in horror as a current washed their bodies away, leaving a Mexican migrant camp. Like so many others, they were exercising their legal right to seek asylum here in the United States. They wanted to be free from the violence, gangs, poverty, and inequality that is rampant in El Salvador, just as it is all across Central America.

I visited El Salvador and I visited Honduras recently, and, Mr. Speaker, I saw the unbearable conditions with my own eyes. It is no wonder that organizations like the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime have said this and other Central American countries are more dangerous than Afghanistan and only slightly better than Syria.

Syria, Mr. Speaker, is the site of an ongoing civil war. Let that sink in for a moment.

But, unfortunately, Alberto and Valeria didn’t survive their journey. Alberto’s wife, Tania, was forced to watch in horror as a current washed her family away, leaving a Mexican migrant camp. Like so many others, they were exercising their legal right to seek asylum here in the United States. They wanted to be free from the violence, gangs, poverty, and inequality that is rampant in El Salvador, just as it is all across Central America.

I visited El Salvador and I visited Honduras recently, and, Mr. Speaker, I saw the unbearable conditions with my own eyes. It is no wonder that organizations like the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime have said this and other Central American countries are more dangerous than Afghanistan and only slightly better than Syria.

Syria, Mr. Speaker, is the site of an ongoing civil war. Let that sink in for a moment.

But, unfortunately, Alberto and Valeria didn’t survive their journey. Alberto’s wife, Tania, was forced to watch in horror as a current washed her family away, leaving a Mexican migrant camp. Like so many others, they were exercising their legal right to seek asylum here in the United States. They wanted to be free from the violence, gangs, poverty, and inequality that is rampant in El Salvador, just as it is all across Central America.

I visited El Salvador and I visited Honduras recently, and, Mr. Speaker, I saw the unbearable conditions with my own eyes. It is no wonder that organizations like the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime have said this and other Central American countries are more dangerous than Afghanistan and only slightly better than Syria.

Syria, Mr. Speaker, is the site of an ongoing civil war. Let that sink in for a moment.

But, unfortunately, Alberto and Valeria didn’t survive their journey. Alberto’s wife, Tania, was forced to watch in horror as a current washed her family away, leaving a Mexican migrant camp. Like so many others, they were exercising their legal right to seek asylum here in the United States. They wanted to be free from the violence, gangs, poverty, and inequality that is rampant in El Salvador, just as it is all across Central America.

I visited El Salvador and I visited Honduras recently, and, Mr. Speaker, I saw the unbearable conditions with my own eyes. It is no wonder that organizations like the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime have said this and other Central American countries are more dangerous than Afghanistan and only slightly better than Syria.

Syria, Mr. Speaker, is the site of an ongoing civil war. Let that sink in for a moment.

But, unfortunately, Alberto and Valeria didn’t survive their journey. Alberto’s wife, Tania, was forced to watch in horror as a current washed her family away, leaving a Mexican migrant camp. Like so many others, they were exercising their legal right to seek asylum here in the United States. They wanted to be free from the violence, gangs, poverty, and inequality that is rampant in El Salvador, just as it is all across Central America.
A physician who visited one recently said: “The conditions within which they are held could be compared to torture facilities.”

Mr. Speaker, when Lady Liberty encourages us to give our poor, huddled masses, I don’t think she means so the administration can turn around and throw them in a cage. I don’t think she lifts her torch so their legal plight could be criminalized and crying children could be ripped from the arms of their parents. But that is what is happening under this President, and, Mr. Speaker, it is sickening. It should tear at the hearts of every single Member of this House, whether they are Democrats or Republicans.

This week, the House passed bipartisan emergency legislation to address this humanitarian crisis at the border. The Senate had its own ideas. So, today, we are back with a compromise to get a bill quickly signed into law.

This is a compromise that lives up to our core values and protects children and families. It adds critical protections for those who were included in the House version of the bill. It includes language to improve care for children by forcing influx facilities to comply with the Flores settlement and capping, at 90 days, the amount of time a child can spend in such a facility.

We are also reducing funding for ICE, while rejecting additional and unnecessary dollars for the Pentagon.

This is a crisis, Mr. Speaker. We cannot treat compromise as though it is a dirty word, not when migrants are literally losing their lives in unsafe, unhealthy, and unsanitary conditions and children are being torn apart from their families. That is what is at stake here.

The horrors at detention centers shouldn’t get lost in the latest tweetathon by the President, just as the plight of migrants shouldn’t go unseen by the American people. This should shame us, and make clear the urgent need to act.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this rule and the underlying bill, and let’s send a message to the President and to the world that America is better than this. This is not who we are, what is happening at our border.

Mr. Speaker, I would just say one final thing. In the compromise package today that seems to bother so many people more morally items that would protect the well-being of these children, that would provide more transparency. For the life of me, I don’t understand the controversy. I don’t understand why we can’t make the Senate hear why we can’t do more for these children.

I know my colleagues on the other side of the aisle feel as we do, that what is happening is unacceptable. Let us strengthen that bill. Let us actually give a bill to the President that we all know will help these children.

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

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

I want to begin by thanking my good friend, the gentleman from Massachusetts (Chairman McGovern) for yielding me the customary 30 minutes.

Mr. Speaker, I’m here for the third time this week and the second time on a supplemental appropriations bill for the southern border.

Earlier this week, I spoke on this floor and expressed my concerns about the House bill. Make no mistake, we need emergency funding for the crisis on the southern border. We needed it 2 months ago, and we need it even more desperately today.

Two days ago, I warned that the bill the House was considering would not pass the Senate and would not become law, and I was proven correct. The House bill failed in the Senate. In fact, it only received 37 votes in support. In contrast, the Senate amendment passed in a bipartisan vote of 84–8.

If the Democratic leadership would allow a vote on the Senate text, I believe it would pass this Chamber today and be on its way to the President’s desk—today. But, instead, we are here considering a rule that would further undermine the House bill. The language in provisions that have already failed to garner support in the Senate.

If this bill fails to pass the Senate, as I expect will happen, then we will be leaving town for a week without actually having anything to deal with the crisis. And I do remind my friends on the other side we have attempted on our side, 16 times, to bring up legislation to deal with this, and the President asked for this money 2 months ago.

So, I am glad they have a sense of urgency now, because we have not seen it in the past.

My sense is that this is more about maintaining the unity of the Democratic Caucus than it is about pressuring legislation that can be enacted into law. But that has been true for this entire Congress, and it is why my friends have, so far, failed to enact any significant legislation during their tenure in the majority.

Mr. Speaker, we are out of time. We desperately need to get these emergency funds to the Federal agencies responsible for managing this crisis. They are out of money and need additional resources. We have seen 15,000 troops. We have seen the pictures. We have heard the words. On either side they talk of it.

We were in this well just a few days ago having a debate. Many of us said: Why would we take this moment to do a political maneuver that will not go anywhere in the Senate?

Don’t take our word for it. Take the votes for it. The bill did not pass.

There is a time for every season. The season to put people before politics is now. The season to put people before politics is now.

Don’t take my word for it. Take the example of the Chamber that is just across the way. It is not far. You can see it if you look out those doors; you can walk it without taking much breath; and you can understand what bipartisanship looks like, Madam Speaker.

The Senate took up a bill to take up this crisis. The vote was 84–8.

Madam Speaker, 84–8. There has been historic legislation that was passed with much less, but there have been very few that have ever been defeated that have gone 84–8.

But today, we are going to take hours to learn the exact same experience that we had just a few short weeks ago. The 84–8. When I listen to the other side and say that this—the Democratic Party, Madam Speaker, wants to do this.
Let me read the names of some of those who voted for this bill to understand what bipartisan sounds like: Senator CHUCK SCHUMER, Senator DICK DURBIN, Senator TIM KAINE, Senator PATTY MURRAY, and Senator DIANE FEINSTEIN all voted “yes.” Every single member of the Senate Democratic leadership voted “yes” to end the crisis on the border.

But why, Madam Speaker, are we on this floor now? Why does the Democratic side want to continue to play politics when the Democrat leadership in the Senate says no?

Fifty-eight days is enough. Eighteen votes over there are too many. But yes, people are dying. But yes, the money is out. We have all acknowledged it on this floor.

Madam Speaker, it makes me begin to wonder, how can a few control so many?

On that opening day, when we are on this floor, we all raise our hand individually. We all swear to uphold the Constitution. Our names are individually on the ballot when we are voted to come in here.

This is not a moment to let somebody else control your name or your voting card. This is not a moment to say, my party tells me to go here, because that is not the case.

Chuck Schumer is the leader of the Democratic Party. DICK DURBIN is the leader of the Democrats when it comes to immigration. I have spent hours and months with DICK DURBIN in a room trying to come to an immigration agreement, and we have not seen places far, far apart. We have spent months trying to come to a conclusion.

But you know what? We have this time. We have found a more perfect union when we found bipartisanship.

But are we going to allow a few to continue to deny it?

Fifty-eight days. You do not have more. The money is gone. The time is now.

We all know that we are better than this. I do not accuse anyone on either side of what they truly believe about a crisis. I have heard.

I have heard people on the other side of the aisle, Madam Speaker, that said they want to vote for the Senate bill. Can we allow them to vote for the Senate bill?

Can we allow them to join with the Senate bill? Can we change that kind of idea?” Yes?” to it? Or do we have a few that control what can come to the floor?

Now, I heard in this rule debate that there are some amendments; that somehow they are going to make it better. What makes it better? That we do not fund to pay any overtime costs for Immigration and Customs Enforcement officers, or provide funding for the active duty of the National Guard troops working with them on the front line of the crisis at the border?

Is that making it better?

Is that really what you want to stake your political career on?

Is that really what you want to stand up against bipartisanism for?

Madam Speaker, I have heard a lot of names on the other side say they would vote for it. I think everybody in this body knows that that Senate bill will pass. I think everybody in their heart knows that is where we are going to end up.

But do we have to go through it one more time?

You do not have to worry about what the Democrats want. The leaders of the Senate has already said what will happen; because I will promise you this, on this side of the aisle, we will stay here until this is done. We will not leave, and we will stand with the bipartisan vote in the Senate.

If you are worried about getting to 218, do not worry. Put that bill on suspension, I promise you it will pass.

I call upon all of our better angels for this one moment, for this one time, when America is watching, that we rise to the occasion; that we put the partisanship aside; that we have swapped; that the Senate has actually taught us, given us the adult supervision to show that, yes, we have had that fight; yes, you tried to make it and it didn’t make it. But there is something better. There is a window, and there is an opportunity.

Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to take from the Speaker’s table H.R. 3401, with the Senate amendment thereto, and concur in the Senate amendment.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Ms. JACKSON LEE). The Chair would advise that all time has been yielded for the purpose of debate only.

Does the gentleman from Massachusetts yield for the purpose of this unanimous consent request?

Mr. MCGOVERN. Madam Speaker, I do not yield for that purpose. All time yielded is for the purpose of debate only.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Massachusetts does not yield; therefore, the unanimous consent request cannot be entertained.

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

I want to assure the distinguished minority leader that I am not asking Members of Congress to vote for what we are bringing before the House today based on their party. I am asking Members to vote to their conscience.

And to be totally frank, we want to make sure there are protections built in this legislation so that funds are not misused as they have been in the past; so we don’t see any more children being abused; so we don’t see the mismanagement that we have witnessed.

With all due respect to the Senate majority leader, and to many of my friends on the other side of the aisle, when children were being ripped apart from their party. I am asking Members to vote to their conscience.

When we read about the terrible conditions that these children were in, being denied soap, and toothpaste, and toothbrushes, and not being cared for, we heard silence.

When we saw the picture of Oscar and Valeria dead, trying to seek asylum in this country, there is nothing.

So the bottom line is, we want to get the job done, and we want our children as long as it takes, I assure the minority leader. We are not going anywhere.

But we are going to stand for the children, and that is what our purpose is here today.

Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from Pennsylvania (Ms. SCANLON), a distinguished member of the Rules Committee.

Ms. SCANLON. Madam Speaker, I am so glad that our colleagues across the aisle agree that the conditions at the border are intolerable, because they are.

A few months ago, I had the opportunity to go to the southern border, meet with Border Patrol agents and advocates on the ground, including a woman who had been separated from her children, and we toured detention facilities.

The humanitarian crisis then, in February, was undeniable, and it has only gotten worse. But the cause of this crisis has raised serious questions, particularly as to why it has escalated.

In addition to suspending critical aid designed to relieve conditions causing desperate families to flee their homes, the Trump administration is failing to use longstanding lawful processes and available resources to provide relief to children and refugees at the southern border.

The Trump administration’s policies are not making our border safer, but they are worsening the situation, at the expense of the health and well-being of desperate children and families.

There are unused beds at facilities in my home State of Pennsylvania and in Texas, and many refugee children have sponsors, family members available here, but they are being denied access.

Prior to coming to Congress, I represented immigrants and asylum seekers who, by definition, lawfully enter this country seeking refuge. I can confidently say that international law is being violated on a daily basis by this administration, and it has abandoned longstanding legal norms for processing asylees, with the apparent purpose of exacerbating the crisis for political gain.

I agree that we need to send additional resources to relieve the humanitarian conditions affecting refugees at our border. But we also have a responsibility to make sure that those resources are not misused to worsen rather than relieve this crisis.

Therefore, I urge that we support the border relief bill that is before us, which will provide resources to relieve the crisis and improve the health and well-being of innocent children, while allowing transparency and oversight.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentlewoman has expired.
Mr. MCGOVERN. I yield the gentlewoman from Pennsylvania an additional 30 seconds.

Ms. SCANLON. It is important that we allow transparency and oversight on how those funds are used.

To our Republican colleagues in the Senate, especially Majority Leader McCONNELL, if you fail to work with us to address this humanitarian crisis, not only will your legacy be your legislative graveyard in the Senate, but the deaths of these children and families.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. GRANGER) for the purpose of a unanimous consent request.

Ms. GRANGER. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to take from the Speaker’s table H.R. 3401, with the Senate amendment thereto, and concur in the Senate amendment. This bipartisan bill passed the Senate with 84 votes and could be sent to the President’s desk for his signature today.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair understands that the gentleman from Massachusetts has not yielded for that purpose; therefore, the unanimous consent request cannot be entertained.

Mr. COLE. Madam Speaker, I yield to the distinguished gentleman from South Dakota (Mr. JOHNSON) for the purpose of a unanimous consent request.

Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to take from the Speaker’s table H.R. 3401, with the Senate amendment thereto, and to concur in the Senate amendment. This bipartisan bill passed the Senate with 84 votes and could be sent to the President for his signature today.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair understands that the gentleman from Massachusetts has not yielded for that purpose; therefore, the unanimous consent request cannot be entertained.

Mr. COLE. Madam Speaker, I yield to the distinguished gentleman from Michigan (Mr. WALBERG), my friend, for the purpose of a unanimous consent request.

Mr. WALBERG. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to take from the Speaker’s table H.R. 3401, with the Senate amendment thereto, and concur in the Senate amendment. This bipartisan bill passed the Senate with 84 votes and could be sent to the President’s desk for his signature today.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has previously advised, the unanimous consent request cannot be entertained.

Mr. COLE. Madam Speaker, I yield to the distinguished gentleman from Florida (Mr. MAST), my friend, for the purpose of a unanimous consent request.

Mr. MAST. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to take from the Speaker’s table H.R. 3401, with the Senate amendment thereto, and concur in the Senate amendment.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has previously advised, the unanimous consent request cannot be entertained.

Mr. COLE. Madam Speaker, I yield to the distinguished gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. BERGMAN), my good friend, for the purpose of a unanimous consent request.

Mr. BERGMAN. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to take from the Speaker’s table H.R. 3401, with the Senate amendment thereto, and concur in the Senate amendment.

Mr. COLE. Madam Speaker, I yield to the distinguished gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. WALKER) for the purpose of a unanimous consent request.

Mr. WALKER. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to take from the Speaker’s table H.R. 3401, with the Senate amendment thereto, and concur in the Senate amendment. This bipartisan bill passed the Senate with 84 votes and could be sent to the President’s desk for his signature today.

Mr. COLE. Madam Speaker, I yield to the distinguished gentleman from Missouri (Mrs. WAGNER), my good friend, for the purpose of a unanimous consent request.

Mrs. WAGNER. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to take from the Speaker’s table H.R. 3401, with the Senate amendment thereto, and concur in the Senate amendment.

We must not adjourn. We will stay and do the people’s work and take care of this humanitarian crisis on the border. Send this to the President’s desk immediately, today, for signature.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair understands that the gentleman from Massachusetts has not yielded for that purpose; therefore, the unanimous consent request cannot be entertained.

Time will be deducted from the gentleman from Oklahoma.

Mr. COLE. Madam Speaker, I yield to the distinguished gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. WALKER) for the purpose of a unanimous consent request.

Mr. WALKER. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to take from the Speaker’s table H.R. 3401, with the Senate amendment thereto, and concur in the Senate amendment. This bipartisan bill passed the Senate with 84 votes and could be sent to the President’s desk for his signature today.
Mr. CARTER of Texas. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to take from the Speaker’s table H.R. 3401, with the Senate amendment thereto, and concur in the Senate amendment. This bipartisan bill passed the Senate with 84 votes. It could be sent to the President’s desk for his signature today.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. As the Chair has previously advised, the unanimous consent request cannot be entertained.

Mr. COLE. Madam Speaker, I yield to the distinguished gentleman from Washington (Mr. NEWHOUSE), my very good friend, for the purpose of a unanimous consent request.

Mr. NEWHOUSE of Oklahoma. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Oklahoma (Mr. COLE) for yielding.

Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to take from the Speaker’s table H.R. 3401, with the Senate amendment thereto, and concur in the Senate amendment. This bipartisan bill passed the Senate with 84 votes and could be sent to the President’s desk for his signature today.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. As the Chair has previously advised, the unanimous consent request cannot be entertained.

Mr. COLE. Madam Speaker, I yield to the distinguished gentleman from Kansas (Mr. MARSHALL), my very good friend, for the purpose of a unanimous consent request.

Mr. MARSHALL of Kansas. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to take from the Speaker’s table H.R. 3401, with the Senate amendment thereto, and concur in the Senate amendment. This bipartisan bill passed the Senate with 84 votes and could be sent to the President’s desk for his signature today.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. As the Chair has previously advised, the unanimous consent request cannot be entertained.

Mr. COLE. Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. JOYCE), my good friend, for the purpose of a unanimous consent request.

Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to take from the Speaker’s table H.R. 3401, with the Senate amendment thereto, and concur in the Senate amendment. This bipartisan bill passed the Senate with 84 votes and could be sent to the President’s desk for his signature today.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. As the Chair has previously advised, the unanimous consent request cannot be entertained.

Mr. PALMER of Alabama. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to take from the Speaker’s table H.R. 3401, with the Senate amendment thereto, and concur in the Senate amendment. This bipartisan bill passed the Senate with 84 votes and could be sent to the President’s desk for his signature today.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. As the Chair has previously advised, the unanimous consent request cannot be entertained.

Mr. PALMER of Alabama. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to take from the Speaker’s table H.R. 3401, with the Senate amendment thereto, and concur in the Senate amendment. This bipartisan bill passed the Senate with 84 votes and could be sent to the President’s desk for his signature today.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. As the Chair has previously advised, the unanimous consent request cannot be entertained.

Mr. COLE. Madam Speaker, I yield to the distinguished gentleman from Florida (Mr. SPANO), my good friend, for the purpose of a unanimous consent request.

Mr. SPANO. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to take from the...
Mr. MCGOVERN. Madam Speaker, I include in the RECORD two articles, one from The New York Times entitled: "There is a Stench: Soiled Clothes and No Baths for Migrant Children at a Texas Center," the other, "The Talibani Gave Me Toothpaste": Former Captives Contrast U.S. Treatment of Child Migrants."

From the New York Times, June 21, 2019

THERE IS A STENCH: SOILED CLOTHES AND NO BATHS FOR MIGRANT CHILDREN AT A TEXAS CENTER

(By Caitlin Dickerson)

A chaotic scene of sickness and filth is unfolding in an overcrowded border station in Clint, Texas, where hundreds of young people who have recently crossed the border are being held, according to lawyer who visited the facility this week. Some of the children have been there for nearly a month.

Children as young as 7 and 8, many of them wearing clothes caked with snot and tears, are caring for infants they've just met, the lawyers said. Toddlers without diapers are living in facilities earlier in the week that it mothers are wearing clothes stained with breast milk.

Most of the young detainees have not been able to shower or wash their clothes since they arrived at the facility, those who visited said. They have no access to toothbrushes, toothpaste or soap.

[Here speaks Mr. Creschenthaler, my very good friend, for the purpose of a unanimous consent request.]

Mr. RESCHENTHALER. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to take from the Speaker's table the H. R. 3401, with the Senate amendment thereto, and concur in the Senate amendment. This bipartisan bill passed the Senate with 84 votes and could be sent to the President's desk for his signature today.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has previously advised, the unanimous consent request cannot be entertained.

Mr. COLE. Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. MEUSER), my very good friend, for the purpose of an unanimous consent request.

Mr. MEUSER. Madam Speaker, I request unanimous consent to take from the Speaker's table the H. R. 3401, with the Senate amendment thereto, and concur in the Senate amendment. This bipartisan bill passed the Senate with 84 votes and could be sent to the President's desk for the Speaker's desk for his signature today.

Mr. COLE. Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. WEBER), my friend, for the purpose of an unanimous consent request.

Mr. WEBER. Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. RESCHENTHALER), my friend, for the purpose of an unanimous consent request.

Mr. RESCHENTHALER. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to take from the Speaker's table the H. R. 3401, with the Senate amendment thereto, and concur in the Senate amendment. This bipartisan bill passed the Senate with 84 votes and could be sent to the President's desk for his signature today.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. As the Chair has previously advised, the unanimous consent request cannot be entertained.

Mr. COLE. Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Oklahoma (Mr. STEIL), my very good friend, for the purpose of an unanimous consent request.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. As the Chair has previously advised, the unanimous consent request cannot be entertained.

Mr. COLE. Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. MURPHY), my very good friend, for the purpose of an unanimous consent request.

Mr. MURPHY. Madam Speaker, I request unanimous consent to take from the Speaker's table the H. R. 3401, with the Senate amendment thereto, and concur in the Senate amendment. This bipartisan bill passed the Senate with 84 votes and could be sent to the President's desk for his signature today.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. As the Chair has previously advised, the unanimous consent request cannot be entertained.

Mr. COLE. Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. WEBER), my friend, for the purpose of an unanimous consent request.

Mr. WEBER. Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. COLE), Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. MURPHY), my friend, for the purpose of an unanimous consent request.

Mr. MURPHY. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to take from the Speaker's table the H. R. 3401, with the Senate amendment thereto, and concur in the Senate amendment. This bipartisan bill passed the Senate with 84 votes and could be sent to the President's desk for his signature today.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. As the Chair has previously advised, the unanimous consent request cannot be entertained.

Mr. COLE. Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentle from Wisconsin (Mr. WEBER), my friend, for the purpose of an unanimous consent request.

Mr. WEBER. Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. COLE), Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. MEUSER), my very good friend, for the purpose of an unanimous consent request.

Mr. MEUSER. Madam Speaker, I request unanimous consent to take from the Speaker's table the H. R. 3401, with the Senate amendment thereto, and concur in the Senate amendment. This bipartisan bill passed the Senate with 84 votes and could be sent to the President's desk for his signature today.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. As the Chair has previously advised, the unanimous consent request cannot be entertained.

Mr. COLE. Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. STEIL), my very good friend, for the purpose of an unanimous consent request.

Mr. WEBER. Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. MEUSER), my very good friend, for the purpose of an unanimous consent request.

Mr. RESCHENTHALER. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to take from the Speaker's table the H. R. 3401, with the Senate amendment thereto, and concur in the Senate amendment. This bipartisan bill passed the Senate with 84 votes and could be sent to the President's desk for his signature today.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. As the Chair has previously advised, the unanimous consent request cannot be entertained.

Mr. COLE. Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. RESCHENTHALER), my very good friend, for the purpose of an unanimous consent request.

Mr. WEBER. Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. WEBER), my friend, for the purpose of an unanimous consent request.

Mr. WEBER. Madam Speaker, I request unanimous consent to take from the Speaker's table the H. R. 3401, with the Senate amendment thereto, and concur in the Senate amendment. This bipartisan bill passed the Senate with 84 votes and could be sent to the President's desk for his signature today.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. As the Chair has previously advised, the unanimous consent request cannot be entertained.

Mr. COLE. Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. WEBER), my friend, for the purpose of an unanimous consent request.

Mr. WEBER. Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. COLE), Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. MEUSER), my very good friend, for the purpose of an unanimous consent request.

Mr. MEUSER. Madam Speaker, I request unanimous consent to take from the Speaker's table the H. R. 3401, with the Senate amendment thereto, and concur in the Senate amendment. This bipartisan bill passed the Senate with 84 votes and could be sent to the President's desk for his signature today.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. As the Chair has previously advised, the unanimous consent request cannot be entertained.

Mr. COLE. Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. RESCHENTHALER), my very good friend, for the purpose of an unanimous consent request.

Mr. COLE. Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. MEUSER), my very good friend, for the purpose of an unanimous consent request.

Mr. RESCHENTHALER. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to take from the Speaker's table the H. R. 3401, with the Senate amendment thereto, and concur in the Senate amendment. This bipartisan bill passed the Senate with 84 votes and could be sent to the President's desk for his signature today.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. As the Chair has previously advised, the unanimous consent request cannot be entertained.

Mr. COLE. Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. STEIL), my very good friend, for the purpose of an unanimous consent request.

Mr. WEBER. Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. WEBER), my friend, for the purpose of an unanimous consent request.

Mr. WEBER. Madam Speaker, I request unanimous consent to take from the Speaker's table the H. R. 3401, with the Senate amendment thereto, and concur in the Senate amendment. This bipartisan bill passed the Senate with 84 votes and could be sent to the President's desk for his signature today.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. As the Chair has previously advised, the unanimous consent request cannot be entertained.

Mr. COLE. Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Oklahoma (Mr. STEIL), my very good friend, for the purpose of an unanimous consent request.

The reports of unsafe and unsanitary conditions at Clint and after government lawyers in court argued that they should not have to provide soap or toothbrushes to children under the legal settlement that gave Ms. Mukherjee and her colleagues access to the facility in Clint. The result of a lawsuit that was first settled in 1997, the settlement set the standards for the detention, treatment and release of migrant minors taken into federal immigration custody.

Ms. Mukherjee is part of a team of lawyers who has for years under the settlement been allowed to inspect government facilities where migrant children are detained. She and her colleagues traveled to Clint this week after learning that border officials had begun detaining minors who had recently crossed the border there.

She said the conditions in Clint were the worst she had seen in any facility in her 12 years of practice. "It was unspeakable," she said. "One of the young children was being held by the facility, the facility was housing three infants, all with 1-year-olds, 2 two-year-olds and a 3-year-old. It said there were dozen more children under the care of the authorities with whom they had crossed the border. The separated children were now alone, being cared for by other young detainees. "The children are locked in their cells and cages nearly all day long," Ms. Mukherjee said. "A few of the kids said they had some opportunities to go outside and play, but they said they couldn't do that or play because they are trying to stay alive in there."

When the lawyers arrived, federal officials said that more than 350 children were detained at the facility. The officials did not disclose the facility's capacity but said the population had exceeded it. By the time the lawyers left on Wednesday night, border officials told them that about 200 of the children had been transferred elsewhere but did not say where they had been sent.

"That's what's keeping me up at night," Ms. Mukherjee said.

Some sick children were being quarantined in the facility. The lawyers were allowed to speak to the children by phone, but their requests to meet with children and observe the conditions they were being held in were denied.

The children told the lawyers they were given the same meals every day—instant oats for breakfast, instant noodles for lunch, a frozen burrito for dinner, along with a few cookies and juice packets—which many said was not enough. "Nearly every child I spoke with said that they were hungry," Ms. Mukherjee said.
Another group of lawyers conducting inspections under the same federal court settlement said they discovered similar conditions earlier this month at six other facilities in Texas, where Border Patrol’s Central Processing Center in McAllen, Tex.—often known as “Ursula”—the lawyers encountered a 17-year-old mother from Guatemala who died of complications from an emergency C-section, and who was caring for a sick and dirty premature baby.

“When we encountered the baby and her mom, they were filthy. They wouldn’t give her any water to wash her. And I took a Kleenex and I washed around her neck black dirt,” said Hope Frye, who was leading the group. “I was allowed to shower every couple of days. From the first day in captivity, Rezaian was permitted to shower regularly. He was also given a toothbrush and toothpaste. Rezaian asked, ‘If we’re going to treat the most vulnerable people this way, what does that say about our actual values?’ I had a toothpaste—not exactly Aquafresh or Tom’s—from the first night. Actually, I had almost nothing else in my cell while I was in solitary confinement. I was allowed to shower every couple of days.”

“The conditions were about as miserable as you could imagine,” he said, describing a barren and concrete prison house. Often there was no electricity, he said, “but we had certain minimum things that kept it from being worse.”

He said he was given toothpaste, soap, a daily shower and a foam mattress.

Recent reports have surfaced describing U.S. border detainees held in cages of chain-link fencing, sleeping on concrete and covered with blankets made of aluminum foil, allegations that Customs and Border Protection officials dispute.

On Tuesday, the agency said that children in custody receive “continuous access to hygiene products and adequate food” while awaiting shelter placement.

Articles pirates gave me toothpaste & soap,” he wrote on Twitter, drawing from the seven months he spent as a hostage of the Taliban. Rezaian said he was given toothpaste and toothbrushes in their custody, though the group is known for abusing its captives.

“Are you arguing seriously that you do not read the agreement as requiring you to do anything other than what I just described: cold all night long, lights on all night long, sleeping on concrete and you’ve got an aluminum foil blanket?” Judge William Fletcher asked Ms. Fabian. “I find that inconceivable.”

Senior U.S. Circuit Judge A. Wallace B. Easterly asked Ms. Fabian if she had any water to wash the children. “I felt if I didn’t chime in, it would be the height of hypocrisy,” he told The Post on Tuesday, calling U.S. treatment of children at the border misaligned with “what this country stands for.” “The government is treating them like animals, it’s not human, it’s not other and not deserving of basic humanity.”

From the first day in captivity, Rezaian was permitted to shower regularly. He was also given a toothbrush and toothpaste. Rezaian asked, “If we’re going to treat the most vulnerable people this way, what does that say about our actual values?”

“I had a toothpaste—not exactly Aquafresh or Tom’s—from the first night. Actually, I had almost nothing else in my cell while I was in solitary confinement. I was allowed to shower every couple of days.”

The federal government told a panel of Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals judges to condone current custody conditions.

“The conditions were about as miserable as you could imagine,” he said, describing a barren and concrete prison house. Often there was no electricity, he said, “but we had certain minimum things that kept it from being worse.”

He said he was given toothpaste, soap, a daily shower and a foam mattress.

Recent reports have surfaced describing U.S. border detainees held in cages of chain-link fencing, sleeping on concrete and covered with blankets made of aluminum foil, allegations that Customs and Border Protection officials dispute.

On Tuesday, the agency said that children in custody receive “continuous access to hygiene products and adequate food” while awaiting shelter placement.

An executive editor at newyorker.com, Jason Rezaian, who was held in Iranian custody for a year and a half and has an ongoing lawsuit against the Iranian government, also responded on Twitter.

“Tashima told the government attorney, ‘If you don’t have a blanket, it’s not safe and sanitary.’”

The Justice Department’s lawyer, Sarah Fabian, argued that the settlement agreement did not specify the need to supply hygiene items and that, therefore, the government did not need to do so.

“Are you arguing seriously that you do not read the agreement as requiring you to do anything other than what I just described: cold all night long, lights on all night long, sleeping on concrete and you’ve got an aluminum foil blanket?” Judge William Fletcher asked Ms. Fabian. “I find that inconceivable.”

Senior U.S. Circuit Judge A. Wallace B. Easterly asked Ms. Fabian if she had any water to wash the children. “I felt if I didn’t chime in, it would be the height of hypocrisy,” he told The Post on Tuesday, calling U.S. treatment of children at the border misaligned with “what this country stands for.” “The government is treating them like animals, it’s not human, it’s not other and not deserving of basic humanity.”

From the first day in captivity, Rezaian was permitted to shower regularly. He was also given a toothbrush and toothpaste. Rezaian asked, “If we’re going to treat the most vulnerable people this way, what does that say about our actual values?”

“I had a toothpaste—not exactly Aquafresh or Tom’s—from the first night. Actually, I had almost nothing else in my cell while I was in solitary confinement. I was allowed to shower every couple of days.”

The federal government told a panel of Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals judges to condone current custody conditions.

“What’s the main difference between the Senate bill and the House bill? Ours is far more humane. Ours ensures that money will not be diverted for things that have turned a challenge into a crisis. A few examples include ripping children from the arms of their parents or sending vulnerable populations back into Mexico. In fact, Madam Speaker, in my district, one of the individuals sent back to Mexico under this administration’s policy was kidnapped and raped. We have also seen people legally blocked at our ports of entry, sent to more treacherous crossings. That is why Oscar and Valeria died.

So oversight is why our bill is the better bill.”

Mr. COLE. Madam Speaker, I yield to the distinguished gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. HILL), my very good friend, for the purpose of unanimous consent.

Mr. HILL. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to take from the Speaker’s table H.R. 3401, with the Senate amendment thereto, and concur in this Senate amendment. This bipartisan bill was passed in the Senate with 84 votes, Madam Speaker, and could be sent today to the President’s desk for his signature.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. As the Chair has previously advised, the unanimous consent request cannot be entertained.

Mr. COLE. Madam Speaker, I yield to my very good friend from the great State of Kentucky (Mr. COMER) for a unanimous consent request.

Mr. COMER. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to take from the Speaker’s table H.R. 3401, with the Senate amendment thereto, and concur in the Senate amendment. This bipartisan bill passed the Senate with 84 votes and can be sent to the President’s desk for his signature today.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. As the Chair has previously advised, the unanimous consent request cannot be entertained.

Mr. COLE. Madam Speaker, I yield to my very good friend from the great State of Montana (Mr. GIANFORTE) for the purpose of a unanimous consent request.

Mr. GIANFORTE. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to take from the Speaker’s table H.R. 3401, with the Senate amendment thereto, and concur in the Senate amendment. This bipartisan bill passed the Senate with 84 votes and could be sent to the President’s desk for his signature today.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. As the Chair has previously advised, the unanimous consent request cannot be entertained.

Mr. COLE. Madam Speaker, I yield to my very good friend from the great State of Montana (Mr. GIANFORTE) for the purpose of a unanimous consent request.

Mr. GIANFORTE. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to take from the Speaker’s table H.R. 3401, with the Senate amendment thereto, and concur in the Senate amendment. This bipartisan bill passed the Senate with 84 votes and could be sent to the President’s desk for his signature today.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. As the Chair has previously advised, the unanimous consent request cannot be entertained.

Mr. COLE. Madam Speaker, I yield to my very good friend from the great State of Kentucky (Mr. COMER) for a unanimous consent request.
Mr. FULCHER. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to take from the Speaker's table H.R. 3401, with the Senate amendment thereto, and concur in the Senate amendment. This bipartisan bill passed the Senate with 84 votes and could be sent to the President's desk for his signature today.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. As the Chair has previously advised, the unanimous consent request cannot be entertained.

Mr. COLE. Madam Speaker, I yield to my very good friend from the great State of Pennsylvania (Mr. THOMPSON) for the purpose of a unanimous consent request.

Mr. CONWAY. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to take from the Speaker's table H.R. 3401, with the Senate amendment thereto, and to concur in that Senate amendment. This bipartisan bill passed the Senate with 84 votes and can be sent to the President's desk for his signature today.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. As the Chair has previously advised, the unanimous consent request cannot be entertained.

Mr. COLE. Madam Speaker, I yield to my very good friend from the great State of Pennsylvania (Mr. THOMPSON) for the purpose of a unanimous consent request.

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to take from the Speaker's table H.R. 3401, with the Senate amendment thereto, and concur in the Senate amendment. This bipartisan bill passed the Senate with 84 votes and can be sent to the President's desk for his signature today.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. As the Chair has previously advised, the unanimous consent request cannot be entertained.

Mr. COLE. Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from Texas (Mr. CONWAY) for the purpose of a unanimous consent request.

Mr. CONWAY. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to take from the Speaker's table H.R. 3401, with the Senate amendment thereto, and concur in the Senate amendment. This bipartisan bill passed the Senate with 84 votes and could be sent to the President's desk for his signature today.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. As the Chair has previously advised, the unanimous consent request cannot be entertained.

Mr. COLE. Madam Speaker, I yield to the distinguished gentleman from Florida (Mr. RUTHERFORD), my very good friend, for the purpose of unanimous consent request.

Mr. RUTHERFORD. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to take from the Speaker's table H.R. 3401, with the Senate amendment thereto, and concur in the Senate amendment. This bipartisan bill passed the Senate with 84 votes and could be sent to the President's desk for his signature today.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. As the Chair has previously advised, the unanimous consent request cannot be entertained.

Mr. COLE. Madam Speaker, I yield to my very good friend from the great State of Ohio (Mr. STIVERS) for the purpose of a unanimous consent request.

Mr. STIVERS. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to take from the Speaker's table H.R. 3401, with the Senate amendments thereto, and concur in the Senate amendment. This bipartisan bill passed the Senate with 84 votes and it could be sent to the President for his signature today.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. As the Chair has previously advised, the unanimous consent request cannot be entertained.

Mr. COLE. Madam Speaker, I yield to my good friend from the great State of Michigan (Mr. MOOLENAAR) for the purpose of a unanimous consent request.

Mr. MOOLENAAR. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to take from the Speaker's table H.R. 3401, with the Senate amendment thereto, and in the Senate amendment. This bipartisan bill passed the Senate with 84 votes and could be sent to the President for his signature today.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. As the Chair has previously advised, the unanimous consent request cannot be entertained.

Mr. COLE. Madam Speaker, I yield to my very good friend from the great State of Illinois (Mr. BOST) for the purpose of a unanimous consent request.

Mr. BOST. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to take from the Speaker's table H.R. 3401, with the Senate amendment thereto, and concur in the Senate amendment. This bipartisan bill passed the Senate with 84 votes and could be sent to the President's desk for his signature today.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. As the Chair has previously advised, the unanimous consent request cannot be entertained.

Mr. COLE. Madam Speaker, I yield to my good friend from the great State of South Carolina (Mr. NORMAN) for the purpose of a unanimous consent request.

Mr. NORMAN. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to take from the Speaker's table H.R. 3401, with the Senate amendment thereto, and concur in the Senate amendment. This bipartisan bill passed the Senate with 84 votes and could be sent to the President's desk for his signature today.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. As the Chair has previously advised, the unanimous consent request cannot be entertained.

Mr. COLE. Madam Speaker, I yield to my very good friend from the great State of Virginia (Mr. CLINE) for the purpose of a unanimous consent request.

Mr. CLINE. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to take from the Speaker's table H.R. 3401, with the Senate amendment thereto, and concur in the Senate amendment. This bipartisan bill passed the Senate with 84 votes and could be sent to the President for his signature today.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. As the Chair has previously advised, the unanimous consent request cannot be entertained.

Mr. COLE. Madam Speaker, I yield to my good friend from the great State of Michigan (Mr. MOOLENAAR) for the purpose of a unanimous consent request.

Mr. MOOLENAAR. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to take from the Speaker's table H.R. 3401, with the Senate amendment thereto, and concur in the Senate amendment. This bipartisan bill passed the Senate with 84 votes and could be sent to the President for his signature today.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. As the Chair has previously advised, the unanimous consent request cannot be entertained.

Mr. COLE. Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from the great State of West Virginia (Mrs. MILLER), my good friend, for the purpose of a unanimous consent request.

Mrs. MILLER. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to take from the Speaker's table H.R. 3401, with the Senate amendment thereto, and concur in the Senate amendment. This bipartisan bill passed the Senate with 84 votes and could be sent to the President's desk for his signature today.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. As the Chair has previously advised, the unanimous consent request cannot be entertained.
Mr. COLE. Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from the great State of Kansas (Mr. ESTES), my very good friend, for the purpose of a unanimous consent request.

Mr. ESTES. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to take from the Speaker’s table H.R. 3401, with the Senate amendment thereto, and concur in the Senate amendment. This bipartisan bill passed the United States Senate with 84 votes and could be sent to the President’s desk for his immediate signature.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. As the Chair has previously advised, the unanimous consent request cannot be entertained.

Mr. COLE. Madam Speaker, I yield to my good friend from the great State of Ohio (Mr. BALDERSON) for the purpose of a unanimous consent request.

Mr. BALDERSON. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to take from the Speaker’s table H.R. 3401, with the Senate amendment thereto, and concur in the Senate amendment. This bipartisan bill passed the Senate with 84 votes and could be sent to the President’s desk for his signature today.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. As the Chair has previously advised, the unanimous consent request cannot be entertained.

Mr. COLE. Madam Speaker, I yield to the distinguished gentlewoman from North Carolina (Ms. FOXX), my very good friend, for the purpose of a unanimous consent request.

Ms. FOXX of North Carolina. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to take from the Speaker’s table H.R. 3401, with the Senate amendment thereto, and concur in the Senate amendment. This bipartisan bill passed the Senate with 84 votes and could be sent to the President’s desk for his signature today.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. As the Chair has previously advised, the unanimous consent request cannot be entertained.

Mr. COLE. Madam Speaker, I yield to my good friend from the great State of Maryland (Mr. HARRIS), my very good friend, for the purpose of a unanimous consent request.

Mr. HARRIS. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to take from the Speaker’s table H.R. 3401, with the Senate amendment thereto, and concur in the Senate amendment. This bipartisan bill passed the Senate with 84 votes and could be sent to the President’s desk for his signature today.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. As the Chair has previously advised, the unanimous consent request cannot be entertained.

Mr. COLE. Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from the great State of Florida (Mr. DUNN), my very good friend, for the purpose of a unanimous consent request.

Mr. DUNN. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to take from the Speaker’s table H.R. 3401, with the Senate amendment thereto, and concur in the Senate amendment. This bipartisan bill passed the Senate with 84 votes and could be sent to the President’s desk for his signature today.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. As the Chair has previously advised, the unanimous consent request cannot be entertained.

Mr. COLE. Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from the great State of Alabama (Mr. BYRNE), my very good friend, for the purpose of a unanimous consent request.

Mr. BYRNE. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to take from the Speaker’s table H.R. 3401, with the Senate amendment thereto, and concur in the Senate amendment. This bipartisan bill passed the Senate with 84 votes and could be sent to the President’s desk for his signature today.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. As the Chair has previously advised, the unanimous consent request cannot be entertained.

Mr. COLE. Madam Speaker, I yield to the distinguished gentleman from the great State of Ohio (Mr. WENSTROOP), my very good friend, for the purpose of a unanimous consent request.

Mr. WENSTROOP. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to take from the Speaker’s table H.R. 3401, with the Senate amendment thereto, and concur in the Senate amendment. This bipartisan bill passed the Senate with 84 votes and could be sent to the President’s desk for his signature today.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. As the Chair has previously advised, the unanimous consent request cannot be entertained.

Mr. COLE. Madam Speaker, I yield to the distinguished gentleman from the great State of Texas (Mr. GOODEN), my very good friend, for the purpose of a unanimous consent request.

Mr. GOODEN. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to take from the Speaker’s table H.R. 3401, with the Senate amendment thereto, and concur in the Senate amendment. This bipartisan bill passed the Senate with 84 votes and could be sent to the President’s desk for his signature today.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. As the Chair has previously advised, the unanimous consent request cannot be entertained.

Mr. COLE. Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from the great State of West Virginia (Mr. ROY), my very good friend, for the purpose of a unanimous consent request.

Mr. ROY of West Virginia. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to take from the Speaker’s table H.R. 3401, with the Senate amendment thereto, and concur in the Senate amendment. This bipartisan bill passed the Senate with 84 votes and could be sent to the President’s desk for his signature today.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. As the Chair has previously advised, the unanimous consent request cannot be entertained.

Mr. COLE. Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from the great State of Louisiana (Mr. JOHNSON), my very good friend, for the purpose of a unanimous consent request.

Mr. JOHNSON. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to take from the Speaker’s table H.R. 3401, with the Senate amendment thereto, and concur in the Senate amendment. This bipartisan bill passed the Senate with 84 votes and could be sent to the President’s desk for his signature today.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. As the Chair has previously advised, the unanimous consent request cannot be entertained.

Mr. COLE. Madam Speaker, I yield to the distinguished gentleman from the great State of Alabama (Mr. BYRNE), my very good friend, for the purpose of a unanimous consent request.

Mr. BYRNE. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to take from the Speaker’s table H.R. 3401, with the Senate amendment thereto, and concur in the Senate amendment. This bipartisan bill passed the Senate with 84 votes and could be sent to the President’s desk for his signature today.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. As the Chair has previously advised, the unanimous consent request cannot be entertained.

Mr. COLE. Madam Speaker, I yield to the distinguished gentleman from the great State of Florida (Mr. DUNN), my very good friend, for the purpose of a unanimous consent request.

Mr. DUNN. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to take from the Speaker’s table H.R. 3401, with the Senate amendment thereto, and concur in the Senate amendment. This bipartisan bill passed the Senate with 84 votes and could be sent to the President’s desk for his signature today.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. As the Chair has previously advised, the unanimous consent request cannot be entertained.

Mr. COLE. Madam Speaker, I yield to the distinguished gentleman from the great State of Texas (Mr. GOODEN), my very good friend, for the purpose of a unanimous consent request.

Mr. GOODEN. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to take from the Speaker’s table H.R. 3401, with the Senate amendment thereto, and concur in the Senate amendment. This bipartisan bill passed the Senate with 62 votes from Democrats. There is overwhelming support for this in the Senate, and I urge my colleagues to join me in passing this bill today and sending it to the President.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. As the Chair has previously advised, the unanimous consent request cannot be entertained.

Mr. COLE. Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from the great State of Louisiana (Mr. JOHNSON), my very good friend, for the purpose of a unanimous consent request.

Mr. JOHNSON. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to take from the Speaker’s table H.R. 3401, with the Senate amendment thereto, and concur in the Senate amendment. This bipartisan bill passed the Senate with 84 votes and could be sent to the President’s desk for his signature today.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. As the Chair has previously advised, the unanimous consent request cannot be entertained.

Mr. COLE. Madam Speaker, I yield to the distinguished gentleman from the great State of Delaware (Mr. WILSON), my very good friend, for the purpose of a unanimous consent request.

Mr. WILSON. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to take from the Speaker’s table H.R. 3401, with the Senate amendment thereto, and concur in the Senate amendment. This bipartisan bill passed the Senate with 84 votes and could be sent to the President’s desk for his signature today.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. As the Chair has previously advised, the unanimous consent request cannot be entertained.

Mr. COLE. Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from the great State of Alabama (Mr. ROY), my very good friend, for the purpose of a unanimous consent request.

Mr. ROY of Alabama. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to take from the Speaker’s table H.R. 3401, with the Senate amendment thereto, and concur in the Senate amendment. This bipartisan bill passed the Senate with 84 votes and could be sent to the President’s desk for his signature today.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. As the Chair has previously advised, the unanimous consent request cannot be entertained.

Mr. COLE. Madam Speaker, I yield to the distinguished gentleman from the great State of Texas (Mr. GOODEN), my very good friend, for the purpose of a unanimous consent request.

Mr. GOODEN. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to take from the Speaker’s table H.R. 3401, with the Senate amendment thereto, and concur in the Senate amendment. This bipartisan bill passed the Senate with 84 votes and could be sent to the President’s desk for his signature today.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. As the Chair has previously advised, the unanimous consent request cannot be entertained.

Mr. COLE. Madam Speaker, I yield to the distinguished gentleman from the great State of Pennsylvania (Mr. KELLER), my very good friend, for the purpose of a unanimous consent request.

Mr. KELLER. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to take from the Speaker’s table H.R. 3401, with the Senate amendment thereto, and concur in the Senate amendment. This bipartisan bill passed the Senate with 84 votes and could be sent to the President’s desk for his signature today.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. As the Chair has previously advised, the unanimous consent request cannot be entertained.

Mr. COLE. Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from the great State of Florida (Mr. DUNN), my very good friend, for the purpose of a unanimous consent request.

Mr. DUNN. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to take from the Speaker’s table H.R. 3401, with the Senate amendment thereto, and concur in the Senate amendment. This bipartisan bill passed the Senate with 84 votes and could be sent to the President’s desk for his signature today.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. As the Chair has previously advised, the unanimous consent request cannot be entertained.

Mr. COLE. Madam Speaker, I yield to the distinguished gentleman from the great State of Texas (Mr. GOODEN), my very good friend, for the purpose of a unanimous consent request.

Mr. GOODEN. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to take from the Speaker’s table H.R. 3401, with the Senate amendment thereto, and concur in the Senate amendment. This bipartisan bill passed the Senate with 84 votes and could be sent to the President’s desk for his signature today.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. As the Chair has previously advised, the unanimous consent request cannot be entertained.
Mr. JOHNSON of Louisiana. Madam Speaker, I ask that we do the right thing here. I ask unanimous consent to take from the Speaker's table H.R. 3401, with the Senate amendment thereto, and concur in the Senate amendment. This bipartisan bill passed the Senate with 94 votes and could be sent to the President's desk for his signature today to solve this crisis.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. As the Chair has previously advised, the unanimous consent request cannot be entertained.

POINT OF ORDER

Mr. GRIFFITH. Madam Speaker, the gentleman from Massachusetts yielded the floor by taking his seat?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Massachusetts has not yielded the floor by taking his seat?

Mr. GRIFFITH. Madam Speaker, has the gentleman from Massachusetts yielded the floor by taking his seat?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Massachusetts has not yielded the floor by taking his seat. The gentleman from Oklahoma.

Mr. MITCHELL. Madam Speaker, it is nice to know that my colleagues on the other side of the aisle now recognize it as a crisis.

The President asked 58 days ago for a supplemental appropriation to deal with this issue. It was ignored. We have tried 18 times to bring up a bill on the floor to deal with supplemental appropriations for humanitarian aid at the border, and it was ignored.

My friends, on the other side of the aisle said they want to improve the bill. They want to ignore the fact that the Senate took up the House bill and overwhelmingly rejected it on a bipartisan basis.

The Senate passed a bipartisan bill 84-8, which doesn't happen over there very often. We have gone through a list of those who voted in favor, including Senator SCHUMER and Senator DURBIN, yet somehow the House wants to ignore it. At least the majority in the House want to ignore it.

How they want to improve the bill, you may ask? Well, let's start by simply reducing or eliminating border security, that appears to be optional to my colleagues on the other side of the aisle. They want to take a hatchet to ICE. These are law enforcement personnel.

My son is a police officer. He puts on a vest every day. If you told me we were going to withhold payroll or overtime when they are doing the job, I would be offended, I would be disgusted, and I am, at this moment in time.

Let me ask how many over there would put on a vest, go out and do the job, and then hear, we may or may not pay you? Do I see any hands raised? I doubt it.

Law enforcement is struggling to do a job, an extraordinarily tough job, and we want to make it harder. So let me suggest, as the UC request was made, that we take up the bill that was passed by the Senate and we pass it.

And I ask for your attention over there, sir, because you decided that policy is being made by a fragment of your conference, unless you decided that you are going to turn over the gavel to a fragment of your conference to make decisions for you, which appears to be the case.

But let's be honest to the American people and tell them that a fragment, a small portion, of your conference is now functioning as a Speaker of the House.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Members are reminded to address their remarks to the Chair.

Mr. MCGOVERN. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume. What we just witnessed was really interesting. In the amount of time that it took my friends on the other side of the aisle to get through those antics, we could have passed this bill. That is what urgency looks like. Not political theater. These kids that we are here to try to protect deserve more than grandstanding. They deserve things like medicine. They deserve things like soap and clothing.

And my Republican friends say they don't want to waste time, but they wasted a hell of a lot of time with what we just saw happen.

And just one other observation. In all the other editorial comments that were made, I didn't hear the word “children” mentioned once. I mean, it is a living, breathing issue that what this debate is all about. It is not about grandstanding, and it is not about more money for cages to put kids in. It is about the children. And I am sorry that the children who are suffering under U.S. custody are such an afterthought.

And to the gentleman from Michigan, I am outraged, too. I am outraged that the terrible conditions that these kids have been forced to experience happened under U.S. custody. I am outraged that what would happen in the United States of America.

Madam Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentlewoman from Connecticut (Ms. DELAURA), the distinguished chairwoman of the Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies.

Ms. DELAURA. Madam Speaker, I rise in support of this emergency supplemental bill.

Madam Speaker, the principles guiding this bill were clear from the outset. It is a response to a humanitarian crisis.

By increasing the housing capacity at Health and Human Services to moving these vulnerable children from the detention centers at Customs and Border Protection as quickly as possible to Health and Human Services, because we know what the conditions are at CBP. They are deplorable. In fact, it is government-sponsored child abuse.

We wanted to build in the protections for children that have been nonexistent in the past, and we uncovered those abuses. They have been reported in the press. The Miami Herald just recently said they are “prison-like conditions” at Homestead.

And we wanted to place children with a sponsor in a safe placement, a safe environment, as expeditiously as possible. That is why we are in the position to reverse the administration’s policy of frightening sponsors to come forward.

This bill includes strong protections and safeguards for these vulnerable children; it extends to the influx shelters enhanced standards of care. And, my friends, it is the first time ever. These protections have never been required of these influx shelters.

It continues to prevent the waiving of core standards and protections after 6 months.

It continues to hold influx shelters accountable by requiring HHS to remove an operator if they do not comply with these core standards.

If the shelter is not in compliance, then HHS is required to award the contract to a new service provider, and the bill continues to protect sponsors and potential sponsors by extending a provision that prohibits funds from being used to put anyone into a removal proceeding based on information from HHS’ sponsor-vetting process.

The bill continues to require HHS to maintain the directives that they issued in December that removed bureaucratic barriers and have helped to place these children with sponsors as expeditiously as possible. And the bill continues to require HHS to report to Congress within 24 hours if an unaccompanied child dies in HHS custody.

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

Mr. MCGOVERN. Madam Speaker, I yield the gentlewoman from Connecticut an additional 1 minute.

Ms. DELAURA. Madam Speaker, a child did die in HHS custody. No one knew about this for 8 months, and it was only the news media that uncovered it. A child died.
This bill continues to ensure that Members of Congress can conduct oversight visits of shelters without being required to provide advance notice, and the bill continues to protect taxpayer funding by prohibiting funds from being used to support programs outside of Health and Human Services. This bill provides clear direction, legal guardrails, about how our emergency funds should be used, and this bill wages the battle for the vulnerable.

Madam Speaker, I urge every Member of this House to support this bill.

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

Madam Speaker, if we defeat the previous question, I will offer an amendment to the rule to simply concur in the Senate amendment without further amendment. This will immediately send the bill to the President and deliver the necessary resources needed to respond to this humanitarian crisis.

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

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

There was no objection.

Mr. COLE. Madam Speaker, let me just say again, we can solve this problem now.

I respect that my friends have strong feelings about their legislation. We all do.

Ma’am, but I believe that that legislation is not going to get through the Senate; it is not going to be signed by the President.

We have a vehicle that has already gotten through the Senate, that 75 percent of the Democrats in the Chamber voted for, including the entire Democratic leadership, and that could go, if this House would act on it, straight to the President’s desk and be signed into law.

Now, my friends are, I know, concerned about resources. And, again, it is nice that they are. It would have been nice if, in the 18 previous times we have tried to bring this matter up before the House, they would have helped. It would have been nice if, 2 months ago, we had actually seen them respond.

We share their concern for these young people. That is why we asked for extra resources. The administration has already gone 18 months without more money or trust.

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

According to statistics sent to congressional staff last week and obtained by Vox, between May 14 and June 13, US Border Patrol facilities were housing over 14,000 people a day—and sometimes as many as 18,000.

(The most recent tally, as of June 13, was nearly 16,000.)

Most of these were single adults, or parents with children. But consistently, over that month, around 2,000—2,081 as of June 13—were "unaccompanied" or "unaccompanied children being held without adult relatives in separate facilities.

In an early June press call, a Customs and Border Protection official said, referring to the total number of people in custody, "when we have 4,000 in custody, we consider that high. 6,000 is a crisis."

Traditionally, an "unaccompanied alien child" refers to a child who comes to the US without a parent or guardian. Increasingly—as lawyers have been reporting, and as the investigation of children in detention last week confirmed—children are being brought to the US with a relative who is not their parent, and being separated.

Because the law defines an "unaccompanied" child as someone without a parent or legal guardian here, border agents don't have the ability to keep a child with a grandparent, aunt or uncle, or even a sibling who's over 18, though advocates have also raised concerns that border agents are separating families even when there is evidence of legal guardianship.

Under the terms of US law—and especially the 1997 Flores settlement, which governs the treatment of children in immigration detention custody—immigration agents are obligated to get unaccompanied children out of immigration detention as quickly as possible, and to keep them in the least restrictive conditions possible while they're there. Barring emergencies, children aren’t supposed to be moved to other facilities by Tuesday; about 250 of them have been placed with HHS, and the remainder are being sent to other Border Patrol facilities. But on Tuesday morning, a Customs and Border Protection official told a New York Times reporter on a press call that about a hundred children were currently being housed at Clint.

What’s illustrative of the chaotic improvisation that’s characterized much of the Trump administration’s response to the current border influx is that it’s a problem that is much bigger than the problems at a single facility. Indeed, the problems investigators identified at Clint are problems elsewhere as well.

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

The US government’s response was to declare a humanitarian crisis, which is nice that they are. It would have been nice if, in the 18 previous times we have tried to bring this matter up before the House, they would have helped. It would have been nice if, 2 months ago, we had actually seen them respond.

I think, again, this ought to be pretentious and we can do that. We can do it in a bipartisan fashion. Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. COLE. Madam Speaker, let me just say again, we can solve this problem now.

I respect that my friends have strong feelings about their legislation. We all do.

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

According to statistics sent to congressional staff last week and obtained by Vox, between May 14 and June 13, US Border Patrol facilities were housing over 14,000 people a day—and sometimes as many as 18,000.

(The most recent tally, as of June 13, was nearly 16,000.)

Most of these were single adults, or parents with children. But consistently, over that month, around 2,000—2,081 as of June 13—were "unaccompanied" or "unaccompanied children being held without adult relatives in separate facilities.

In an early June press call, a Customs and Border Protection official said, referring to the total number of people in custody, "when we have 4,000 in custody, we consider that high. 6,000 is a crisis."

Traditionally, an "unaccompanied alien child" refers to a child who comes to the US without a parent or guardian. Increasingly—as lawyers have been reporting, and as the investigation of children in detention last week confirmed—children are being brought to the US with a relative who is not their parent, and being separated.

Because the law defines an "unaccompanied" child as someone without a parent or legal guardian here, border agents don’t have the ability to keep a child with a grandparent, aunt or uncle, or even a sibling who’s over 18, though advocates have also raised concerns that border agents are separating families even when there is evidence of legal guardianship.

Under the terms of US law—and especially the 1997 Flores settlement, which governs the treatment of children in immigration detention custody—immigration agents are obligated to get unaccompanied children out of immigration detention as quickly as possible, and to keep them in the least restrictive conditions possible while they’re there. Barring emergencies, children aren’t supposed to be
in Border Patrol custody for more than 72 hours before being sent to HHS—which is responsible for finding and vetting a sponsor to house the child (usually their closest relative alive in the United States). But conditions for children are under serious scrutiny. Since late last year, US immigration agents have been overwhelmed by the number of children crossing the border. The US immigration system, which was built to quickly arrest and deport single Mexican adults crossing into the US to work, doesn’t have the capacity to deal with tens of thousands of children (mostly from Central America) who are often seeking asylum in the US.

The length of time migrants are spending in Border Patrol custody (and the conditions there) have attracted some alarm before. In April, migrants being held outside a bridge in El Paso, fenced in and sleeping on the ground, attracted outrage and led Border Patrol to stop holding migrants there. Just last week, the DHS head of the Inspector General released an emergency report about dangerous overcrowding of adults in two facilities: with up to 900 people being held in one facility designed to hold only 250 children over five days with the agency failing to comply—and possibly ask a judge to intervene if it is not. That’s what spurred the fact-finding mission that led to last week’s reports.

The reports about Clint broke at a time when the Trump administration was already playing defense about its compliance with the Flores settlement. (While the administration is working on a regulation that would supersede the terms of the agreement, that regulation isn’t expected to be published until fall, and may well be held up in court.)

In a 9th Circuit Court of Appeals hearing earlier last week about whether the administration is required to monitor conditions for children in ICE and CBP custody, Department of Justice lawyer Sarah Fabian told judges that children didn’t necessarily need toothbrushes to be in “safe and sanitary” conditions—a clip that looked especially bad when the Clint stories came out showing the children were denied just that.

The court hearing was not specifically about the Clint facility—it wasn’t about what happened last week. And as Ken White explained for the Atlantic, Fabien’s cringeworthy “safe and sanitary” argument came from the awkward stance the Trump administration has taken in this litigation: In order to challenge the court appointment of a special monitor, they argued that there’s a difference between a promise to keep kids in “safe and sanitary” conditions (which the government has agreed to for decades) and a guarantee of particular items like toothbrushes.

The reports were a sharp criticism of the Trump administration’s handling of children in custody and the facilities they’re held in. The Trump administration has taken in this litigation, bolstering the case that the Trump administration’s handling of migrant children is a violation of the Flores settlement. And as Ken White explained for the Atlantic, the only member of last week’s investigative team who visited it.

Long told Vox that when she was there, the facility in El Paso known as “Border Patrol Station 1” was mostly being used as a transit center where migrants were staying only a few hours before going elsewhere. But children who were separated from their families were held in a cell there for six days, and who voiced the same concerns that children in the Clint facility did.

The mother of the family, Long said, was so ashamed of not having clean teeth—the El Paso facility, like Clint, wasn’t providing enough toothbrushes—that “when she was talking to you she would put her hand up in front of her mouth and wouldn’t take it down.” The teenager son said he was afraid of the guards because when he’d gotten up to go to the bathroom one night, a guard had shaved him back into his cell and slammed the door on him. Two nights later, the family had had to sleep on the cold floor with broken glass. The fundamental question: Why is it taking so long to get kids out of custody—and is it happening on purpose?

Most of the children who were at Clint when the team visited last week—about 250 of the 350—were set to be sent to HHS custody by Tuesday.

Questions remain about what is happening to the other 1,750 or so children who were in Border Patrol detention on Thursday if they were separated from their families, and why the government was able to place only 250 children over five days with the agency that’s supposed to take responsibility for all children with parents in ICE custody.

It’s not clear where the bureaucratic breakdown really is—and whether it’s the result of resource constraints or choices about how resources are used.

The Trump administration has made a decision to keep single adults in detention, even if it could release them. Border Patrol chief Carla Provost has told Congress that “if we lose (the ability to keep and deport) single adults, we lose the border.” That’s why it’s currently overcrowding in adult facilities could be avoided. But it’s not clear that the issue of unaccompanied children, who can’t simply be released with a notice to appear in immigration court. While children with parents in the US could theoretically be placed with those parents, the government is supposed to vet potential sponsors to make sure it’s not placing children with traffickers—but that’s the job of HHS, and the vetting doesn’t begin until children are released from Border Patrol custody.

Observers and policymakers agree that HHS simply doesn’t have the capacity to take migrant kids in. One Democratic House member was quoted saying “There are simply not enough facilities to take care of all of them.” Not only are there only so many spaces available to place a child, but the facilities available might not match the child’s particular needs. (You can’t put an infant in an HHS shelter for teens, for example.) But another Hill staffer told Vox that HHS claims it’s not currently past the point of transfer for space reasons, muddying the waters.

Then there’s the question of whether CBP is actually doing all it can to care for kids in the time they’re in CBP’s care.

One of the Clint observers told Isaac Chotiner of the New Yorker stories of cruelty, including some guards who were deliberately punishing children for the sin of coming to the US without papers. But she said that it didn’t seem psychopathic, and told the observers that children shouldn’t be in their custody—implying that they were doing the best they could and simply having the capacity to do more. (Advocates also say they’ve tried to donate supplies to Border Patrol facilities but had their donations rejected; it’s not clear if this was a Border Patrol decision, or if there’s a legal complication banning outside donations.)

Congress is considering a package right now to give the Trump administration billions more dollars to deal with migrants coming into the US. To Democratic leadership, including the House Appropriations Committee, who have repeatedly tried to improve those conditions. They emphasize that the bulk of the funding will go to HHS to increase capacity for migrant kids and that any funding for ICE and CBP will be strictly limited to humanitarian use.

But to some progressives, led in Congress by Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez, passing any money to immigration enforcement agencies right now is an endorsement of the current state of affairs.

The “smart money” camp, on the other hand, believes firmly that the only hope to improve conditions in detention, the conditions will only get worse.

That’s especially relevant in the case of kids deemed “unaccompanied,” who have to remain in custody until a sponsor is found. The past few days have demonstrated that these children are extremely vulnerable and that much of the American public wants their situation to change. It just may not be clear how.

[From Time, June 20, 2019]

LAWSY BAY MIGRANT CHILDREN ARE LIVING IN ‘TRAUMATIC AND DANGEROUS’ CONDITIONS AT BORDER DETENTION FACILITIES

(Courtesy of The New Yorker)

BY CEDAR ATTANASIO, GARANCE BURKE AND MARTHA MENDOZA

CLINT, TEXAS.—In a tiny Texas town about a half-hour drive from El Paso, a nondescript Border Patrol station operated for six years primarily as a hub for agents on patrol, drawing little scrutiny from immigration attorneys who have been loudly advocating against mass US. detention camps that can hold more than 2,000 teens at a time.

And so attorneys visiting the Border Patrol station in Clint, Texas, who said they were shocked to find more than 250 infants, children and teens inside the complex of windowless buildings, trying to care for up to 600 children. The conditions described were inadôquate food, water and sanitation. “This facility wasn’t even on our radar before we
came down here," said law professor Warren Binford, a member of the team that has interviewed 60 detainees in Clint.

Binford's group warned that because Customs and Border Protection facilities are overwhelmed with migrants, they feared similar situations could be unfolding elsewhere.

Attorney Toby Gialluca, who visited teens and their babies last week in a McAllen, Texas, Border Patrol station, said everyone she interviewed was very sick with high fevers, and wearing soiled clothes crusted with mucus and dirt after their long trip north. Fifteen kids at Clint had the flu, another 10 were detained, she said. Everyone. "They're using their clothes to wipe mucus off the children, wipe vomit off the children. Most of the little children are not eating," she said.

Migrant teens in McAllen told her they were offered frozen ham sandwiches and rotten food, Gialluca said. In both stations, the children told attorneys that guards instructed girls as young as age 8 to care for the babies and toddlers.

Border Patrol stations are designed to hold people for three days, but some children held in Clint and McAllen have been in there for weeks. Legally, migrants under 18 should be moved into Office of Refugee Resettlement care within 72 hours.

But federal officials have said they have hit a breaking point, with too many migrant children and nowhere to put them. That's in part because last year, migrants held in Texas have been staying longer in federal custody than they had historically, meaning there are fewer shelter beds in the separate Office of Refugee Resettlement program where kids are sent from the Border Patrol stations.

Unlike privately contracted detention facilities, Border Patrol stations are federal facilities, exempt from state health and safety standards, according to Texas Department of Health and Human Services spokesman John Reynolds. Child abuse and neglect investigators are not allowed to investigate the stations because they are not licensed by the state.

In Clint, Binford described that during interviews with children in a conference room at the facility, "little kids are so tired they were asleep on chairs and sprawled on the table." An 8-year-old taking care of a very small 4-year-old with mat-ted hair could not even convince the younger girl to take a drink.

The lawyers inspected the Border Patrol facilities as part of a President Bill Clinton-era legal agreement known as the Flores settlement that governs detention conditions for migrant children and families.

Neha Desai, director of Immigration at the National Center for Youth Law, said Friday that the care is "absolutely very much because she's never been alone. She doesn't know these other children," her father said.

Republican Congresswoman Will Hurd, whose district includes Clint, said "tragic conditions" playing out on the southern border were pushing government agencies, non-profits and Texas communities to the limit.

"This latest development just further demonstrates the immediate need to reform asylum laws and provide supplemental funding to address the humanitarian crisis at our border," he said.

Mr. MCOVERN. Madam Speaker, before I yield to our next speaker, I would remind my colleagues that a closing vote on this question really isn't a vote to bring up the Senate bill. It is a vote to give control of the House floor to the Republicans.

They say they would bring up the Senate bill, but there is absolutely no guarantee that they would. They could bring up a bill to fund a wall, for all we know.

Madam Speaker, we are here to find a way to alleviate the suffering of these children at our border and not to play politics. We should urge my colleagues to make sure that they vote "yes" on the previous question.

And, by the way, I just say to my colleagues from Oklahoma, a lot of us aren't satisfied with the Senate bill the way it has been drafted because there are protections that we want to see in that bill because, quite frankly, speaking for myself, I don't trust this administration.

I don't trust this administration to do the right thing, an administration that separated—knowingly and deliberately separated—children from their parents at the border, an administration that tolerated the conditions that have horrified the entire country.

So I want it clear that the moneys that we are appropriating are going to help children, not to continue this insane inhumane policy that has horrified this Nation.

I won't trust this administration to tell me the correct time, at this particular point. So, no, we are not satisfied. We want more protections in here for the children. We want more transparency. The American people, I think, expect that. We should provide them that information.

Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from California (Mrs. Torres), the distinguished member of the Rules Committee.

Mrs. Torres of California. Madam Speaker, I rise in support of the rule.

Yes, indeed, we have a responsibility to act. As Speaker PELOSI has said, we must do this for the sake of the children, and I thank her for not capitulating to the Senate demands for a blank check.

When I reflect on the number of deaths that we have seen at the border, when I reflect on the horrific conditions in facilities where children are being held in ice-cold cells with no one to care for them but a child stranger—conditions in these facilities are horrific—I ask myself: Is this the America that I came to as a young child? Is this the America that my son is supposed to protect when he joined the U.S. Air Force? This surely isn't the country that welcomed me as a young child from Guatemala.

But we must work toward that American ideal that we all share. We cannot simply allocate funds to agencies where we have seen numerous children die in their custody.

No blank checks.

No more torturing of babies.

No more separating infants from their mothers.

This legislation brings funds to the children that are urgently needed.

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

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

Mrs. Torres of California. It brings more transparency to CBP and ICE and HHS, and it contains important provisions to protect children. It ensures that the emergency funding that Congress provides is spent on what it is intended for and not the President's deportation force.

So I look forward to supporting this rule, and I urge all of my colleagues to join me in doing so.

Mr. COLE. Madam Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the distinguished gentleman from Arizona (Mrs. Lesko), my very good friend and distinguished member of the Rules Committee.

Mrs. Lesko. Madam Speaker, well, here we are again, and I talked on this before.

I am from the State of Arizona, so border security is top and center of the discussion in Arizona and it has, quite frankly, been for years.

We have all known there has been a crisis at our border for many, many years, and that is why I am at least hopeful and inspired a little bit that my Democratic colleagues are actually acting—finally—that there is a crisis at our border. So that is good.

The thing that is bad about this rule today is that I just don't understand. I guess some of my Democratic colleagues are just being stubborn because, on one hand, you have the Senate that already passed an overwhelmingly bipartisan bill, where Senator SCHUMER voted for it. You have a President who said we are not in favor of this House version of the bill.

But where you have a President who, seemingly, is willing to sign the Senate bill; you have a Senate bill that has vast bipartisan support, even with the
top leadership in the Democrat Party; but, yet, here we are in the House, and I guess Members just want to make sure they have what they want in their bill, even if it is not going to pass and even if the money isn’t going to actually get to solving the problem.

And so I ask my Democrat colleagues to put your stubbornness a little bit aside, because if we all have the goal, as has been said on both sides, to help solve this problem, to help with the children who are dying at the border, you would not say it was it? Yesterday we saw the picture of the father and the daughter, and then June 14, we had a story in Arizona of a young 7-year-old girl who died, and the Arizona Air National Guard helped find and rescued other members of the party. I think we are united in trying to solve the problem, and I am glad that my Democrats finally say there is a crisis, to have acknowledged it.

But if you really want to help, let’s stop being cheeky. Let’s stop what you are doing, because I don’t think you are going to win. You have the President on one side, the Senate on one side with bipartisan support, including Mr. SCHUMER, and yet we are here today, right before the July Fourth recess, and instead of giving in and saying let’s just put up the Senate bill that we know is going to pass, that we know is going to help, you continue to, I guess, try to make a point.

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

Mr. MCGOVERN. Madam Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. MUCARSEL-POWELL).

Ms. MUCARSEL-POWELL. Madam Speaker, many of the children have families living right here in the United States that they could be reunited with. But those who are running the facilities have no incentive for reuniting them.

The Senate bill does not have a timeline. The Senate bill is inadequate. We must pass the House-amended bill. Mr. COLE. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I know my friends are aware of this, but the Senate bill is actually—well, I certainly would vote for it. I think it would have overwhelming support on our side. The President, in the past, has expressed some concerns, and that is an important thing, but the Senate has really worked through a lot of these differences.

The bill that we would like to see put on this floor and that we know would pass with overwhelming, bipartisan support is a product of compromise, so much compromise that the entire Democratic leadership felt comfortable voting for it.

With all due respect to my friends, their bill is not the product of compromise. It is not going to get very many Republican votes here, if any. I would be surprised, frankly, if it did. It is not likely to get accepted by the United States Senate. It absolutely won’t be signed by the President of the United States.

We are all concerned about the conditions. We have been expressing that concern for 8 weeks. We never called this a manufactured crisis. We never said that this was made up for political purposes. The administration recognized it 8 weeks ago.

We have tried multiple times to get this House floor on it. I am very pleased that we finally reached a point that both sides are focusing on it. But we also ought to focus on what is possible to achieve in a limited timeframe. We know we are running out of money. We know there are real-life consequences to that. They are starting to unfold right now. There are services being cut back. For a lot of these conditions, frankly, we ought to look in the mirror, as Congress, and ask why we did not use these resources there a long time ago.

Frankly, the House rule that we are discussing on the House bill, that bill actually reduces resources at the border. It doesn’t expand them. It reduces them also for the American military. That is part of it.

The Senate bill, in my view, frankly, is much superior to my friends’ product, but it has one virtue above all: All of it is put on the floor and pass it, and it goes to the President of the United States to be signed immediately. Resources begin to move to where they are desperately needed immediately.

That is not true with my friends’ bill. All it does is reopen the dialogue with the Senate, where it has very little prospect of passing. Then, frankly, if it did pass—not likely—it would be vetoed.

I am befuddled, Madam Speaker, that they are pursuing a goal that they know will not work, but we have seen this time and time again. It is more important to get a bill across the floor in a bipartisan fashion than it is to put something on the floor that is bipartisan, that can pass the Senate and come into law.

Now, my friends know we live in an era of divided government, and we have wasted 6 months. In my view, dealing with a lot of this stuff, we knew would never pass. But I respect my friends’ right to bring their agenda to the floor.

This is different. This is a national emergency. It has to pass. We have one vehicle where it can be passed and can be signed so that help can go immediately. We have my friends’ vehicle, which I know they believe in passionately, and I respect that, but it can’t pass.

It is pretty simple. Sooner or later, I hope we get to the obvious answer and pass the Senate bill and send it to the President.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. MCGOVERN. Madam Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentlewoman from Michigan (Ms. TLAIB).

Ms. TLAIB. Madam Speaker, I take offense to my colleague from Arizona saying we are not going to win. This is not a game. These are people’s lives.

When my colleague says we need to try, we have tried. I am asking them to try harder because we are creating a whole generation of children, Madam Speaker, who will remember what we did. We will remember them up like animals. We ripped them away from their parents and pumped them with drugs to make them stop crying for their mothers.

No amount of apologizing and no amount of debating in this Chamber will make it better. Madam Speaker, I am asking my colleagues to be more humane to debate real policy change that will address the crisis at the border, like comprehensive immigration reform.

We must do better for these children. Again, no amount of apologizing, no amount of debating, no amount of politicking will make it better.
Mr. COLE. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.
I will just make the same point I have been making for days on end. We have something that can pass versus something that can’t. I don’t doubt for a minute that my friends are sincere in their claims, but I also respect colleagues on the other side of the rostrum in the United States Senate. I think they are sincere, too.
They have worked through and found a way, get something that got 84 votes. The three-quarters of the Democratic minority in the Senate voted for it. The entire Democratic leadership voted for it. The President has signaled that he will sign it.
We can continue the debates on some of these other things at a later point. My friends might want to come back with another piece of legislation addressing some of their concerns that they think are not appropriately addressed in the Senate bill. But the reality is this bill that can pass, and it would go to the President.
We can continue to have this debate. We can even end it, launch some vehicle to the Senate, and waste more time. That is all it will be, a waste of time.
I would hope we all had our say. We all feel strongly about our points, but let’s agree on the one thing we know can pass and the President would sign, which would get us resources and relief immediately on the border where we desperately need it.
Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.
Mr. MCGOVERN. Madam Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON LEE).
Ms. JACKSON LEE. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding, and I appreciate the gentleman from Oklahoma, but I am an optimist.
More importantly, I stand here in the name of Mr. Ramirez and his little, baby girl who were found on the shores of the Rio Grande. The question is: How did they wind up there? They wound up there because of this administration’s policies that rejected them as they stood on the Brownsville-Mata-moros International Bridge.
There was no reason to say the bridge was closed. They had a legal right to claim asylum, fleeing from the horrible violence of El Salvador. Yet, they could not stand there, and so this is their end.
I am supporting this bill because I believe we should not settle for just anything. This bill particularly provides for the requirements that have additional resources for those children so that they don’t die, so that they do have toothpaste, that they are clean, that they are living in clean places. It acknowledges that children cannot be held like cattle in one place beyond 90 days, that you must find their family members, and, yes, there are family members.
This is a process that has been the law of the land and the international law for decades. It is an asylum that these children can address it. It takes no one’s place. It does nothing to hurt this Nation.
I support the underlying legislation because, in the name of Mr. Ramirez and his child, we must do what is right.
Mr. MCGOVERN. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.
I personally thank my good friend, the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON LEE), for having the coolest scarf in the House today, the American flag.
Bipartisanship has broken out in the Senate. They passed H.R. 3401, as amended by the Senate.
I am now happy to report to the House that bipartisanship has broken out on the floor of the House of Representatives, for I am announcing that 23 Democrats and 23 Republicans from the Problem Solvers Caucus have just issued the following statement: “Given the humanitarian crisis at the border, the Problem Solvers Caucus is asking for the immediate consideration on the House floor today of H.R. 3401, as amended by the Senate.”
We now are certain that H.R. 3401 will pass. I ask us to let the bipartisan spread to the rest of this House and put an end to this now, once and for all, and get the help to the border that is so long overdue.
Mr. MCGOVERN. Madam Speaker, may I inquire how much time is remaining.
The SPEAKER pro tempore (Ms. JACKSON LEE). The gentleman from Massachusetts has 4 minutes remaining. The gentleman from Oklahoma has 8¼ minutes remaining.
Mr. MCGOVERN. Madam Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentlewoman from California (Ms. CARDENAS).
Ms. CARDENAS. Madam Speaker, I have the honor and privilege to be born as an American citizen. There are billions of people around the world who don’t have that privilege, that honor, and that blessing.
Today, I get to exercise my privilege as a Member of Congress to bring my two grandchildren, ages 1 and 3, to the floor of the House of Representatives. It is a very emotional moment for me because when I see their beautiful brown eyes, I see their grandparents who were born in another country, and I see their great-grandparents born in another country, just like many people on this House floor whose grandparents and great-grandparents came from Germany, Guatemala, Mexico, or any other place on the planet.
We are fighting to do what is right, to do what is right for the gold standard that the world has seen in the United States of America, a place of hope and a place of future for people who are fleeing persecution for religious reasons or otherwise to be able to come to this country, kiss the ground that they walk on, and start anew.
My beautiful grandkids get to be American citizens because somebody made the journey sometime before them.
The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentleman has expired.
Mr. MCGOVERN. Madam Speaker, I yield an additional 30 seconds to the gentleman from California.
Mr. CARDENAS. Madam Speaker, I close by saying this: The United States of America has always been the gold standard, and that is the argument that we are making here today.
This is not a game. We are fighting for the lives of human beings who should have the opportunity to be just like every person on this floor: to be allowed the freedom to be who they choose to be, who God made them to be, by being in the greatest place on the planet. That is why we are fighting today.
Mr. COLE. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the distinguished gentleman from Ohio (Mr. STIVERS), who is my good friend.
Mr. STIVERS. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding. We have a crisis on our southern border, and H.R. 3401 with the Senate amendments gets resources to give humanitarian assistance to those seeking asylum.
This bill also adds judges and judge teams to hear the claims of asylum. Many people have to wait up to 3 years to get their hearing. That is too long. I have twice in the last 2 weeks attempted to offer an amendment to add judge teams. Both times, the Rules Committee has failed to include it.
My amendment this week would have included the amount that was in the Senate bill, but it is now in the bill because we have the Senate bill sitting at the Speaker’s desk.
I urge my colleagues to take up the bill with the Senate amendments that include judge teams. That is the only way to solve this real crisis: adjudicate the claims of these people who want asylum, reunite families, and stop people from being held in detention as long.
Mr. GONZALEZ from Texas and I have worked together on this. It is a bipartisan effort. This is a no-brainer. We need to add judges. The Senate bill does that.
Madam Speaker, I hope we can take up the Senate bill and make it happen.
Mr. MCGOVERN. Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.
Mr. COLE. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, in closing, I urge opposition to this rule. Once again, the majority is making the exact same mistake it made earlier this week. We have a bipartisan bill already approved by the Senate. The House should simply take it up and work its will on that bill.

Frankly, we all know, if that bill were to come to the floor, it would pass overwhelmingly with a majority of each side voting in favor of it. Then it wouldn’t have to go back to the Senate. It would go immediately to the President of the United States. He could sign it, and these resources would begin to flow.

Now, again, we have had a robust debate today, and I respect the passions on both sides and every point of view about this. Actually, I see a great deal of common agreement. We agree, which we did not 8 weeks ago, that there is an emergency on the southern border. We agree it is a humanitarian crisis. We agree there need to be resources that go there immediately. We agree that time is short.

We are all also elected officials who are privileged to be in this Chamber, and my experience with my friends on both sides of the aisle is that they are basically pretty practical people. They came here to solve problems. They have different viewpoints, but they are almost always very practical and try to get something done.

We know the Senate bill is not everything that my side would want. We certainly know it is not everything that my friend’s side would want. But we know it is bipartisan. We know three-quarters of the Democrats in the other Chamber voted for it. We know it will pass.

With all due respect to my friends, they have clung so tightly to their bill, which I know they believe in. It will pass here, but it won’t pass the Senate, and it certainly won’t be signed by the President.

Where will we be if we continue down the road that they are laying out in front of us?

I know they are sincerely concerned about children on the border, but we are better off with a bill that passes so we have billions of dollars moving to where they are supposed to go, and a bill, by the way, that the entire Democratic leadership thought was appropriate, good enough.

Let’s not sit here and make the perfect the enemy of the good. Let’s be practical and deliver to the American people what they want, which is a solution, a solution that both parties will vote for and a solution that the President will sign.

How many times do we go home and hear that from our own constituents: Can’t you guys get together and do anything? Can’t you work together? Can’t you put aside your differences and put the American people first?

It pains me as a House Member to admit it, I suppose, but the United States Senate did that in this case before we did. We can accept that and move on, and my friends can continue to fight for the things they believe. It is not as if, for these things that are in this bill that the administration won’t accept, they can’t wrap them up again and put them back in another bill and start the process.

If we do not act, the resources will not get to the border where they are needed, and these conditions that concern us all will continue. I urge us to step back a little bit, accept that in this case the Senate has a bipartisan solution that will work, and for goodness’ sake, just put it on the floor to see what happens.

We know what will happen. My friends will vote for it in overwhelming numbers. My friends on my side of the aisle will vote for it in overwhelming numbers. It will go straight to the President of the United States.

That isn’t going to solve the problem, but it is going to ease the problem, and that is going to move us in the right direction and provide our very hard-pressed people—who are working this problem by caring for the migrants, trying to protect our borders, and trying to provide justice—the resources they need to continue to work on this problem while, frankly, we continue to try to arrive at a legislative solution.

Madam Speaker, I want to end with a point I made just a little bit earlier. I thank the Chair for the patient and professional manner in which she has allowed us to conduct this debate. I thank her very much for making sure that when we had an outside disturbance, it was quickly dealt with.

I urge my friends to reconsider and, hopefully, come together around a bill that neither of us thinks is perfect but both of us could probably vote for and the President could sign.

Madam Speaker, I thank my good friend, the chairman of the Rules Committee, for his participation in debate. It is always helpful and always enlightening. He is a good friend and a person I admire a great deal, even when we differ on a particular issue.

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

Mr. McGOVERN. Madam Speaker, I think what is so frustrating to so many of us is that there is controversy thounding about the protection of these children. The reason we think that is important is because this administration has ignored all the warnings.

We have had whistleblowers talk about the abuse at the border and how these children were being mistreated, and they did nothing.

This administration oversaw a policy of literally tearing children away from their parents. As a dad, I can’t imagine what that must be like for any of those parents, and this administration thought it was fine.

We have a crisis at the border largely as a result of this President’s policies. We need to deal with it, and we need to deal with it now. But we want to make sure we are actually dealing with the crisis and not giving him more money to create other crises.

I appreciate what the gentlemen from Oklahoma said about the need for us to continue to work together, and while these negotiations are continuing.

Madam Speaker, I withdraw the resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The resolution is withdrawn.

MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A message from the Senate by Ms. Byrd, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate has passed without amendment a bill of the House of the following title:

H.R. 866. An act to provide a lactation room in public buildings.

The message also announced that the Senate has passed a bill of the following title in which the concurrence of the House is required:

S. 528. An act to amend title 40, United States Code, to provide a lactation room in public buildings, and for other purposes.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess subject to the call of the Chair. Accordingly (at 1 o’clock and 22 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1530

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. Cárdenas) at 3 o’clock and 30 minutes p.m.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF THE SENATE AMENDMENT TO H.R. 3401, EMERGENCY SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS FOR HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE AND SECURITY AT THE SOUTHERN BORDER ACT, 2019

Mr. McGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 466 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. Res. 466

Resolved. That upon adoption of this resolution it shall be in order to take from the Speaker’s table the bill (H.R. 3401) making emergency supplemental appropriations for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2019, and for other purposes, with the Senate amendment thereto, and to consider in the House, without intervention of any point of order, a motion offered by the chair of the Committee on Appropriations or her designee that the House concur in the Senate amendment with an amendment consisting of the text of Rules Committee Print 116-21. The Senate amendment and the motion shall be
ed is for the purpose of debate only.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Thegentleman from Massachusetts is recognized for 1 hour.

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, for the purpose of debate only, I yield thecustomary 30 minutes to thegentleman from Oklahoma (Mr. Cole), pending which I yield myself such time as I may consume. During consideration of this resolution, all time yielded is for the purpose of debate only.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of thegentleman from Massachusetts?

There was no objection.

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, we had a robust debate here today surrounding the tragedy that is unfolding on our southern border where children are being ripped from their families; forced to sleep on cold concrete floors; denied soap, medicine, diapers—I could go on and on and on—all because of the President’s failed policies.

That is what many of us believe, and that is what most national and international human rights organizations have also made clear.

Quite frankly, this should shake all of us to our core. I, for one, am very disappointed, and I will never forget the images and the stories. I will continue to fight for a better outcome and fight for these kids.

Having said all of that, it has been decided that we should move forward, so we are amending this rule so we can take up the Senate-passed bill.

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

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

I want to begin by thanking my friend. I think this is a wise decision. I know this was a difficult decision, but I think it is the right thing because I know we have a common objective here.

We know we need resources at the border right away. We know, by the action my friend is taking, we now have the possibility of making that happen and doing it in a very bipartisan way; that is, taking a bill that passed the Senate 87-3, moving it here with a very substantial bipartisan majority, and, frankly, getting resources to exactly where I know my friend and his colleagues want them to go, which is to help folks at the border deal with this ever-growing crisis.

Mr. Speaker, I urge that we accept the amendment. I thank my friend. I thank our friends on the other side for making what I know is a tough but, I think, very wise decision. I think the country will be better off for it.

I appreciate the fact that we will pass this legislation in a bipartisan manner. As the Senate did, we will here. The President will sign it, and the resources that we all want to arrive and help alleviate the difficult situation at the border will start moving immediately.

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

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the gentleman from Oklahoma working with us. We have spent many hours with the Rules Committee and on the floor, and I know he is committed to trying to get this issue right.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. MCGOVERN

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I have an amendment at the desk.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. I think it is the right thing because I

Mr. Speaker, for the purpose of debate only, I yield the

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of thegentleman from Massachusetts?

There was no objection.

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, we had a robust debate here today surrounding the tragedy that is unfolding on our southern border where children are being ripped from their families; forced to sleep on cold concrete floors; denied soap, medicine, diapers—I could go on and on and on—all because of the President’s failed policies.

That is what many of us believe, and that is what most national and international human rights organizations have also made clear.

Quite frankly, this should shake all of us to our core. I, for one, am very disappointed, and I will never forget the images and the stories. I will continue to fight for a better outcome and fight for these kids.

Having said all of that, it has been decided that we should move forward, so we are amending this rule so we can take up the Senate-passed bill.

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

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

I want to begin by thanking my friend. I think this is a wise decision. I know this was a difficult decision, but I think it is the right thing because I know we have a common objective here.

We know we need resources at the border right away. We know, by the action my friend is taking, we now have the possibility of making that happen and doing it in a very bipartisan way; that is, taking a bill that passed the Senate 87-3, moving it here with a very substantial bipartisan majority, and, frankly, getting resources to exactly where I know my friend and his colleagues want them to go, which is to help folks at the border deal with this ever-growing crisis.

Mr. Speaker, I urge that we accept the amendment. I thank my friend. I thank our friends on the other side for making what I know is a tough but, I think, very wise decision. I think the country will be better off for it.

I appreciate the fact that we will pass this legislation in a bipartisan manner. As the Senate did, we will here. The President will sign it, and the resources that we all want to arrive and help alleviate the difficult situation at the border will start moving immediately.

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

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the gentleman from Oklahoma working with us. We have spent many hours with the Rules Committee and on the floor, and I know he is committed to trying to get this issue right.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. MCGOVERN

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I have an amendment at the desk.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. I think it is the right thing because I

Mr. Speaker, for the purpose of debate only, I yield the

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of thegentleman from Massachusetts?

There was no objection.

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, we had a robust debate here today surrounding the tragedy that is unfolding on our southern border where children are being ripped from their families; forced to sleep on cold concrete floors; denied soap, medicine, diapers—I could go on and on and on—all because of the President’s failed policies.

That is what many of us believe, and that is what most national and international human rights organizations have also made clear.

Quite frankly, this should shake all of us to our core. I, for one, am very disappointed, and I will never forget the images and the stories. I will continue to fight for a better outcome and fight for these kids.

Having said all of that, it has been decided that we should move forward, so we are amending this rule so we can take up the Senate-passed bill.

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

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

I want to begin by thanking my friend. I think this is a wise decision. I know this was a difficult decision, but I think it is the right thing because I know we have a common objective here.

We know we need resources at the border right away. We know, by the action my friend is taking, we now have the possibility of making that happen and doing it in a very bipartisan way; that is, taking a bill that passed the Senate 87-3, moving it here with a very substantial bipartisan majority, and, frankly, getting resources to exactly where I know my friend and his colleagues want them to go, which is to help folks at the border deal with this ever-growing crisis.

Mr. Speaker, I urge that we accept the amendment. I thank my friend. I thank our friends on the other side for making what I know is a tough but, I think, very wise decision. I think the country will be better off for it.

I appreciate the fact that we will pass this legislation in a bipartisan manner. As the Senate did, we will here. The President will sign it, and the resources that we all want to arrive and help alleviate the difficult situation at the border will start moving immediately.

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

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the gentleman from Oklahoma working with us. We have spent many hours with the Rules Committee and on the floor, and I know he is committed to trying to get this issue right.
thousands of migrants who have died as they have tried to build a better life for themselves, only to find that they are demonized and locked out of the promise that those of us who are natural-born citizens are so fortunate to enjoy.

In their name, let us never forget their sacrifice and the sacrifice that so many parents make for the most vulnerable among us.

SECURING AMERICA’S FEDERAL ELECTIONS ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 1(c) of rule XIX, further consideration of the bill (H.R. 2722) to protect elections for public office by providing financial support and enhanced security for the infrastructure used to carry out such elections, and for other purposes, will now resume.

The Clerk will report the title of the bill.

Mr. Speaker, I have a motion to recommit the bill to the House. The motion to recommit the bill to the House has been made by Mr. Rodney Davis of Illinois.

MOTION TO RECOMMIT

Mr. Speaker, nothing in the bill we are debating today addresses the concerns that have been raised in this report. But what does the Federal Government concerning to every Republican and Democrat in this institution.

The tremendous costs associated with these Federal mandates only serve to draw resources away from the real vulnerabilities our States face.

My colleagues on the other side of the aisle have also represented that Republicans have done nothing to address foreign interference in our elections, and that, Mr. Speaker, is simply not true.
In 2017, this country’s election infrastructure was designated as critical infrastructure, thereby allowing the Department of Homeland Security to immediately begin offering voluntary assistance to State and local election officials in the form of cybersecurity advice, threat detection and prevention tools, information sharing, and incident response.

Additionally, the 115th Congress, last Congress, a Republican-controlled Congress, appropriated $300 million to States prior to the 2018 midterms to bolster election security and $26 million to DHS to add additional staff and carry out their assessment efforts, allowing for unprecedented cooperation between DHS and all 50 States and 1,400 localities in 2018.

Earlier this year, $33 million was appropriated to DHS to continue these assistance efforts, and earlier this week, the Republicans, my fellow Republi- cans, Mr. WALKER and Mr. LOUDEN, introduced the Election Assistance Commis- sion to draw my point of order.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The motion to recommit today would require the chief election official of each State to designate a person to make an important observation. The gentleman has said that what happened in North Carolina is perfectly legal in other States. Fraud is not legal in any of the 50 States.

I would like to note that, in our bill, we do have provisions that vendors must be owned and controlled by citi- zens or permanent residents of the United States and certain other provi- sions relative to security; but to con- fide that anyone of their choosing to designate allow- ing for unprecedented cooperation between DHS and all 50 States and 1,400 localities in 2018.

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

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

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

RECORDED VOTE

Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I demand a recorded vote. A recorded vote was ordered.

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

This will be a 5-minute vote.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The vote was taken by electronic de- vice, and there were—ayes 189, noes 220, not voting 23, as follows:

[Roll No. 427]

AYES—189

Aderholt
Allen
Amodei
Armstrong
Arrington
Anne
Babin
Bacon
Baier
Balderson
Banks
Barr
Bergman
Bilirakis
Bishop (UT)
Bos
Brady
Brooks (AL)
Brooks (IN)
Buchanan
Buck
Burgett
Burr
Burt
Byrne
Calvert
Carter (GA)
Carter (TX)

Chabot
Cheney
Cline
Clufts
Collins (GA)
Collins (NY)
Connor
Conaway
Cook
Crawford
Cunningham
Curtis
Davidson (OH)
Davis, Rodney
Destin
Diaz-Balart
Duffy
Duncan
Dunn
Emerson
Eskridge
Falwell
Ferguson
Fortenberry

Fulcher
Gatch
Gallagher
Gianforte
Gibbs
Gohmert
Gonzales (OH)
Gooden
Gosar
Granger
Graves (GA)
Graves (LA)
Graves (MO)
Green (TN)
Griffith
Grothman
Guest
Guthrie
Hagedorn
Hagerty
Hakim
Hart
Hart
Hart
Hice (GA)
Herrera Beutler
Hawkins
Hawkins
Heflin
Higgins (LA)
Higgins (NY)
Hines
Hollingsworth
Horn
Huizenga
Mr. ROY changed his vote from “no” to “aye.”

So the motion to recommit was rejected.

The vote on the passage of the bill was taken.

Mr. DANNY of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I demand a recorded vote.

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

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—aye 225, noes 184, not voting 23, as follows:

[Roll No. 428]
H5246
CONGRESSIONAL RECORD—HOUSE
June 27, 2019

Kinzinger (IL) Swallow (CA)
Kastoff (TN) Swain (FL)
Lucas Snelson (IN)
Menendez Schneider Wilson (FL)
Mullin Sensenbrenner Young
Richmond Steube

So the bill was passed.
The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

EMERGENCY SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS FOR HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE AND SECURITY AT THE SOUTHERN BORDER ACT, 2019

Mrs. LOWEY. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to House Resolution 466, I call up the bill (H.R. 3401) making emergency supplemental appropriations for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2019, and for other purposes, with the Senate amendment thereto, and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Clerk will designate the Senate amendment.

Senate amendment:

Strike out all after the enacting clause and insert:

That the following sums 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 JUSTICE
GENERAL ADMINISTRATION
EXECUTIVE OFFICE FOR IMMIGRATION REVIEW
For an additional amount for “Executive Office for Immigration Review”, $65,000,000, of which $45,000,000 shall be for the hiring of 30 additional Immigration Judge Teams, of which $10,000,000 shall be used for the purchase or lease of immigration judge courtroom space and equipment, and of which $10,000,000 shall be used only for services and activities provided by the Legal Orientation Program: Provided, That Immigration Judges shall include appropriate attorneys, law clerks, paralegals, court administrators, and other support staff: 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.

UNITED STATES MARSHALS SERVICE
FEDERAL PRISONER DETENTION
For an additional amount for “Federal Prisoner Detention”, for necessary expenses related to United States prisoners in the custody of the United States Marshals Service, to be used only as authorized by section 4013 of title 18, United States Code, $208,950,000, for necessary expenses to respond to the significant rise in unaccompanied minors and family unit aliens at the southwest border and related activities: 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.

OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE, MARINE FORCES
For an additional amount for “Operation and Maintenance, Marine Forces”, $13,025,000, for necessary expenses to respond to the significant rise in unaccompanied minors and family unit aliens at the southwest border and related activities: 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 EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY
FEDERAL ASSISTANCE
For an additional amount for “Federal Assistance”, $30,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2020, for the emergency food and shelter program under title III of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 11311 et seq.) for the purposes of providing assistance specifically described under the heading:

TITLE III
DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY
U.S. CUSTOMS AND BORDER PROTECTION
OPERATIONS AND SUPPORT
For an additional amount for “Operations and Support” for necessary expenses to respond to the significant rise in aliens at the southwest border and related activities: 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.

PROCUREMENT, CONSTRUCTION, AND IMPROVEMENTS
For an additional amount for “Procurement, Construction, and Improvements” for migrant care and processing facilities, $35,000,000, 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.

U.S. IMMIGRATION AND CUSTOMS ENFORCEMENT
OPERATIONS AND SUPPORT
For an additional amount for “Operations and Support” for necessary expenses to respond to the significant rise in aliens at the southwest border and related activities, $208,950,000: Provided, That the amounts provided under this heading, $35,000,000 is for transportation of unaccompanied alien children, $208,950,000 is for detainee transportation for medical needs, court proceedings, or relocation from U.S. Customs and Border Protection custody, $20,000,000 is for alternatives to detention, $45,000,000 is for detainee medical care, $59,735,000 is for temporary duty, overtime, and other on-board personnel: 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.
Representatives, the Committee on the Judiciary of the Senate, and the House Judiciary Committee regarding the establishment and implementation of such policies and training programs.

SEC. 304. No later than 30 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Homeland Security shall provide a report on the number of Border Patrol agents assigned to northern border land ports of entry who temporarily assigned to the ongoing humanitarian crisis: Provided, That the report shall include, to the extent practicable, data on resources and conditions that would allow a return to northern border staffing levels that are no less than the number committed in the June 12, 2018 Department of Homeland Security Appropriations Act that were temporarily assigned to the northern border ports from which officers have been temporarily assigned to the southwest border.

SEC. 305. The $5.1 billion funded under this Act or division A of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2019 (Public Law 116–6) for the Department of Homeland Security is appropriated for the National Targeting Center the vetting of Trusted Traveler Program applications and operations currently carried out at existing locations until specifically authorized by a statute enacted after the date of enactment of this Act.

SEC. 306. The personnel, supplies, or equipment of any component of the Department of Homeland Security shall be deployed to the National Targeting Center to the extent practicable, potential sponsors of unaccompanied alien children, and that are executed under authorities transferred to the Director of the Office of Refugee Resettlement (ORR) under section 462(g)(2) of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 279(g)(2)) in any facility that is not State-licensed under the Office of Refugee Resettlement (ORR) under the terms of the grant or contract for the purpose of adding shelter beds in State-licensed facilities and open new State-licensed facilities, and for contract costs to acquire, activate, and operate facilities that will include small- and medium-scale hard-sided facilities for which the Secretary intends to seek State licenses in an effort to phase out the need for shelter beds in unlicensed facilities.

SEC. 307. ORR shall ensure full adherence to the Office of Inspector General and remain available until expended for oversight of activities supported with funds appropriated by this Act. That such amount is designated by the Congress as being for an emergency management program pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

SEC. 401. The Secretary of Health and Human Services (the “Secretary”) shall prioritize use of community-based residential care (including long-term care and small group homes) and shelter care other than large-scale institutional shelter facilities to house unaccompanied alien children in the custody. The Secretary and ORR shall ensure that titles for each facility, the likely outcome is that, in the absence of such changes, children in such a facility are necessary on a temporary basis due to an influx of such children or an emergency, provided that—

(1) the terms of the grant or contract for the operations of any such facility that remains in operation for more than six consecutive months shall require compliance with—

(A) the same requirements as licensed facilities, as listed in Exhibit 3 of the Congressional Executive Committee on Foreign Operations and Related Appropriations (CEFCO) for the Senate and the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Senate of whether such changes to operational directives are necessary to prevent unaccompanied alien children from being placed in danger.

SEC. 404. None of the funds made available in this Act under the heading “Department of Health and Human Services—Administration for Children and Families—Refugee and Entrant Assistance” may be obligated to a grantor or contractor to house unaccompanied alien children (as such term is defined in section 462(g)(2) of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 279(g)(2))) in any facility that is not State-licensed under the Office of Refugee Resettlement (ORR) under the terms of the grant or contract for the purpose of housing unaccompanied alien children in such a facility is necessary on a temporary basis due to an influx of such children or an emergency, provided that—

(1) the terms of the grant or contract for the operations of any such facility that remains in operation for more than six consecutive months shall require compliance with—

(A) the same requirements as licensed facilities, as listed in Exhibit 3 of the Congressional Executive Committee on Foreign Operations and Related Appropriations (CEFCO) for the Senate and the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Senate of whether such changes to operational directives are necessary to prevent unaccompanied alien children from being placed in danger.

(2) staffing ratios of one (1) on-duty Youth Care Worker for every eight (8) children or youth during waking hours, one (1) on-duty Youth Care Worker for every sixteen (16) children or youth during sleeping hours, and clinician ratios to children including mental health providers as required in grantee cooperative agreements.

(2) the Secretary may grant a 60-day waiver for a contractor’s or grantee’s non-compliance with paragraph (1) if the Secretary certifies and provides a report to Congress on the contractor’s or grantee’s good-faith efforts and progress toward compliance;

(3) not more than four consecutive waivers under paragraph (2); (2) may be granted to a contractor or grantee with respect to a specific facility;

(4) ORR shall ensure full adherence to the monitoring requirements set forth in section 5.3 of its Policies and Procedures Guide as of May 15, 2019;

(5) for any such unlicensed facility in operation for more than three consecutive months, ORR shall conduct a minimum of one comprehensive monitoring visit during the first three months of operation, with quarterly monitoring thereafter, as appropriate;

(6) not later than 60 days after the date of enactment of this Act, ORR shall brief the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Senate of whether such changes to operational directives is necessary to prevent unaccompanied alien children from being placed in danger.

SEC. 405. (a) None of the funds provided by this Act or any prior appropriations Act may be obligated to a grantee or contractor to house unaccompanied alien children, and that are executed under authorities transferred to the Director of the Office of Refugee Resettlement (ORR) under section 462 of the Homeland Security Act of 2002, shall remain available until expended: Provided, That any amount allocated by the Secretary for costs of leases of property that include facilities to be used as hard-sided dormitories for which the Secretary intends to seek State licenses for the care of unaccompanied alien children, and that are executed under authorities transferred to the Director of the Office of Refugee Resettlement (ORR) under section 462 of the Homeland Security Act of 2002, shall remain available until expended: Provided further, That amounts allocated by the Secretary for costs of leases of property that include facilities to be used as hard-sided dormitories for which the Secretary intends to seek State licenses for the care of unaccompanied alien children, and that are executed under authorities transferred to the Director of the Office of Refugee Resettlement (ORR) under section 462 of the Homeland Security Act of 2002, shall remain available until expended: Provided further, That such amount is designated by the Congress as being for an emergency management program pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

(b) notwithstanding subsection (a), the Secretary may make changes to such operational directives upon making a determination that such changes are necessary to prevent unaccompanied alien children from being placed in danger, and the Secretary shall provide a written statement to ORR, the Inspector General of the Department of Health and Human Services in advance of implementing such changes.

(c) within 15 days of the Secretary’s communication of the justification, the Inspector General of the Department of Health and Human Services shall provide an assessment, in writing, to the Secretary and to Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Senate of whether such changes to operational directives is necessary to prevent unaccompanied alien children from being placed in danger.
children at the facility, and, for any child that has been at the facility for more than 60 days, their length of stay and reason for delay in release. 

SEC. 406. (a) The Secretary shall ensure that, when feasible, no unaccompanied alien child is at an unlicensed facility if the child—
(1) is not expected to be placed with a sponsor within 30 days;
(2) is under the age of 13;
(3) does not speak English or Spanish as his or her preferred language; (4) has known special needs, behavioral health issues, or medical issues that would be better served at an alternative facility;
(5) is not pregnant or parenting a minor;
(6) would have a diminution of legal services as a result of the transfer to such an unlicensed facility;
(b) ORR shall notify a child’s attorney of record in advance of any transfer, where applicable.

SEC. 407. None of the funds made available in this Act may be used to prevent a United States Senator or Member of the House of Representatives from entering, for the purpose of conducting oversight, any facility in the United States used for the purpose of maintaining custody of, or otherwise housing, unaccompanied alien children (as defined in section 462(g)(2) of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 279(g)(2))), provided that such Senator or Member has coordinated the oversight visit with the Office of Refugee Resettlement not less than two business days in advance to ensure that such visit would not interfere with the operations (including child welfare and child safety operations) of such facility.

SEC. 408. Not later than 14 days after the date of enactment of this Act, and monthly thereafter, the Secretary shall submit to the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Senate a list of existing grants and contracts and a detailed spend plan of anticipated uses of funds 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. 409. Funds made available in this Act under the heading “Department of Health and Human Services—Refugee and Entrant Assistance” shall be subject to the authorities and conditions of section 224 of division A of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2019 (Public Law 116–6).

SEC. 410. Not later than 30 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall submit to the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Senate a detailed spend plan of anticipated uses of funds made available in this account, including the following:
(a) a list of existing grants and contracts for both permanent and influx facilities, including their costs, capacity, and timelines; costs for expanding capacity through the use of community-based and family- and youth-oriented placements (including long-term and transitional foster care and small group homes) through new or modified grants and contracts; current and planned efforts to expand real-scale shelters and available foster care placements, including collaboration with state child welfare providers; influx facilities being assessed for possible use, costs and schedule for legal services, child advocates, and post release services; program administration; and the average number of weekly referrals and discharge rate assumed in the spend plan: Provided, That such plan shall be updated to reflect changes and expenditures and submitted to the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Senate every 60 days until all funds are expended or expired.

TITLE V

GENERAL PROVISIONS—THIS ACT

SEC. 501. Each amount appropriated or made available by this Act, and any amount 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. 502. None of any appropriation contained in this Act shall remain available for obligation beyond the current fiscal year unless expressly so provided herein.

SEC. 503. Unless otherwise provided for by this Act, any 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. 504. Each amount designated in this Act 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 shall be available (or rescinded or transferred, if applicable) only if the President subsequently so designates such amounts and transmits such designations to the Congress.

SEC. 505. Any amount appropriated by this Act designated as the “Comptroller General of the United States shall submit a report to the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Senate on the number of asylum officers and immigration judges, including temporary immigration judges, and the corresponding number of support staff necessary—
(1) to fairly and effectively make credible fear determinations with respect to individuals with family units and unaccompanied alien children; and
(2) to ensure that the credible fear determination and asylum interview is completed not later than 20 days after the date on which a family unit is apprehended; and
(3) to timely and routinely review appeals of credible fear determinations with respect to individuals within family units and unaccompanied alien children.

In addition, the report shall determine if there is any physical infrastructure such as hearing or courtroom space needed to achieve these goals. This Act may be cited as the “Emergency Supplemental Appropriations for Humanitarian Assistance and Security at the Southern Border Act, 2019”. 

MOTION TO CONCUR

Mrs. LOWEY. Mr. Speaker, I have a motion at the desk. The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Clerk will dispose of the motion.

The text of the motion is as follows: Mrs. Lowey moves that the House concur in the Senate amendment to H.R. 3401.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 466, the motion shall be debatable for 1 hour equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Appropriations.

The gentleman from New York (Mrs. Lowey) and the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. Granger) each will control 30 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentle- woman from New York.

Mrs. LOWEY. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks on the motion currently under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentle woman from New York? There was no objection.

Mrs. LOWEY. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentlewoman from California (Ms. Pelosi), the Speaker of the House.

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Speaker, I thank the distinguished chairwoman for yielding and admire her for her disting uished and hard work to bring a solution to the floor. This is not the one that we had hoped for, but it is one that we will be voting on today.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Nita Lowey, Congresswoman LUCILLE ROYBAL-ALLARD, Congresswoman ROSA DE LAUER, and all of our bipartisan appropriators for their relentless good faith work on a strong bill that we had hoped would completely protect vulnerable children, keep America safe, and honor our values.

Today, sadly, and almost with a broken heart, those values are being under mined by failed policies which have intensified a situation of heartbreak and horror on the border, all of which challenges the conscience of America.

I will be brief in just saying, right now, children need their families. Right now, little children are enduring trauma and terror; many are living in squalor at the border station, patrol station; some are sleeping on the cold ground without warm blankets or hot meals.

Kids as young as 7 and 8 years old are watching over infants because no one else is there to care for them. As one little girl caring for two infants said: I need comfort, too. I am a child, too.

Mr. Speaker, we could have done so much better—so much better—than what we are faced with today. It is my belief, my colleagues, that our country is at a moment of truth in acting upon our values as we develop policies.

I am proud of the work that our appropriators in the House have done in passing a bill that received overwhelming Democratic support on Tuesday. It was even bipartisan.

The current situation on the border is shameful and does not reflect America’s values. We don’t need anyone—especially the United States Senate—to tell us what the needs are on the border and that we have to act expedi tiously.

Our Members are very well versed and excellent representatives of the regions they represent and that are affected, but we want to find a path to
improve the conditions under which we are addressing and ministering to the needs of children and families there.

We are gravely disappointed in the actions taken by the Senate in opposing the regular order of the Congress of the United States. We will continue to fight for our values and priorities in our legislation and beyond.

Our strongest ally in getting a better policy than that which was passed by the Republican Senate is public opinion. Our faith-based institutions and the people and institutions of good faith in our country, our faith-based institutions who minister to the needs of our immigrants, know that this is not the best way to go. So as we go forward, we will continue to fight for our values with public opinion and faith-based organizations on our side.

The American people are constantly asking the question: Why aren’t we doing a better job to respect the dignity and worth of our children? The dignity and worth of our children. The dignity and worth of our children. That might amuse you, but it is not amusing to the children who are affected.

The children come first. At the end of the day, we have to make sure that the resources needed to protect the children are available. Therefore, we will not engage in the same disrespectful behavior that the Senate did in ignoring the House priorities.

In order to get resources to the children, we will reluctantly put the Senate bill on the floor. As the Senate bill passes—when it does—it will not be the end of this debate. It will be the battle cry as to how we go forward to protect children in a way that truly honors their dignity and worth, their spark of divinity that they are all children of God.

Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. ESCOBAR), our colleague, for the beautiful moment of conscience.

Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleagues for their leadership to protect values, honor our values, keep America safe. As always, with every vote, it is a vote of conscience.

The situation at the border is a challenge to the conscience of America. It should be a challenge to the conscience of each and every one of us. As always, you must vote your conscience.

Mr. Speaker, the humanitarian situation at our southern border is disgraceful. The Trump administration has exacerbated a crisis that has led to intolerable conditions for children and families in the government’s care.

We have been advised that agencies that provide critical services for children, including the Office of Refugee Resettlement and Customs and Border Protection, will imminently run out of funds.

Earlier this week, the House passed a comprehensive bill to fund these agencies and provide important reforms to ensure that children in our government’s care are safe, healthy, and comfortable.

Sadly, the White House, which has done much to create this crisis, refused to work with us to protect the children; and the Senate majority leader, who I am told is selling T-shirts that derisively call the Grim Reaper, refuses to respect the House as a coequal body of Congress and negotiate the differences in our legislation.

Left in the lurch by this cruelty and callousness are the babies and children in government care. The Trump administration refuses to be a party to this cruelty. That is why we are reluctantly bringing the Senate legislation to the floor today. We could have done better for our children and our families, but, unfortunately, the White House and the Senate would not allow that. So we will fight another day, and we will never stop fighting to protect the children who are our future.

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

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

I rise in very strong support of H.R. 3010, as amended by the Senate.

Hundreds of thousands of people have arrived at our border this year. More than 100,000 have crossed each of the last 3 months, with 144,000 in May alone. Some of these people are coming through points of entry, but the overwhelming majority are walking through the desert or swimming the Rio Grande.

Men and women across agencies and departments have been working together night and day trying to respond to the overwhelming surge, and they desperately need resources to cover the growing costs. This is a real crisis, and this bill provides funds for all those who are representing us and working without adequate pay.

As I said just yesterday, we are out of time for these children to wait. We are spending money they don’t have because they have must-pay bills for contracts for food, for shelter, for transportation, and for medical care.

People are waiting in terrible conditions in the desert, and summer in Texas is here. Children are sleeping on the ground and need to be moved to shelters or homes. We need doctors and pediatricians and caregivers.

This bill gives the agencies the funds to care for these children, to reduce the overcrowding at border facilities, to repay the States, and to add immigration judge teams.

The Senate has already passed this bill on an overwhelmingly bipartisan basis. Now we should do the same and send this bill to the President for his signature.

Mr. Speaker, I urge a strong ‘yes’ vote on this bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 9 of rule XX, this 15-minute vote on the motion to concur will be followed by a 5-minute vote on agreeing to the Speaker’s approval of the Journal.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—aye, 305, no, 102, not voting 25, as follows:

AYES—305

Akeredolu, Peter (FL)    Bryant, Steve (CA)    Grundall, Cheryl (NC)    Agüero, Yvette (IL)    Burgos, Danny (CA)    Roemer, Steve (LA)    Agner, Roger (ND)    Burns, Ian (IL)    Santos, Lauren (CA)    Aguiar, Ami (CA)    Butts, Patrick (CA)    Rohrabacher, Dana (CA)    Akaka, Daniel (HI)    Byrd, James (AL)    Rogers, Mike (TX)    Ackerman, Gary (NY)    Caban, Adriano (NY)    Rojas, Jorge (CA)    Adler, Jamie (CA)    Calvert, Frank (CA)    Rose, John (CA)    Alapati, Steven (CA)    Cantwell, Maria (WA)    Rush, Ted (NY)    Alexander, Slotkin (MI)    Carnahan, Crenshaw (MO)    Schellenger, Mike (CO)

Ms. WILSON of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I was not present for the following votes because I had to travel to my congressional district. Had I been present, I would have voted "yes" on rollover Vote No. 426, "no" on rollover Vote No. 427, "yes" on rollover Vote No. 428, "yes" on the Speaker's request to roll the votes, and "yes" on rollover Vote No. 430.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Ms. WILSON of Florida, Mr. Speaker, I was not present for the following votes because I had to travel to my congressional district. Had I been present, I would have voted "yes" on rollover Vote No. 426, "no" on rollover Vote No. 427, "yes" on rollover Vote No. 428, "yes" on the Speaker's request to roll the votes, and "yes" on rollover Vote No. 430.
PERMISSION FOR COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES TO FILE SUPPLEMENTAL REPORT ON H.R. 2500, NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2020

Mrs. DAVIS of California. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Armed Services be authorized to file a supplemental report on the bill, H.R. 2500.

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

There was no objection.

REMOVAL OF NAME OF MEMBER AS COSPONSOR OF H.R. 2205

Mr. MCKINLEY. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to have Representative BRIAN FITZPATRICK’s name removed from H.R. 2205 as a cosponsor. His name was added inadvertently.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. BERGMAN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on the Judiciary be discharged from further consideration of H.R. 962, the Born-Alive Abortion Survivors Protection Act, and ask for its immediate consideration in the House.

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

Mr. BERGMAN. Mr. Speaker, I urge the Speaker to immediately schedule the bill, H.R. 2500.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair is constrained not to entertain the request for consideration in the House.

In my view, she has been a champion for many economic sectors of our State but, in particular, agriculture, which she cared so much about.

Our hearts go out to them during this time, and they can be assured the entire State of Nebraska is with them.

We thank Jerry for his service to our State and remember him for his service as well.

GUN VIOLENCE AWARENESS MONTH

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

Mr. EVANS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Gun Violence Awareness Month and to honor the hundreds of thousands of survivors and victims of gun violence.

In 2018, in my city of Philadelphia, there were 351 homicides, and most of these were committed with a gun. What is happening in Philly is consistent with what is happening every day in violence-plagued Black and Brown communities across this country. It is sickening. So is the Senate’s lack of action on commonsense gun reform bills that the House has passed.

While we still need commonsense gun reform, Senator CASEY and I have also introduced a bill that Members from both parties should be able to agree on. H.R. 2893, the Resources for Victims of Gun Violence Act.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join the 50 cosponsors and
the many organizations that are putting their concern for gun violence into action by supporting this bill, and I urge the Senate to act on the bills the House has already passed.

BUILD A WALL

(Mr. JOHN W. ROSE of Tennessee asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. JOHN W. ROSE of Tennessee. Madam Speaker, today the House joined the Senate in approving almost $4.6 billion in taxpayer money to address the growing security and humanitarian crisis at our southern border.

We all share sympathy for the children and individuals who find themselves in suffering conditions at our southern border, but we should not confuse that the action that the House took today addresses the real crux of the problem at our southern border. Indeed, less than 5 percent of the funds that we approved will have a realistic impact on reducing the plague of illegal immigration that faces our country.

I call upon my colleagues and I call upon the Speaker, upon our return after the Independence Day recess, to take up this issue and send a clear message around the world that this country intends to enforce its borders and enforce its immigration laws.

Madam Speaker, I support and call upon the Speaker to allow us to provide the funding to build a wall at our southern border and support the President’s efforts to control illegal immigration.

THE FIGHT FOR THE CHILDREN WILL CONTINUE

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

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Madam Speaker, this was a tough week for those of us who, as mothers, have a deep pain for the conditions of our children.

It was a difficult week because Mr. Ramirez and his toddler died trying to cross the Rio Grande. Today, I voted “no” for the $4.5 billion, the Senate passed the bill, and they that passed and were provided for those in need. If my vote was needed to pass the bill, I would have done so.

But I am saddened by the fact that we passed a bill that does not have the strengthened protocols for treating the difficulties of children and their health needs:

- It does not have the provisions dealing with the quality of the treatment of the children, the sanitation and safety.
- It does not have the idea that children can only remain in a place for 90 days;
- It does not have the ability to have a program that talks about or puts in place how these children are treated as relates to their healthcare and other matters.

So, I will continue to fight because these children’s lives are important at the border and the Nation, and we will get to a point where we can pass legislation that will treat these children who are suffering and fleeing in the right way.

WE MUST DO BETTER

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

Mr. CÁRDENAS. Madam Speaker, once again, I say I am blessed to be an American citizen and honored to be a Member of the House of the United States.

Today is a bittersweet day for me as, today, I was able to bring my two grandchildren on the floor of this House, a courtesy that we afford each other as Members of this luscious body: my 1-year-old granddaughter, Jimena Luna De La Rosa, and my grandson, Joaquin Cruz De La Rosa.

But, at the same time, we voted for less than what we should have for the lives of so many men, women, and children who seek to come to the greatest land on Earth, the United States of America. We must do better. We must do more. And it is time that we push back on a President who considers the gold standard to be the gold on a toilet instead of the gold standard that we have come to be known for around the world: when it comes to having open arms of welcoming good human beings to this great country, to be part of this great land.

CONGRATULATING THE HECTOR GODINEZ FUNDAMENTAL HIGH SCHOOL GIRLS SOFTBALL TEAM

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

Mr. CORREA. Madam Speaker, today I rise to congratulate the Hector Godinez Fundamental High School girls’ softball team on their first ever CIF Southern Section championship victory. The team clinched their first ever title for the school and for Santa Ana Unified School District.

Their head coach, Ed Medina, has been the coach since the school opened in 2007 and was named the 2019 Orange County Softball Coach of the Year.

His assistant coaches—Clarissa Castellanos, Kevin Pola, and Selene Pola—are also to be commended.

Again, I congratulate the team, the coaches, and, of course, Principal Jesse Church on a job well done.

Congratulations, Grizzlies.

APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS TO MEXICO-UNITED STATES INTERPARLIAMENTARY GROUP

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair announces the Speaker’s appointment, pursuant to 22 U.S.C. 276h, clause 10 of rule I, and the order of the House of January 3, 2019, of the following Members on the part of the House to the Mexico-United States Intergovernmental Group:

Mr. McCaul, Texas
Mr. Duffy, Wisconsin
Mr. Hurd, Texas
Mr. Cloud, Texas
Mr. Spano, Florida

APPOINTMENT OF MEMBER TO BOARD OF VISITORS TO THE UNITED STATES COAST GUARD ACADEMY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair announces the Speaker’s appointment, pursuant to 14 U.S.C. 519 and the order of the House of January 3, 2019, of the following Member on the part of the House to the Board of Visitors to the United States Coast Guard Academy:

Mr. Rutherford, Florida

ISSUES OF THE DAY

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. Madam Speaker, so we just took up the humanitarian crisis that is going on at our border and passed the Senate bill, so there will be a tremendous amount of money that will be going to provide more beds, shelter, food, transportation, whatever is needed. The one thing that the Senate bill is especially void of is money to secure our border.

It is something to say that, with all of the problems in the Senate bill, the things that were not addressed in the Senate bill, the fact that it was so much better than the House bill says an awful lot about the House bill and its shortcomings.

We have, still, and will after this bill is signed into law and money is put into use, a crisis on our southern border.

As was pointed out to me after some of us visited Normandy with the Speaker on the 75th anniversary of D-Day, on D-Day, we had 150,000 or so Allied troops that invaded Normandy, over 150,000, a tremendous number, landing craft, parachuting. Yet just in the month of May, that is about how many invaded our southern border—that we caught. We don’t know how many didn’t get caught.

Some think that for every one we actually catch and in-process, there is one that gets away. We don’t know.

We know that there are a great number of people who are not caught because they are picked up on cameras
and with other information that is gleaned on the border. But it will continue to be a problem after this money is spent, and there is some concern—it is legitimate—that when you have what the civil litigation would indicate is an attractive nuisance—that is the terminology in a lawsuit—and you don't put up a fence, a wall, something to impede people from coming into property illegally, then, if they hurt themselves—and the example people think of is being a swimming pool or a pool or a pond.

If you have that water on your property, and you don't bother to put up a fence or a wall, and someone comes onto your property and drowns, you are going to end up paying a tremendous amount of money, normally, to the family of the person who is impeded and then drowned on your property when it was not properly secured with a fence or a wall.

That is not to say it has to be electrified or some kind of really intense structure. But you need to have something to impede someone from coming in and drowning in your water.

Now, the moment of silence earlier, most of us were deeply moved by the picture, horrendously tragic, of a child, who seemed to be so close, even sharing the father's shirt, with her little arm around his neck.

Having had girls growing up, that is an emotional picture for some of us especially.

But we have what most would say is the highest-evolved justice system, judicial system, litigation system in history. It has come through thousands of years of different types of laws, be them in the great book at the bust of Hammurabi, the Code of Hammurabi, the Justinian Code. We have a Napoleonic Code.

We have had thousands of years of laws, and the civil litigation in this country, as you can see, is at the most perfected—a long way from being perfect, but as perfected as it has ever been anywhere.

That is where this concept of attractive nuisance has evolved and arisen from. There is a responsibility when you know there is something so attractive that people will be tempted to break the law and enter that property illegally, potentially, to their own detriment.

What are you supposed to do if you are a caring individual in charge of property? You put up a fence or wall, just like our former President Obama did.

I understand he built a 10-foot wall around his home. That is a good, responsible thing to do. It was good enough for the President when he was in the White House to raise the height of the fence and wall around the White House, and it is good enough for the former president as he built a wall around his private residence.

It is a good, responsible thing to do by a responsible person in charge of property, not only to provide privacy, but also to keep people from being lured to their own detriment.

It is high time we address that on our southern border. There are very few people in this body, on either side of the aisle, who would say that we need to secure our border, that we can't keep having people pour into this country illegally.

But something strange has happened as our friends have taken over the majority. In the French Revolution, there was so much sentiment of getting revenge that it ended up culminating in an Emperor named Napoleon.

Some historians say that they think the big difference between the U.S. Revolution resulting in liberty and the French Revolution resulting in hundreds of thousands of heads being cut off was our Revolution was about liberty.

The Founding Fathers were not out there to cut off heads. They were out there to grab and preserve liberty, whereas in the French Revolution, there was so much sentiment of getting revenge that it ended up culminating in an Emperor named Napoleon.

We now seem to have so much animus and so much anger. There is some, from time to time, in this body. But some of the most vocal people pushing for impeachment, like my friend AL GREEN, he, literally, is a friend. He is a Christian brother. I disagree with him strongly on the need for impeachment, but I like the guy. He is my brother. I know he would not know he would not know he would not know he would not know he would not know he would not know he does unless he really believes it.

I would never wish harm on somebody that I cared about like that. We can disagree without being mean. Yet, too often now, that is being lost.

We have to preserve this place. We are about to recognize our anniversary, the Fourth of July, when the Declaration of Independence was made public. This needs to be a time of serious reflection.

It ought to include John Adams' encouragement to celebrate, have parades, enjoy families, enjoy the country. Of course, he says the firing of guns. We try not to do that. Instead, they use fireworks.

He knew there ought to be a celebration to remind us of the sacrifice, what was gained through that great sacrifice, and the responsibility that ensued, along with the liberty.

We should also remember the way they got to the Constitution was when Randolph, from Virginia, proposed that, after 5 weeks of yelling and fussing, that even though they didn't have money to hire a chaplain, why don't they take a few days off and gather together, on our Nation's Independence Day, at a local church there in Philadelphia. They ended up settling on the Reformed Calvinist Church, with the Right Reverend William Rogers presiding, and they worshipped God together. They were led in prayer by Reverend Rogers. They came back after that and gave us the most extraordinary founding document in the history of the world that we still use 232 years later. It was a time of reflection.

Unless we secure our border though, we will not be a shining light on a hill. We will be a transit station for people around the world to pass through, hoping for something great but, instead, only seeing a once-great country whose experiment in self-government was destroyed and too many feeling in too quickly, who did not know, as they hadn't been educated, how to go about preserving self-government.
My hope and prayer for this Independence Day is that we will return to an appreciation for the God from whom all blessings, all good things, flow. If we do that, we can preserve this place for generations to come.

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

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

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

1449. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency’s final rule — Air Plan Approval; California; Antelope Valley Air Quality Management District [EPA-R09-OAR-2018-0882; FRL-9994-20-Region 9] received June 25, 2019, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

1448. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency’s final rule — Air Plan Approval; California; Soledad Valley Air Quality Management District [EPA-R05-OAR-2018-0128; FRL-9995-50-Region 6] received June 25, 2019, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

1447. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency’s final rule — Air Plan Approval; California; San Joaquin Valley Air Quality Management District [EPA-R04-OAR-2018-0002; FRL-9995-50-Region 5] received June 25, 2019, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

1446. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency’s final rule — Air Plan Approval; California; Central Valley Air Quality Management District [EPA-R04-OAR-2018-0002; FRL-9995-50-Region 4] received June 25, 2019, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

1445. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency’s final rule — Ethiprole; Pesticide Tolerances [EPA-HQ-OPP-2018-0002; FRL-9995-36-Region 8] received June 25, 2019, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

1444. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency’s final rule — Air Plan Approval; Idaho; Bonneville County [EPA-HQ-OPP-2019-0801; FRL-9995-09-Region 3] received June 25, 2019, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

1443. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency’s final rule — Air Plan Approval; Idaho; Caribou County [EPA-HQ-OPP-2019-0801; FRL-9995-09-Region 3] received June 25, 2019, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

EXPENDITURE REPORTS CONCERNING OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL

Reports concerning the foreign currencies and U.S. dollars utilized for Official Foreign Travel during the second quarter of 2019, pursuant to Public Law 95-384, are as follows:

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, KATE KNUDSON WOLTERS, EXPENDED BETWEEN MAY 12 AND MAY 15, 2019

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name of Member or employee</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Per diem 1</th>
<th>Transportation</th>
<th>Other purposes</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Kate Knudson Wolters</td>
<td>5/13</td>
<td>France</td>
<td>$1,434.00</td>
<td>$1,475.53</td>
<td></td>
<td>$2,907.53</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Committee total</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>$1,434.00</td>
<td>$1,475.53</td>
<td></td>
<td>$2,907.53</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1 Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.
2 If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.

KATE KNUDSON WOLTERS, June 13, 2019.

ADJOURNMENT

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

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 5 o’clock and 57 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until tomorrow, Friday, June 28, 2019, at 3:30 p.m.
Protection Agency, transmitting the Department's final rule — Technical corrections to Marine Protection, Research, and San¬c¬tu¬a¬ries Act (MPSRA) regulations and dis¬posal under the MPA Data Act. (From: 63FR9965-28-0W (RIN: 2040-APF1) received June 25, 2019, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Natural Re¬sources.

1465. A letter from the Attorney-Adviser, Office of Regulations and Administrative Law, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Amendments to the Marine Defender Observer Refresher Training Regulations (Docket No.: USCG-2018-0009) (RIN: 1625-AC46) received June 25, 2019, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

1466. A letter from the Attorney-Advisor, Office of Regulations and Administrative Law, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's temporary final rule — Special Local Regulation: Upper Potomac River, National Harbor, MD (Docket Number: USCG-2018-0010) (RIN: 1625-AC52) received June 25, 2019, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.


REPORTS OF COMMITTEES ON PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XIII, reports of committees were delivered to the clerk for printing and reference to the proper calendar, as follows:

Mr. SMITH of Washington: Committee on Armed Services: Report of the House on the Supplemental Appropriations Act for FY 2019. H.R. 2500. A bill to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2020 for military activities of the Department of Defense and for military construction, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes (Rept. 116-148, Pt. 2).

Mr. McGOVERN: Committee on Rules: Summary of the Senate's Amended Text of House Resolution 93, providing for consideration of the Senate amendment to the bill (H.R. 3401) making emergency supplemental appropriations for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2019, and for other purposes (Rept. 116-130). Referred to the House Calendar.

Ms. JOHNSON of Texas: Committee on Science, Space, and Technology: H.R. 3196. A bill to direct the Director of the National Science Foundation to support research on opioid addiction, and for other purposes (Rept. 116-131). 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. 3196. A bill to direct the Director of the National Science Foundation to support research on opioid addiction, and for other purposes (Rept. 116-131). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union.

Ms. GIROJALA: Committee on Natural Resources: H.R. 1146. A bill to amend Public Law 115-97 (commonly known as the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act) to repeal the Permanent National Wildlife refuge oil and gas program, and for other purposes; with an amendment (Rept 116-133). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union.

Mr. GIROLALVA: Committee on Natural Resources: H.R. 2535. A bill to provide for an extension of the South Nacimiento lease in Siskiyou County, California, to enhance management of lands within the San Bernardino National Forest, and for other purposes (Rept 116-134). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union.

Mr. GIROLALVA: Committee on Natural Resources: H.R. 494. A bill to designate the Emancipation Trail as a National Historic Trail and for other purposes, with amendments (Rept 116-135). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union.

PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XII, public bills and resolutions of the following titles were introduced and severally referred, as follows:

By Ms. OPGREN (for herself, Mr. CORREIA, Mr. COX of California, Ms. DEAN, Mr. DESALVADOR, Ms. ESCORAH, Ms. ESHOO, Mr. ESPAILD, Mr. GARAMENDI, Ms. GARCIA of California, Mr. GASPAR, Mr. GOMES, Ms. JAYAPAL, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. KYHANNA, Mr. MACDONALD, Mr. NADLER, Ms. NORTON, Mr. RASKIN, Mr. ROYBAL-ALLARD, Ms. SCALION, SMITH of Washington, Mr. TONKO, Mr. WALCH, Mr. PETERS, and Ms. JUDY CHU of California): H.R. 3324. A bill to support the people of Central America and strengthen United States national security by addressing the root causes of migration from El Salvador, Guatemala and Honduras, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, and in addition to the Committees on the Judiciary, Education and Labor, Armed Services, Intelligence (Permanent Select), Financial Services, Homeland Security, Ways and Means, and Agriculture, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Ms. UNDERWOOD: H.R. 3325. A bill to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to direct the Commis¬sioner of Customs and Border Protec¬tion to establish uniform processes for medical screening of individuals interdicted between ports of entry, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security.

By Ms. UNDERWOOD (for herself and Mr. KATRO): H.R. 3326. A bill to authorize certain counter terrorist networks activities of the U.S. Customs and Border Protection, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security.

By Mr. WALBERG (for himself, Mr. KHISINAMOORTHI, Mr. GUTHRIE, and Mr. RUSH): H.R. 3327. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to assign the highest priority status for hospital care and medical services provided through the Department of Veterans Affairs to veterans who are former prisoners of war; to the Committee on Veterans’ Affairs.

By Mr. LIPINSKI: H.R. 3328. A bill to direct the Secretary of Commerce to study and facili¬tate the development of digital products for the public, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Oversight and Reform.

By Ms. WALTZ, Ms. SHALALA, Mr. SOTO, Mr. FITZPATRICK, Ms. KRINDA S. HORN of Oklahoma, Mr. GAETZ, Mr. DEUTCH, Mr. SPANO, Ms. MUCARSEL-Powell, Mr. MART, Mr. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, Mr. DIAZ-BALART, Mr. CRIST, Mr. RUTHERFORD, Mr. BUCHANAN, and Mr. YOHO): H.R. 3329. A bill to require the Secretary of Homeland Security to promptly notify appropriate State and local officials and Members of Congress if Federal officials have credible evidence of an unauthorized intru¬sion into an election system and a basis to believe that such intrusion could have re¬sulted in voter information being altered or otherwise affected, to require State and local officials to notify potentially affected indi¬viduals of such intrusion, and for other pur¬poses; to the Committee on House Administra¬tion.

By Mr. CLOUD (for himself, Mr. BEROMAN, and Mr. PETERSON): H.R. 3330. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to direct the Secretary of Vet¬erans Affairs to enforce the licensure re¬quirement for medical providers of the Depart¬ment of Veterans Affairs; to the Com¬mittee on Veterans’ Affairs.

By Mr. GRAVES of Missouri: H.R. 3331. A bill to amend the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency A¬id Act to allow the Administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency to provide capitalization grants to States to assist with extr¬ordinary uninsured and insuffi¬cient insurance losses and provide assist¬ance to the national interest of the United States, and for other purposes; to the Com¬mittee on Foreign Affairs, and in addition to the Committee on Ways and Means, for a pe¬riod to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdic¬tion of the committee concerned.

By Mrs. ROBY (for herself and Mr. COL¬LINS of Georgia): H.R. 3332. A bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to clarify the definition of crime of violence, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. RUSH (for himself, Mr. DAVID P. ROE of Tennessee, Ms. JUDY CHU of California, and Mr. DUNN): H.R. 3334. A bill to amend title IX of the Public Health Service Act to require the operation of the United States Preventive Services Task Force, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the domain of the committee concerned.

By Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois (for himself, Mr. DAVID P. ROE of Ten¬nessee, Mr. LOFTON, Mr. BOST, and Mr. TAYLOR):

H.R. 3335. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to improve the Work-Allowance program administered by the Sec¬retary of Veterans Affairs; to the Committee on Veterans’ Affairs.

By Mr. BACON (for himself, Mr. MOUNTON, Mr. CINNERS, and Mr. TAYLOR):
H.R. 3536. A bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to specify lynching as a deprivation of civil rights, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. ROITCHER (for himself and Mr. SPANO):

H.R. 3537. A bill to amend the Small Business Act to codify the Boots to Business Program, including for purposes; to the Committee on Small Business.

By Ms. SEWELL of Alabama (for herself and Mr. SMITH of Missouri):

H.R. 3538. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide for new markets tax credit investments in the Rural Jobs Zone; to the Ways and Means Committee.

By Mr. FERGUSON (for himself, Mr. BURKE, Mr. KENNEDY, and Mr. PAESTA):

H.R. 3539. A bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to direct the Secretary of Health and Human Services to develop best practices for the establishment and use of behavioral intervention teams at schools, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Ms. VELAZQUEZ:

H.R. 3540. A bill to ensure that certain loan programs of the Small Business Administration are made available to cannabis-related legitimate businesses and service providers, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Small Business, and in addition to the Committees on Energy and Commerce, Natural Resources, Agriculture, and the Judiciary, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. DELBENE (for himself, Mr. FITZPATRICK, and Mr. ROONEY of Florida):

H.R. 3541. A bill to amend the Coastal Zone Management Act of 1972 to require the Secretary of Commerce to establish a coastal climate change adaptation preparedness and response program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. GIANFORTE:

H.R. 3542. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to permanently extend the Indian coal production tax credit, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. GOLDEN:

H.R. 3543. A bill to ensure that certain entrepreneurial development services of the Small Business Administration are made available to cannabis-related legitimate businesses and service providers, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Small Business.

By Mr. EVANS:

H.R. 3544. A bill to decriminalize cannabis, to establish an Equitable Licensing Grant Program in the Small Business Administration, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on the Judiciary, Agriculture, Natural Resources, and Small Business, 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. BEYER (for himself and Mr. OLSON):

H.R. 3545. A bill to provide incentives for hate crime reporting, provide grants for State-run hate crime hotlines, and establish additional penalties for individuals convicted under the Matthew Shepard and James Byrd, Jr. Hate Crimes Prevention Act; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. BLUMENAUER:

H.R. 3546. A bill to eliminate Federal agencies from interfering with the marijuana policy of States; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on the Judiciary, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Ms. BONAMICI (for herself and Mr. PORTER):

H.R. 3547. A bill to amend the Consumer Financial Protection Act of 2010 to establish the position of the Assistant Director and Student Loan Ombudsman of the Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection, to establish the Office for Students and Young Consumers of the Bureau, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary, and in addition to the Committee on Financial Services, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Ms. BONAMICI (for herself and Mr. YOUNG):

H.R. 3548. A bill to improve data collection and monitoring of the Great Lakes, oceans, bays, estuaries, and coasts, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Ms. BROWNLEY of California:

H.R. 3550. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to repeal the limitation on deductions for personal casualty losses; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Ms. BROWNLEY of California;

H.R. 3550. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend the work opportunity credit for hiring veterans, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. CASTRO of Texas:

H.R. 3551. A bill to ensure that Members of Congress have access to Federal facilities in order to exercise their constitutional oversight responsibilities; to the Committee on Oversight and Reform.

By Mr. CICILLINE (for himself, Ms. WILSON of Florida, Mr. KANNA, Ms. NORTON, Ms. HAYES, Mr. SHERS, Ms. MILLER, Mr. LEVIN of Michigan, Mr. SMITH of Washington, Ms. MUCARESE-POWELL, Mr. DESAULNIER, Ms. GARCIA of Texas, Ms. NEUSE, Mr. CASE, Mr. HASTINGS, Ms. MENG, and Ms. BROWNLEY of California):

H.R. 3552. A bill to amend the NICS Improvement Amendments Act of 2007 to provide notification to relevant law enforcement agencies in the event that a background check conducted by the National Instant Criminal Background Check System determines that a person may not receive a firearm, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. CICILLINE (for himself, Mr. WILSON of Florida, Mr. KANNA, Ms. NORTON, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mrs. WATTS-COLEMAN, Ms. HAYES, Mr. ROSE of New York, Mr. CINSEKOS, Ms. SHALALA, Ms. HILL of California, Mr. LEVIN of Michigan, Mr. SMITH of Georgia, Ms. BROWN of New Jersey, Ms. MUCARESE-POWELL, Mr. DESAULNIER, Ms. GARCIA of Texas, Ms. KELLY of Illinois, Mr. NEUSE, Mr. CASE, Mr. HASTINGS, Ms. MILLER, Mr. SHERS, Mr. LARSON of Connecticut, Ms. LIGHTWELL, Ms. MOORE, and Ms. BROWNLEY of California):

H.R. 3553. A bill to amend chapter 4 of title 18, United States Code, to ensure that all firearms are traceable, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. CICILLINE (for himself, Ms. WILSON of Florida, Mr. KANNA, Ms. NORTON, Mrs. HAYES and Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Ms. MUCARESE-POWELL, Mr. DESAULNIER, Ms. GARCIA of Texas, Ms. KELLY of Illinois, Mr. NEUSE, Mr. HASTINGS, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. SHERS, Mr. LARSON of Connecticut, Mr. LOWENTHAL, Ms. MOORE, and Ms. BROWNLEY of California):

H.R. 3554. A bill to incentivize State reporting systems that allow mental health professionals to submit information on certain individuals for purposes of prohibiting firearm possession by such individuals, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary, and in addition to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts (for herself, Mr. DAVIES of Kansas, Ms. RICE of New York, Mr. LOWENTHAL, Ms. NORTON, and Mr. BLUMENAUER):

H.R. 3555. A bill to amend the Department of Education Organizational Act and the Higher Education Act of 1965 to require publication of information relating to religious exemptions to the requirements of title IX of the Education Amendments Act of 1972, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and Labor.

By Mr. CRIST (for himself and Mr. RENZI):

H.R. 3556. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide a reduced excise tax rate for portable, electronically-aerated building containers; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Ms. DELBENE:

H.R. 3557. A bill to prohibit the imposition of duties on the importation of goods under the International Emergency Economic Powers Act; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, and in addition to the Committee on Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. ENGEL (for himself and Mr. KING of New York):

H.R. 3558. A bill to direct the Secretary of Health and Human Services to conduct a study on the state of hospital infrastructure in the United States, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. ESPAILLAT (for himself and Mr. COOK):

H.R. 3559. A bill to control the export of electronic waste in order to prevent such waste does not become the source of counterfeit goods that may reenter military and civilian electronics supply chains in the United States, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Mr. FORTENBERRY:

H.R. 3560. A bill to provide assistance for the operation of the Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail Visitor Center in Nebraska, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. FOSTER (for himself, Mr. HUZIZENGA, Mr. MCDAMES, and Mr. ROYBAL-CASTELLO):

H.R. 3561. A bill to amend the Financial Stability Act of 2010 to require the Financial Stability Oversight Council to consider alternative approaches before determining that a U.S. nonbank financial company shall be supervised by the Board of Governors of
By Mr. FUDGE (for herself and Mr. RAHALL of West Virginia): H.R. 3562. A bill to amend the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act to realign the food and other nutrition programs for purposes; to the Committee on Education and Labor.

By Ms. GARCIA of Texas (for herself, Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York, Ms. NORTON, Mr. ESPAILLAT, Mrs. KIRKPATRICK, Mr. CARSON of Indiana, Mr. GELFALVA, Ms. ESCOBAR, Mr. LOUISE, Mr. WATT, Ms. SHALALA, Ms. CHAKRABORTY, Mr. MCDERMOTT, Ms. SLSAVER, Mr. TAYLOR, Mr. TIERNEY, Mr. FLORES): H.R. 3563. A bill to ensure the humane treatment of pregnant women by reinstating the presumption of release and prohibiting shackling of pregnant detainees, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. GOSAR: H.R. 3564. A bill to amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to eliminate the Optional Practical Training Program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. GOSAR (for himself, Mr. MEADOWS, Mr. ROGERS, Mr. HARRIS, Mrs. RODONES of Washington, and Mr. GOMRICH): H.R. 3565. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide that eligibility to contribute to health savings accounts is not affected by receipt of, or payment for, hospital care or medical services under any law administered by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs for both service connected and non-service connected disabilities to include hospital care and medical services and extended care services; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. HILL of Arkansas (for himself, Mr. ROUZÓ, Mr. FLORES, Mr. ALLEN, and Mr. DAVIDSON of Ohio): H.R. 3566. A bill to help individuals receiving disability insurance benefits under title II of the Social Security Act obtain rehabilitative services and return to the workforce, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Ms. HOULAHAN: H.R. 3567. A bill to modify the requirements relating to the acquisition and disposal of certain rare earth materials, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. KATKO (for himself and Mr. SEAN PATRICK MALONEY of New York): H.R. 3568. A bill to require States to carry out congressional redistricting in accordance with plans developed and enacted into law by independent redistricting commissions, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. LUYÁN (for himself, Ms. HALLAHA, and Mr. TORRES SMALL of New Mexico): H.R. 3569. A bill to increase research, education, and treatment for cerebral cavernous malformations; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. KENNEDY (for himself and Ms. PRESSLEY): H.R. 3569. A bill to provide grants to States to encourage the implementation and maintenance of fire prevention requirements and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. TED LIEU of California (for himself, Ms. BASS, Mr. BERA, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Ms. BONAMICI, Ms. BROWNLEY of California, Mr. BRUCE, Mr. KELLY of Illinois, Mr. CLARKE of New York, Mr. COHEN, Mr. CORREA, Mr. CRIST, Mr. DEFAZIO, Ms. DEGETTE, Ms. DELAUNOY, Mr. DEMINGS, Mr. ESPAILLAT, Mr. FOSTER, Mr. GARAMendi, Mr. HASTINGS, Mr. HIGGINS of New York, Mr. HUFFMAN, Mr. JEFFRIES, Mr. KELLY of Utah, Mr. KILMER, Mr. KRISHNAmoorthy, Mr. KUSTER of New Hampshire, Mr. LANGEVIN, Mr. LOWENTHAL, Mr. LOWEY, Mrs. GONZALEZ of New York, Ms. MCCOLLUM, Mr. MEeks, Ms. MENG, Mr. MOORE, Mr. MORELLE, Mr. MOULTON, Ms. MUCABSEL-Powell, Mrs. MURPHY, Mr. NORTON, Mr. O’HALLERAN, Mr. PANETTA, Mr. PAPPAS, Mr. PETERS, Mr. POCAN, Mr. RASKIN, Miss RICE of New York, Mr. RUEDA, Mr. RUSH, Mr. SCALZI, Mr. SCHIFF, Mr. SCHNEIDER, Mr. SHELTER, Mr. SOTO, Ms. SPRING, Mr. SUOZZI, Ms. SWALWELL of California, Ms. TUökU, Ms. TUCKER, Ms. UNDERW ood, Ms. VELAZQUEZ, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN, and Mr. WELSH): H.R. 3570. A bill to require States to carry out and commercial sexual orientation conversion therapy, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. TED LIEU of California (for himself and Mr. WILSON of South Carolina): H.R. 3571. A bill to establish an Office of Subnational Diplomacy within the Department of State, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Ms. LOPORTO (for herself, Ms. BROWNELY of California, Mr. LOWENTHAL, Mr. PETERS, Mr. THOMPson of California, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Mr. VARGAS, Mr. DIASAINBER, Mrs. TURES of California, Mr. CÁRDENAS, Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD, Mr. CORRERA, Mr. GARAMENDI, Ms. MTSUI, Mr. TAKANO, Mr. COX of California, Ms. PORTER, Mr. CARBAJAL, Mr. GOMEZ, Mr. SCHIFF, Mr. ROUDA, Mr. SWALWELL of California, Mr. PED LEY of California, Mr. SEALS of California, Mr. SUOZZI, Mr. BARR, Mr. MANZUCCO, Mr. RUIZ, Ms. SPEIER, Mr. HARDER of California, Mr. McNERNEY, and Mr. LEVIN of California): H.R. 3572. A bill to require States to carry out congressional redistricting in accordance with plans developed and enacted into law by independent redistricting commissions, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. LÚJÁN (for himself, Ms. HALLAHA, and Mr. TORRES SMALL of New Mexico): H.R. 3573. A bill to increase research, education, and treatment for cerebral cavernous malformations; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. LUYÁN (for himself and Mr. SEAN PATRICK MALONEY of New York, Mr. PAYNE, and Miss RICE of New York): H.R. 3574. A bill to amend the Energy Policy Act of 2005 to require the establishment of a small business voucher program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. LUYÁN (for himself and Mr. WILSON of South Carolina, Mr. LIPINSKI, Mr. REED of California, Mr. PORTENBERY, Mr. FLISCHMANN, Mr. BILIRAKIS, Mr. McKENNEY, Mr. MCKINLEY, Mr. SENSENBERNER, Mr. CASTEN of Illinois, Mr. TONKO, and Mr. FITZPATRICK): H.R. 3575. A bill to establish the IMPACT for Every Family Foundation to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology, and in addition to the Committee on Ways and Means, and in addition to the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. LYNCH (for himself and Mr. RICE of Georgia): H.R. 3576. A bill to reestablish the Commission on Wartime Contracting, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Armed Services, 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. MCDAMS: H.R. 3577. A bill to authorize the United States Postal Service to provide certain non-postal property, products, and services on behalf of State, local, and tribal governments; to the Committee on Oversight and Reform.

By Ms. MENGE (for herself, Mr. SERRANO, Ms. VELAZQUEZ, Mr. NADLER, Mrs. CÁRDENAS of New York, Miss RICE of New York, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Ms. NORTON, and Mr. MCDAMS): H.R. 3578. A bill to direct the Secretary of Education to establish and carry out a grant program to make grants to eligible institutions of higher education to plan and implement programs that provide comprehensive support services and resources designed to increase transfer and graduation rates at community colleges, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and Labor.

By Ms. MENGE (for herself, Mr. ROSE of New York, Mr. ESPAILLAT, Mr. SEAN PATRICK MALONEY of New York, Mr. PAYNE, and Miss RICE of New York): H.R. 3579. A bill to direct the Postmaster General to conduct a study on retrofitting mail collection boxes with narrow mail slots to prevent theft of mail, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Oversight and Reform.

By Mr. NORMAN (for himself and Mr. PALMER): H.R. 3580. A bill to amend title XIX of the Social Security Act and Public Health Service Act to improve the reporting of abortion data to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and for other purposes; to the Committees on Energy and Commerce.

By Ms. NORTON: H.R. 3581. A bill to revise the composition of the Board of Zoning Adjustment for the District of Columbia so that the Board will consist solely of members appointed by the government of the District of Columbia, except when the Board is performing functions regarding an application by a foreign mission with respect to a chancery; to the Committee on Oversight and Reform.

By Mr. PAPPAS: H.R. 3582. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to expand the scope of the Advisory Committee on Minority Veterans, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans’ Affairs.

By Mr. PERRY (for himself, Mr. GOMéRICE, Mr. LUCAS of Georgia, Mr. SENSENBERNER, Mr. GOsIN of Arizona, Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania): H.R. 3583. A bill to amend section 116 of title 18, United States Code, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. PETERS (for himself, Mr. PARCELL, Mr. HUDSON, Mr. HOLDING, and Mr. SCHRADER):
H.R. 3584. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for certain amendments relating to reporting requirements with respect to clinical diagnostic laboratories, for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on Ways and Means, for purposes related to enlisting certain aliens in the Armed Forces; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. RUTHERFORD (for himself, Mr. LAWSON of Florida, Mrs. MURPHY, Mr. SOTO, Mr. CHRIST, Ms. CASTOR of Florida, Mr. HASTINGS, Mr. MCURCIEL-Powell, Mr. GARTZ, Mr. Yoho, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, Mr. POSEY, Mr. BILLIKIS, Mr. SPANO, Mr. BORENSTEIN, Mr. MAHFFETTE of Florida, and Mr. WALZ):

H.R. 3585. A bill to provide for a moratorium on oil and gas leasing and exploration on the outer Continental Shelf off the coast of Florida until 2026, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Ms. SCIACCA (for himself, Mr. FLORES, Mr. CORREIA, Mr. PETTENSON, and Mr. O'HALLERAN):

H.R. 3586. A bill to promote energy savings in residential and commercial buildings, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. SCHWEIKERT (for himself, Mr. FRENDAN F. BOYLE of Pennsylvania, and Mrs. FLETCHER):

H.R. 3587. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to modify the effective date for the modification to net operating loss deductions in Public Law 115-97; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Ms. SPENCER (for herself, Mr. MEADOWS, Mr. COX of California, and Ms. ESHOO):

H.R. 3588. A bill to require the Secretary of Defense to establish an initiative on improving the capacity of military criminal investigative organizations to prevent child sexual exploitation, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. THOMPSON of California (for himself, Mr. BLUMENAUER, and Mr. GONZALEZ of California):

H.R. 3589. A bill to award a Congressional Gold Medal to Greg LeMond, in recognition of his service to his nation as an athlete, activist, and model for the broader community; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Ms. TLAIB (for herself, Mr. GILLUM, Mr. MALONEY of New York, Mr. LOWENSTHAL, Mrs. HAYES, Mr. CARSON of Indiana, Mr. CICLINE, Ms. WESTON, Ms. VELAZQUEZ, Mr. ENGEL, Mr. CISNEROS, Ms. MOORE, Mr. MCCGOVERN, Mr. POCAN, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Ms. TTIS, Mr. SOTO, and Mr. QUIGLEY):

H.R. 3590. A resolution recognizing the sense of the House of Representatives that the Secretary of Defense should review section 504 of title 10, United States Code, for purposes related to enlisting certain aliens in the Armed Forces; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Ms. HAALAND (for herself, Mr. NADLER, Mr. GRJALVA, Mr. PAPPAS, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York, Mr. LOWENSTHAL, Mrs. HAYES, Mr. CARSON of Indiana, Mr. CICLINE, Ms. WESTON, Ms. VELAZQUEZ, Mr. ENGEL, Mr. CISNEROS, Ms. MOORE, Mr. MCCGOVERN, Mr. POCAN, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Ms. TTIS, Mr. SOTO, and Mr. QUIGLEY):

H.R. 3591. A resolution expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that the Secretary of Defense should review section 504 of title 10, United States Code, for purposes related to enlisting certain aliens in the Armed Forces; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. LEVIN of California (for himself, Mr. GIANFORTE, Mr. ROUDA, and Mr. COX of California):

H.R. 3592. A resolution expressing support for the designation of October 1, 2019, as "National Health Literacy Day" to recognize the importance of health literacy in transforming and improving health and health care for all people in the United States; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. MOOLENAAR (for himself and Mr. LIPINSKI):

H.R. 3593. A resolution expressing support for the designation of 2019 as the "International Year of the Periodic Table of Chemical Elements"; to the Committee on Oversight and Reform.

By Ms. SPEIER (for herself, Mr. HASTING, Mr. BUSTOS, Mr. MCCGOVERN, Mr. THOMPSON of California, Ms. TTIS, Mr. CARTWRIGHT, Mr. TAKANO, Ms. DELBIENCE, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mrs. DAVIS of California, Mr. JOY Chu of California, Mrs. NAPOLYANO, Mr. SQUIRES, Mr. CONNOLLY, Mr. CASTRO of Texas, Mr. MCMENAMY, Mr. ESPAILLAT, Mr. JACKSON Lee, Mr. COSTA, Ms. DE LAURO, Mr. RASKIN, Mr. MALINOWSKI, Mr. DESAULNIER, Mr. MORELLE, Mr. CASTEN of Illinois, Ms. BASS, Mr. VARGAS, Ms. GARDEMANN, Mr. GALLEGLY, Mr. KRAHAN, Mr. CINUNIES, and Mr. DEFAZIO):

H. Res. 472. A resolution requesting the President to strongly condemn Jamal Khashoggi’s killing, hold accountable individuals identified as culpable, and condemn imprisonment of and violence against journalists around the world; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY STATEMENT

Pursuant to clause 7 of rule XII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the following statements are submitted regarding the specific powers granted to Congress in the Constitution to enact the accompanying bill or joint resolution.

By Ms. LOFGREN:

H.R. 3524. Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, clause 4 provides Congress with the power to establish a "uniform system of public accounts." By Ms. UNDERWOOD:

H.R. 3525. Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, clause 14 provides Congress with the power to establish a "uniform system of public accounts." By Mr. WALBERG:

H.R. 3527. Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clauses 12, 14, and 18 of the Constitution of the United States; the authority to raise and support an army, to make rules for the government and regulation of the land and naval forces and to make all laws which shall be necessary and proper carrying into execution the foregoing powers. By Mr. LIPINSKI:

H.R. 3528. Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, clause 18 of the Constitution of the United States. By Mr. MURPHY:

H.R. 3529. Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 4 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. CLOUD:

H.R. 3530. Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

The Congress shall have power to make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers; and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department of Officer thereof.

By Mr. GRAVES of Missouri:

H.R. 3531. Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, of the United States Constitution, specifically Clause 1 (relating to providing for the common defense and general welfare of the United States) and Clause 3 (related to regulation of Commerce with foreign Nations, and among the several States, and with Indian tribes) and Clause 18 (relating to the power to make all laws necessary and proper for carrying out the powers vested in Congress).

By Mr. GREEN of Tennessee:

H.R. 3532. Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 18 of the United States Constitution.

By Ms. ROBY:

H.R. 3533. Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8 of the Constitution of the United States Constitution. By Mr. RUSH:

H.R. 3534. Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8 of the Constitution of the United States Constitution.
By Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois:
H.R. 3535.
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. [Page H27118]
By Mr. RON LOYD:
H.R. 3536.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8, Clause 18
By Mr. BACON:
H.R. 3537.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8, Clause 18
By Ms. SEWELL of Alabama:
H.R. 3538.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8, Clause 1 of the Constitution of the United States
By Mr. FERGUSON:
H.R. 3539.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8 of the Constitution of the United States
By Ms. VELÁZQUEZ:
H.R. 3540.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8, Clause 1 "The Congress shall have Power to . . . provide for the general welfare of the United States; . . ." By Mr. CARBAJAL:
H.R. 3541.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article IV, Section 3, Clause 2
By Mr. GIANFORTI:
H.R. 3542.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8, Clause 1 "The Congress shall have Power to . . . provide for the . . . general Welfare of the United States; . . ." By Mr. EVANS:
H.R. 3543.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8, Clause 1, whereby Congress shall have the power to provide for the . . . general welfare of the United States
By Mr. BEYER:
H.R. 3544.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8, Clause 1 "The Congress shall have Power to . . . provide for the general Welfare of the United States; . . ." By Ms. BROWNLEY of California:
H.R. 3545.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8, Clause 1 By Ms. BROWNLEY of California:
H.R. 3549.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8, Clause 18 of the United States Constitution.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Amendment XVI of the U.S. Constitution
By Ms. BROWNLEY of California:
H.R. 3550.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Amendment XVI of the U.S. Constitution
By Mr. CASTRO of Texas:
H.R. 3551.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
THE U.S. CONSTITUTION
ARTICLE I, SECTION 8: POWERS OF CONGRESS
CLAUSE 18
The Congress shall have power . . . To make all laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into execution the foregoing powers, and all other powers vested by this Constitution in the government of the United States, or in any department or officer thereof.
By Mr. CICILLINE:
H.R. 3552.
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. CICILLINE:
H.R. 3553.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8 of the Constitution of the United States.
By Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts:
H.R. 3554.
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. CRIST:
H.R. 3555.
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. 3556.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 1
By Mr. ESPAILLAT:
H.R. 3557.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article One of the United States Constitution.
The Congress shall have Power—To make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof or Article One of the United States Constitution, section 8, clause 18: The Congress shall have Power—To regulate Commerce with foreign Nations, and among the several States, and with the Indian tribes.
By Mr. PORTENBERRY:
H.R. 3559.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
The constitutional authority for this bill is pursuant to Article I, Section 8, Clause 18 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. FOSTER:
H.R. 3561.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
This bill is enacted pursuant to the power granted to Congress under Article I, Section 8, Clauses 1 and 18 of the United States Constitution.
By Ms. FUDGE:
H.R. 3562.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8, clause 3 provides Congress with the power to "regulate commerce with foreign nations, and among the several states, and with the Indian tribes."
By Ms. GARCIA of Texas:
H.R. 3563.
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. GOSAR:
H.R. 3564.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I Section 8 of the U.S. Constitution
By Mr. GOSAR:
H.R. 3565.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8, clause 1
By Ms. HOULAHAN:
H.R. 3566.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8, clause 1
By Mr. KATKO:
H.R. 3568.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Section 8, Clause 1 of the U.S. Constitution
By Mr. KENNEDY:
H.R. 3569.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8—to provide for the general welfare and to regulate commerce among the states.
By Mr. TED LIEU of California:
H.R. 3570.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Under Article I, Section 8, Clause 3 of the Constitution, Congress has the power to collect taxes and expend funds to provide for the general welfare of the United States. Congress may also make laws that are necessary and proper for carrying into execution their powers enumerated under Article I.
By Mr. TED LIEU of California:
H.R. 3571.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8
By Ms. LOFGREN:
H.R. 3572.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 4 of the Constitution of the United States gives Congress the power to enact laws governing the time, place, and manner of elections for Members of the House of Representatives.
Section 5 of the Fourteenth Amendment to the Constitution gives Congress the power to enact laws to enforce Section 2 of such Amendment, which requires Representatives to be apportioned among the several States according to their number.
By Mr. LUCAN:
H.R. 3573.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 18 of the U.S. Constitution.

By Mr. RUTHERFORD:

H.R. 1059: Mr. GALLAGHER.

H.R. 808: Mr. SIMPSON.

H.R. 748: Mr. Olson and Ms. Dean.

H.R. 688: Mr. Dunn.

H.R. 674: Mr. Vargas, Mr. Newhouse, Mr. Lamb, and Mrs. McNairy.

H.R. 649: Mr. Allred.

H.R. 712: Ms. DelBene and Mr. King of New York.

H.R. 748: Mr. Olson and Ms. Dean.

H.R. 808: Mr. Simpson.

H.R. 688: Mr. Dunn.

H.R. 674: Mr. Vargas, Mr. Newhouse, Mr. Lamb, and Mrs. McNairy.

H.R. 649: Mr. Allred.

H.R. 712: Ms. DelBene and Mr. King of New York.

H.R. 1146: Mr. Craig, Mr. Phillips, Mr. Kildee, and Mr. Foster.

H.R. 1055: Mr. Shears.

H.R. 1154: Ms. Underwood and Mr. Neguse.

H.R. 1155: Ms. Sherrill.

H.R. 1175: Mr. Lamb and Mr. Pocan.

H.R. 1228: Mr. Allred.

H.R. 1245: Ms. Schakowsky.

H.R. 1274: Ms. Roybal-Allard, Ms. Meng, Ms. Adams, and Mr. Cummings.

H.R. 1301: Mr. Kilmer.

H.R. 1311: Mr. LaMalfa and Mr. Crenshaw.

H.R. 1317: Mr. Hastings.

H.R. 1327: Mr. Hoefs, Ms. Pelosi, and Mr. Fortenberry.

H.R. 1342: Mr. Welch.

H.R. 1371: Mr. Palmer.

H.R. 1396: Ms. Murphy, Mr. Roy, Mr. Reed, Mrs. Hartzler, Mr. Hufman, Mr. Brindisi, Mr. Thompson of California, Mr. Thompson of Pennsylvania, and Ms. Herrera Beutler.

H.R. 1406: Mr. Clay.

H.R. 1423: Mr. Larsen of Washington.

H.R. 1441: Mrs. Løsko and Mr. Ratcliffe.

H.R. 1471: Mr. Soto, Mr. Jackson Lee, Ms. Houlanah, Ms. Kendra S. Horn of Oklahoma, Mr. DeFazio, and Mr. Van Drew.

H.R. 1529: Mr. Griffith.

H.R. 1530: Mr. Olson and Mr. DeSaulnier.

H.R. 1534: Mr. Speier.

H.R. 1549: Mr. Meeks.

H.R. 1554: Mr. Bingham F. Boyle of Pennsylvania, Mr. King of New York, and Mr. David Scott of Georgia.

H.R. 1570: Mr. Harder of California, Mr. DeSaulnier, and Mrs. Fletcher.

H.R. 1629: Mr. Phillips, Ms. Tlaib, Mr. Wilson of South Carolina, and Mr. Lipinski.

H.R. 1641: Mr. Luetkemeyer, Mr. Gibbs, Mr. Crow, and Mrs. Hager.

H.R. 1642: Mr. Kustoff of Tennessee.

H.R. 1652: Ms. Judy Chu of California, Mr. Himes, and Mr. Heck.

H.R. 1679: Mr. Amodei, Mr. King of New York, Mr. CarrajaI, and Ms. Norton.

H.R. 1683: Mr. Green of Tennessee.

H.R. 1692: Mr. Courtney.

H.R. 1695: Mr. Calvert and Mrs. Lawrence.

H.R. 1696: Mr. Pappas.

H.R. 1709: Ms. Waters.

H.R. 1728: Mr. Dunn, Mr. King of New York, and Mr. Gosar.

H.R. 1740: Mr. Dunn.

H.R. 1746: Mr. Wexton.

H.R. 1749: Mr. Meadows and Mr. Fitzpatrick.

H.R. 1753: Mr. Palazzo.

H.R. 1762: Mr. Bishop of Utah, Mr. Himes, and Ms. Kuster of New Hampshire.

H.R. 1767: Mr. Kilmer.

H.R. 1778: Mr. Carriker.

H.R. 1777: Mr. Luetkemeyer.

H.R. 1771: Ms. Porter.

H.R. 1773: Ms. Wexton, Mr. Cooper, Mr. Schiff, Mr. Green of Texas, Ms. Ocasio-Cortez, Mr. Kim, Ms. Espino, Mr. Keating, Mrs. Lawrence, Mr. Crist, Ms. Pingree, Mr. Loesback, Ms. Wasserbman Schultz, Ms. Kilmer, Ms. Matsui, Mrs. Luria, Mr. Costa, Mr. Garamendi, Mrs. Bratton, Mr. Pallone, Mr. Connolly, Ms. Castor of Florida, Ms. Hill of California, Mr. Porter, Ms. Schrier, Ms. Scanlon, Ms. Rose of New York, Ms. Barragan, Mr. Torres of California, Ms. Velázquez, Mr. Tonko, Mr. Krishnamoorthi, Ms. Tlaib, Mr. Gallego, Mr. Sean Patrick Maloney of New York, Ms. Jackson Lee, Mr. Davis of California, Ms. Wild, Mrs. Lisa of Nevada, Mr. Ted Lieu of California, Mr. Deutch, Mr. CaráNenas, Ms. Clarke of New York, and Ms. Loebsack.

H.R. 1837: Mr. Handley, Mr. Clay, Mr. Newhouse, Mrs. Murphy, Mr. Bain, Mr. Schrier, Ms. Bonamici, Mr. David Scott of...
The Senate met at 9:30 a.m. and was called to order by the President pro tempore (Mr. GRASSLEY).

**PRAYER**

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Eternal Lord, the center of our joy, we come to You, drawn by Your unconditional love. Lord, give us reverential awe as You open our eyes to see Your power and majesty.

Help our lawmakers become aware of Your presence, giving them Your peace and illuminating their paths. May they rejoice because You are their refuge. Lord, bless their families, surrounding them with the shield of Your favor. Draw our Senators close to You and to one another in humility and service.

And, Lord, we thank You for the faithfulness of the 2019 U.S. Senate summer pages as they prepare to leave us. We pray that You would bless and keep them. Amen.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

The President pro tempore led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. Tillis). The Senator from Iowa.

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to speak for 90 seconds as in morning business.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

**ALZHEIMER’S AND BRAIN AWARENESS MONTH**

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, June is Alzheimer’s and Brain Awareness Month.

It is important to recognize the impact Alzheimer’s has on families in Iowa and across the country and to recognize the cost to taxpayers because of the care it takes in the last years of their lives. This disease robs Americans of their memories and impacts their ability to speak, pay attention, and exercise judgment.

The best way for Congress to help with Alzheimer’s disease is to ensure adequate research funding to find treatments. As Congress considers appropriations for next year, we should continue to fund research and work toward curing this disease.

**FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT**

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, on another point, the Supreme Court made a decision this week that I very much disagree with. I am an advocate for the Freedom of Information Act and for the public’s business being public, and this Supreme Court decision inhibited that.

In a self-governed society, the people ought to know what their government is up to. Transparency laws, like the Freedom of Information Act, help to provide access to information in the face of an opaque and obstinate government. Unfortunately, a recent Supreme Court ruling and new regulations at the EPA and the Department of the Interior are undermining access to the public information.

In other words, the public’s business ought to be public. So I am working on legislation to address these developments and to promote access to government records. Americans deserve an accountable government, and transparency leads to accountability.

**TRIBUTE TO NICK NURSE**

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, on a little lighter note, I am proud to say that the NBA season concluded with a Toronto Raptors’ head coach, Nick Nurse, graduated from my alma mater. He played for the University of Northern Iowa Panthers from 1985 to 1989. Nick went on to coach numerous teams, including for Grand View University in Des Moines. Nick knows how to reignite hometown pride. He led the first and only boys’ Class 3-A championship for Kuemper Catholic High School in Carroll, IA. He is a class act. Congratulations to Nick.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

**RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER**

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, 8 weeks ago, the administration sent Congress an urgent request for humanitarian money for the border. For 8 weeks, we have seen evidence nearly every day that the conditions have been getting worse. Yet, during all of this time, our Democratic House colleagues have been unable to produce a clean measure to provide this humanitarian funding with its having any chance of becoming law.

The proposal they finally passed this week was way to the left of the mainstream. The President made it clear it would earn a veto, not a signature. Even so, in an abundance of fairness, the Senate voted on Speaker PELOSI’s effort—poison pill riders and all. It earned just 37 votes. The House proposal earned 37 votes here. Fortunately, we do have a chance to make...
law this week on a hugely bipartisan basis.

The Senate advanced a clean, simple humanitarian funding bill yesterday by a huge margin. Thanks to Chairman SHELBY and Senator LEAHY, this bipartisan bill passed the Appropriations Committee 30 to 1, and it passed the full Senate yesterday—now listen to this—84 to 0. We sent that clean bill over to the House by a vote of 84 to 0. The Shelby-Leahy legislation has unified the Appropriations Committee, and it has unified the Administration. The Administration would sign it into law.

So all that our House colleagues need to do is help the men, women, and children on the border this week is to pass this unifying bipartisan bill and send it to the President. For weeks, we have heard our House Democratic colleagues speaking a lot about the poor conditions, the overstretched facilities, the insufficient supplies. Our bill gives them the chance today to actually do something about it.

Now, I understand that instead of moving forward with this bipartisan bill, the Speaker is signaling she may choose to drag out the process even more and might persist in some variety of the leftwing demands that caused the House bill to fail dramatically in the Senate yesterday. I understand that some of the further changes the House Democrats are discussing may be unobjectionable things the Trump administration may be able to help to secure for them administratively.

Yet it is crystal clear that some of these new demands would drag this bipartisan bill way back to the left and jeopardize the Shelby-Leahy consensus product that unified the Senate and that is so close to becoming law—this close.

For example, I understand that the House Democrats may ask the Speaker to include in this—cutting off supplemental funding for Immigration and Customs Enforcement and the Department of Defense. In the middle of this historic surge on the border, they want to claw back some of this badly needed money from the men and women who are down there on the frontlines. It looks like these cuts would represent pay cuts to ICE staff, including pay that people have already earned, and cuts to the money for in...
The Udall amendment would require the administration to secure explicit authorization from Congress before our forces would be able to respond to all kinds of potential Iranian attacks. That would include attacks on American civilians, our diplomatic facilities, or Israeli defense forces in any way or partner, or if Iran closes the Strait of Hormuz. In all of these scenarios, the Udall amendment would hamstring the executive branch from reacting quickly. In modern warfare, time is of the essence. The War Powers Resolution explicitly recognizes the reality that administrations may need to respond quickly and with flexibility.

This amendment could even constrain our military from acting to prevent imminent attack. As written, it appears to suggest they must absorb the attack, take the attack first before defending themselves. And even then, for how long would they be allowed to conduct retaliatory strikes? Completely absurd. Totally dangerous.

Let’s take an example: Iran attacks Israel. No timely response from the United States, especially if Congress happens to be on recess. Iran attacks American citizens. The President’s hands would be tied. This is never how the American Presidency has worked, for a very good reason.

So I would ask my colleagues to stop obsessing about Donald Trump for a moment and think about a scenario involving a future or past President. Hypothetically, then, would it be appropriate for Congress to tie a President’s hands with legislation preventing military action to defend NATO allies from a Russian attack without explicit congressional authorization? If conflict came in August and the United States and its NATO allies didn’t act decisively, frontline states could be gobbled up before Congress could even convene to consider an AUMF.

The Udall amendment would represent a huge departure from the basic flexibility that Presidents in both parties have always had to take immediate military steps, short of a full-scale war, to respond to immediate crises.

This ploy is being advertised as some kind of courageous reassertion by Congress of our constitutional authority, but it is nothing of the sort. It is a departure from our constitutional traditions and norms.

No, it is talking about a full-scale war with Iran—not the President; not the administration. Heaven forbid, if that situation were to arrive, consultation with Congress and widespread public support for sending our armed forces of any kind to that region. The Udall amendment is something completely different. It defines self-defense in a laughably narrow way and then in all other situations proposes that President Trump should be stripped of the basic powers of his office unless Democrats in Congress write him a permission slip. I don’t think so.

This would be a terrible idea at any moment, but also as Iran is escalating its violence and searching for any sign of American weakness.

So I would ask my colleagues: Do not embolden Iran. Do not weaken our deterrence. Do not undermine our diplomacy. Do not tie the hands of our military commanders. Reject this dangerous mistake when we vote on the Udall amendment tomorrow.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Morning business is closed.

NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2020—Resolved

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will resume consideration of S. 1790, which the clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 1790) to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2020 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes.

Pending:

McConnell (for Inhofe) modified amendment No. 764, in the nature of a substitute.

McConnell (for Romney) amendment No. 861 (to amendment No. 764), to provide that funds authorized by the Act are available for the defense of the Armed Forces and United States citizens against attack by foreign hostile forces.

McConnell amendment No. 862 (to amendment No. 861), to change the enactment date.

McConnell amendment No. 863 (to the language proposed to be stricken by amendment No. 764), to change the enactment date.

McConnell amendment No. 864 (to amendment No. 863), of a perfecting nature.

McConnell motion to recommit the bill to the Committees on Armed Services, with instructions, McConnell amendment No. 865, to change the enactment date.

McConnell amendment No. 866 (to the instructions) amendment No. 865), of a perfecting nature.

McConnell amendment No. 867 (to amendment No. 866), of a perfecting nature.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the vote scheduled for noon today be at 11:45.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Democratic leader is recognized.

S. 1790

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, as the leader and I announced yesterday, we have an agreement in place to vote on passage of the Defense authorization bill today and then on an amendment to the bill tomorrow, led by Senators Udall, Kaine, Merkley, Murphy, Paul, and Lee, to accommodate all Senators who wish to vote. That is why we are doing it tomorrow. If the Udall amendment is passed, it would be adopted to the Defense authorization bill even though the vote occurs afterward.

Let’s start with the facts. Ever since President Trump withdrew from the Iran nuclear deal, our two countries have been on a path toward conflict. For the past month, we have been locked in a cycle of escalating tensions with Iran. Iran attacked a tanker in the Gulf region and shot down a U.S. surveillance drone. The U.S. Government has responded to both provocations, and the President reportedly considered and then pulled back on a major strike.

The American people are worried—and rightly so—that even if the President isn’t eager for war, he may bumble us into one. Small provocations in the Middle East can often spin out of control. Our country has learned that the hard way. When the President is surrounded by hawkish advisers like John Bolton and Secretary Pompeo, the danger is even more acute.

So while the majority leader says that “the one thing we are not talking about war," that is only true until the folks do start talking about war, and by then, the chance to clarify that this President requires congressional authorization before engaging in major hostilities may have passed us by.

And this not talking about war? Well, the President said he was 10 minutes away from major provocation, if the report were correct. It would have been on Iranian soil, three missile bases. And the President announced yesterday, as I said, that he would strike if we lost a tanker. We would strike Iran, blow it to smithereens—or something to that effect. People are talking about war. This President is.
Even though it is plainly written in the Constitution that the legislature alone, not the Executive, has the power to declare war, the Trump administration is already signaling that it doesn’t need Congress. The President and his team are playing up links between al-Qaida and Iran in an attempt to stage for them to claim legal authority under the sweeping 2001 authorization of military force to strike Iran without congressional approval.

The President himself, asked if he believes he has the authority to initiate military action against Iran without first going to Congress, replied, “I do.” He continued, “I do like keeping Congress abreast, but I don’t have to do it legally.”

So when it comes to a potential war with Iran, Mr. President Trump, yes, you do. You do. You do.

The Founding Fathers—our greatest wisdom in this country—worried about hasty, ill-considered moves in the executive branch for precisely this reason.

As James Madison wrote to Jefferson, who was not there when they were writing the Constitution—he was plenipotentiary to France—here is what Madison wrote to Jefferson:

The constitution supposes, what the History of all Governments demonstrates, that the Executive is the branch of power most interested in war, and most prone to it. It has accordingly, with studied care, vested the question of war to the Legislature.

That is Madison, who put more into this Constitution than anyone else.

Let me read it again. It is clear as a bell. Madison wrote to Jefferson:

The constitution supposes, what the History of all Governments demonstrates, that the Executive is the branch of power most interested in war, and most prone to it. It has accordingly, with studied care, vested the question of war to the Legislature. There were ever a President who fits that description, it is Donald Trump.

The Framers worried about an overreaching Executive like the one we have now for quite some time, if ever. So if it comes to it, we should expect the President to challenge Congress’s war powers. He has already made clear what he will do. He has said that if he wants to, there is a chance to put them back on track. For that to happen, the President must remain strong. He cannot go soft now and accept a bad deal that falls short of reforming China’s rapacious economic policies—cyber espionage, forced technology transfers, state-sponsorship, and worst of all, denial of market access.

President Trump, you know it. We have talked about it. You have a once-in-a-generation opportunity to reform China’s economic relations with the world and put American businesses and American workers on a level playing field. Stay tough. Don’t give in. Make sure Huawei cannot come to the United States and we cannot supply it. Enough with the criticism for our allies. Aim it directly at our adversaries that interfering with our election is unacceptable and that they will pay a price—a strong price—for trying.

Second, China and President Xi. Now that trade negotiations between our countries seemed to have stalled, there is a chance to put them back on track. For that to happen, the President must remain strong. He cannot go soft now and accept a bad deal that falls short of reforming China’s rapacious economic policies—cyber espionage, forced technology transfers, state-sponsorship, and worst of all, denial of market access.

President Trump, you know it. We have talked about it. You have a once-in-a-generation opportunity to reform China’s economic relations with the world and put American businesses and American workers on a level playing field. Stay tough. Don’t give in. Make sure Huawei cannot come to the United States and we cannot supply it. Enough with the criticism for our allies. Aim it at our adversaries, China and Russia, and you will have a much better chance of making the G20 a success for American interests.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mrs. HYDE-SMITH). The Senator from Arkansas is recognized.

S. 1760

Mr. COTTON. Madam President, tomorrow morning the Senate will vote on whether to disarm our troops as they face a growing campaign of Iranian aggression in the Middle East. Tomorrow morning the Senate will vote on whether to empower the Ayatollahs as they continue to rampage across the Middle East, attacking U.S. aircraft, attacking ships in the high seas, threatening our troops in Iraq, Syria, Afghanistan, Bahrain, Qatar, and elsewhere. That is because we will be voting tomorrow morning on an amendment that says, very simply: “No funds may be used to conduct hostilities against the Government of Iran, against the Armed Forces of Iran, or in the territory of Iran, or against the Iranian regime, pursuant to an Act or a joint resolution of Congress specifically authorizing such hostilities.”

That amendment is simple—I would say simple-minded—but it is simply an unmistakable warning that the United States will not tolerate foreign interference in our elections in 2020. President Trump has no excuse. The Mueller report, FBI Director Wray, virtually our entire intelligence community concluded that there was interference in our elections and that 2020 would be the next big show.

President Trump has a responsibility to defend the United States. By directly challenging Putin, he will send a clear signal to all of our adversaries that interfering with our election is unacceptable and that they will pay a price—a strong price—for trying.

Let’s take a page from history. In 1988, Ronald Reagan authorized one of the largest naval engagements since World War II in response to the exact kinds of attacks against commercial shipping and the U.S. Navy on the high seas that we have seen from Iran in the last two weeks. However, that operation didn’t commence for 4 days; it was 4 days after a U.S. Navy frigate hit one of the Iranian mines before we struck
back. Is that in defense against an Iran-ian attack? It doesn’t seem that it would be, to me. I don’t know.

What we are debating here is how many lawyers can dance on a head of a pin when our soldiers are in harm’s way. And I do not know that they are shot upon, they can fire back, and they can eliminate that threat without any politician in Washington or any lawyer at the Department of De-fense looking over their shoulders and second-guessing them. That is not what they get from this amendment, though.

Consider also the consequences. Many of the speakers today will say this is about descaling tension in the Middle East—descaling. Who is escalating it? Who is the one firing on American aircraft? Not Donald Trump. Who is interfering with the freedom of navigation on the high seas? It is not Donald Trump; it is the Ayatollahs. They are the ones who have manu-factured a crisis because they know that the United States is on the stra-tegic offensive and that we have the initiative against Iran for the first time in 40 years.

This amendment, though, would only embolden him to continue the cam-paign of the last 2 months of gradually marching up the escalatory ladder. It started with threats. Then it was an at-tack on foreign vessels at port. Then it was an attack on foreign vessels on the high seas. Then it was an attack on an unmanned American aircraft. Next it might be an attack on a manned Amer-ican aircraft or a U.S. ship. And the message we are going to send is this: Well, the Congress thinks that the Commander in Chief and, for that mat-ter, battalion commanders on the ground don’t have the authority and the flexibility they need to take the appropriate response, as opposed to cowering inside bunkers and using some defensive measures.

Let’s also think about the language of this amendment. A lot of people are going to come here and say that this is about our constitutional authority, and we need to reclaim our authority, and we have given up too much author-ity to the executive branch. In a lot of instances I would agree with that. But this amendment is only about Iran. It is not about China; it is not about Rus-sia—even though this President has forced our Democratic friends to fi-nally stand up and take on an inner cold war host.

This is only about Iran in the context of Iran shooting down an American air-craft just a week ago. What better mes-sage can you send that this is not about our constitutional authority? This is about trying to tie the hands of a Commander in Chief whom they dis-like at a time when a foreign nation is target-ing our aircraft and our service-members.

This amendment would be a loud and clear message to the Ayatollahs that we will not strike back, that they can escalate even further, and that there will not be swift reprisal. If there is, it will generate intense controversy in our country. It will only embolden them further to march up that escalatory ladder and threaten Amer-ican lives. It is a hall pass for Iranian escal-ation, really.

Look, there is no amendment, no bill, no paper resolution that can change the iron laws of geopolitics. Strength deter and weakness provokes. Wars are not won by paper resolutions. They are won by iron resolution. But this amendment embodies irresolution, weakness, timidity.

This Congress on a good day can re-name a post office, and that is only after months and months of debate about the post office. Are you telling me—are you telling me that if Iran shoots down an American aircraft or continues attacks on partners like the United Arab Emirates, then this Con-gress in a matter of minutes and hours is going to pass a resolution author-izing the use of force to respond to that kind of provocation? Please.

There is a reason we have one Com-mander in Chief, not 535 commanders in chief—or, I say again, 535 battalion commanders, the level at which some of these decisions ought to be made.

Think about the kind of debates we have, the know-nothings we have seen here in Washington over the last couple of weeks who would say: Oh, it wasn’t Iran that made the attack. OK, it was Iran, but maybe it wasn’t au-thorized by the senior leadership of Iran. OK, it was authorized, but it didn’t really do that much damage. It is kind of like the old line of: It is not my dog. He didn’t bite you. You kicked him first. That is what that debate would devolve into while our troops are at risk.

This is a terrible amendment. It will do nothing but put more American lives at risk and imperil our interests and our partners throughout the re-gion.

I know that the minority leader said earlier that he is worried about the President bumbling into war. He said it last week on TV too. Nations don’t bumble into war.

He and others have raised the pros-pect of endless wars, the wars we have been fighting in Iraq and Afghanistan. They are long, and we have made lots of twists and turns on the way. But let’s not forget that many of the Demo-crats in Washington who author-ize those wars. We didn’t bumble into those. They were considered, deliberate decisions.

President Trump said just a couple days ago that he is not talking about that kind of operation. He is talking about the exact kind of thing that Ron-ald Reagan did in response to Iranian aggression on the high seas. That didn’t start a war. Ronald Reagan didn’t start a war when he retaliated against Libya for acts of terrorism against American soil in 1986. Donald Trump didn’t start a war when he struck Syria in 2017 and 2018 for gas-sing its own people. If you want a Democratic example, Bill Clinton didn’t start a war when he struck Iraq in 1993 and 1998.

This amendment purports to tie the hands of the Commander in Chief rel-ative only to a single nation, which does not strike me that just shot down an American aircraft. The only result that will come of this amendment passing will be to em-bolden the Ayatollahs and make more likely that which its proponents wish to avoid.

Mr. KAINE, Madam President, I rise to speak in favor of the Udall amend-ment, a bipartisan amendment. I am a proud Virginian. The Commonwealth of Virginia is more connected to the Na-tional Guard than any other State, by the installations in Virginia, and by personnel than any other State, and I am the proud father of a U.S. marine. I love serving with my colleagues on the Foreign Relations and Armed Serv-ices Committees.

Today we are going to vote on a question that cannot be more funda-men-tal: Can President Trump take us to war with Iran without coming to Congress for authorization? That is the question. Can President Trump take us to war with Iran without coming to Congress for authorization? This is a matter of the utmost importance for this body, for the American public, and for our troops. Americans, especially those who have family serving in the military—and many of those families have seen their loved ones deployed multiple times since 2001—want to know what each Senator thinks about this important question.

The Udall amendment to the NDAA, which has bipartisan sponsorship, is very simple. It states that no funds will be expended in a war with Iran or on Iranian soil, except in self-defense, unless Congress takes the affirmative step of specifically authorizing those hostilities.

My colleague from Arkansas talked about lawyers dancing on the head of a pin, as he tried to suggest that “self-defense” was not a clearly defined term. I think most of my colleagues would agree that the language will believe it is incredibly clear; the President has the power to defend the Nation from an im-minent attack or ongoing attack without asking anyone for permission. That is specifically stated in our resolution. There is no confusion about it. There is no war with Iran without a President’s power to defend the Nation, but if the President decides that we need to go on an offensive war against a sovereign country, this amendment would sug-gest he could not do so unless he came to Congress.

Those voting for this amendment will say clearly that no war should be start-ed unless Congress votes for it. Those
Congressional Record — Senate  
June 27, 2019

opposing the amendment will say clearly that it is OK for the President to go to war against Iran whenever and for whatever reason on his own. 

Those who vote against this amendment, in my view, are essentially giving the President a green light to wage war anywhere he wishes on his own. That is not a power we should give to this President or any President. I believe, in my 6½ years in the Senate, there has only been one vote as serious as the vote we will cast tomorrow morning.

Why do I believe war should not be started without a vote of Congress? The Democratic leader outlined the clear constitutional history in this regard. It is Congress that declares war. The history and context of that provision in article I is very plain. At that time in the world, in 1787, war was for the Executive. It was for the King, the Emperor, the Monarch, the Sultan, the Pope, but the drafters of the American Constitution intended to dramatically change history in this Nation and say that war for the United States of America should be a matter not for the Executive to declare but, instead, for the peoples’ elected legislative body to declare.

Once declared, the President, as Commander-in-Chief, needs to be that commander. I agree with my colleague from Arkansas. You don’t need 535 commanders, but it is not up to the President to initiate or declare war constitutionally; it is clearly up to Congress.

The reason we should vote for this isn’t just because of the constitutional provision. It is the value that underlies the constitutional provision. Why did the Framers put the question of war as a matter for the legislature? A congressional debate and vote is what is necessary for the American public and Congress to fully understand the stakes, to explain to the public and educate them why war is necessary—and especially, and most importantly, the debate and the vote by the legislative body is the evidence of support for the mission that American troops deserve if they are going to be sent into harm’s way where they could be killed or injured or see their friends killed or injured.

I believe it is the height of public immorality. There could be nothing more immoral in the public space than to order our troops into harm’s way, where they would risk injury and death if Congress is unwilling to consider and debate and vote on whether a war is in the national interest.

You have to go risk your life, you have to go be with others and potentially be injured or killed, but we don’t want to have to vote on it. Could anything be more immoral than that? What this provision does is say that if we are going to go to war at war with Iran and, with any nation, Congress should have the guts and backbone to come and cast a vote before we order our troops into harm’s way.

Why is this debate important right now? We are in the middle of discussing the National Defense Authorizing Act, but I also want to point out two very important things, one an event and one a statement that may have occurred in the last week, since many of us took the floor last Thursday.

On Thursday, a week ago today, President Trump ordered and then called off a missile strike against Iranian territory that would have been the start of a shooting war with Iran. This week, we considered a strike in the sovereign nation of Iran. Our military and all reasonable people understood that would have been responded to. So we were within 10 minutes, President Trump says he called off the strike on Iran with 10 minutes to spare.

We were within 10 minutes a week ago of being in a war.

The second thing that happened is, a few days ago, the President gave an exclusive interview to The Hill saying: “I do not need congressional approval to strike Iran.”

Congress is irrelevant. I don’t need to come to Congress.

The quote that the Democratic leader mentioned a few minutes earlier was that the President said to the American people, “I am ready to shoulder the responsibility.” Congress must follow the law.

This President is holding the article I branch in contempt. Will we grovel and accept that monumental disrespect or will we insist that the President must follow the law?

For the record, I believe a war with Iran would be a colossal mistake. Its consequences would dramatically change history in this Nation and say that war for the United States of America should be a matter not on the whim of this President or the whim of any President, but it must be based instead on a clear vote, following public debate by the peoples’ elected legislature.

With that, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from New Mexico.

Mr. UDALL. Madam President, I very much appreciate being joined on the floor by Senator MERKLEY. I appreciate Senator KAIN’s very wise words. I think all of us are here standing up to hold the President accountable. We believe he should follow and obey the Constitution.

I rise to call upon this body to do its duty, to assume its constitutional responsibility, and to make it clear that the President cannot wage war against Iran without congressional authorization. Whether you are in favor of giving the President the power to start wars or whether, like me, you are opposed, everyone in this Chamber should vote in favor of our bipartisan amendment because a vote in favor is a vote to fulfill our sworn oath to uphold the Constitution. I appreciate that at long last the Senate will finish this debate; that we will finally take this vote because these matters of war and peace are among the most consequential responsibilities that fall to Congress. These are the hard votes, and we must step up to take them because they are important.

I am proud to partner with Senators KAIN, PAUL, MERKLEY, DURBIN, MURPHY, and LEE in this effort and to call
upon Congress to meet its constitutional responsibilities. After years of abdicating our responsibilities on matters of war, this entire body must stand up and show that we will not roll over for an unauthorized, unconstitutional war, a war without the amendment.

This dangerous course with Iran began last May when the President unilaterally withdrew from the Iran nuclear agreement. This hard-fought diplomatic achievement denied Iran the nuclear material required to even begin work on a nuclear weapon. Since this administration turned away from diplomacy and resorted to a maximum pressure campaign to box in Iran, the risk of war has steadily risen.

Just last week, we were 30 minutes away from a strike on Iran, 10 minutes from a nightmare of escalation in the Gulf. This week, the President threatened Iran. I am quoting his words here—these are pretty strong words— he said to Iran: I threaten them with "great and overwhelming force," and he used the word "obliteration." That is not diplomacy; that is a drubment toward war without congressional approval.

Tensions are the highest they have been in many years, and the risk of a costly miscalculation grows day by day. Just days ago, the President falsely claimed he does not need congressional approval to launch strikes against Iran. Article I, section 8 of the Constitution could not be clearer: It vests the power to declare war with Congress and Congress alone that has the authority to "declare war." This is not a close call; the Founders placed this responsibility squarely on our shoulders. The consequences of going to war are profound, so this decision rests with the people’s representatives, not one person—not even one President. It is time that Congress confront the administration’s rejection of diplomacy.

Our amendment prohibits funding for military action against Iran without congressional authorization. It does not prohibit war altogether; it prohibits an unconstitutional war, a war that has not been authorized by Congress.

We must be accountable to the American people and to our men and women in uniform whose lives would be on the line. Our soldiers are brave enough to face the danger of war. If my friends in uniform whose lives would be on the line from a nightmare of escalation in the Gulf, I am standing up against this reckless policy. I believe this administration needs to work harder to prevent any war.

Tensions are the highest they have been in many years, and the risk of a costly miscalculation grows day by day. Just days ago, the President falsely claimed he does not need congressional approval to launch strikes against Iran. Article I, section 8 of the Constitution could not be clearer: It vests the power to declare war with Congress and Congress alone that has the authority to "declare war." This is not a close call; the Founders placed this responsibility squarely on our shoulders. The consequences of going to war are profound, so this decision rests with the people’s representatives, not one person—not even one President. It is time that Congress confront the administration’s rejection of diplomacy.

Our amendment prohibits funding for military action against Iran without congressional authorization. It does not prohibit war altogether; it prohibits an unconstitutional war, a war that has not been authorized by Congress.

We must be accountable to the American people and to our men and women in uniform whose lives would be on the line. Our soldiers are brave enough to face the danger of war. If my friends in uniform whose lives would be on the line from a nightmare of escalation in the Gulf, I am standing up against this reckless policy. I believe this administration needs to work harder to prevent any war.

Tensions are the highest they have been in many years, and the risk of a costly miscalculation grows day by day. Just days ago, the President falsely claimed he does not need congressional approval to launch strikes against Iran. Article I, section 8 of the Constitution could not be clearer: It vests the power to declare war with Congress and Congress alone that has the authority to "declare war." This is not a close call; the Founders placed this responsibility squarely on our shoulders. The consequences of going to war are profound, so this decision rests with the people’s representatives, not one person—not even one President. It is time that Congress confront the administration’s rejection of diplomacy.

Our amendment prohibits funding for military action against Iran without congressional authorization. It does not prohibit war altogether; it prohibits an unconstitutional war, a war that has not been authorized by Congress.

We must be accountable to the American people and to our men and women in uniform whose lives would be on the line. Our soldiers are brave enough to face the danger of war. If my friends in uniform whose lives would be on the line from a nightmare of escalation in the Gulf, I am standing up against this reckless policy. I believe this administration needs to work harder to prevent any war.

Tensions are the highest they have been in many years, and the risk of a costly miscalculation grows day by day. Just days ago, the President falsely claimed he does not need congressional approval to launch strikes against Iran. Article I, section 8 of the Constitution could not be clearer: It vests the power to declare war with Congress and Congress alone that has the authority to "declare war." This is not a close call; the Founders placed this responsibility squarely on our shoulders. The consequences of going to war are profound, so this decision rests with the people’s representatives, not one person—not even one President. It is time that Congress confront the administration’s rejection of diplomacy.

Our amendment prohibits funding for military action against Iran without congressional authorization. It does not prohibit war altogether; it prohibits an unconstitutional war, a war that has not been authorized by Congress.

We must be accountable to the American people and to our men and women in uniform whose lives would be on the line. Our soldiers are brave enough to face the danger of war. If my friends in uniform whose lives would be on the line from a nightmare of escalation in the Gulf, I am standing up against this reckless policy. I believe this administration needs to work harder to prevent any war.

Tensions are the highest they have been in many years, and the risk of a costly miscalculation grows day by day. Just days ago, the President falsely claimed he does not need congressional approval to launch strikes against Iran. Article I, section 8 of the Constitution could not be clearer: It vests the power to declare war with Congress and Congress alone that has the authority to "declare war." This is not a close call; the Founders placed this responsibility squarely on our shoulders. The consequences of going to war are profound, so this decision rests with the people’s representatives, not one person—not even one President. It is time that Congress confront the administration’s rejection of diplomacy.

Our amendment prohibits funding for military action against Iran without congressional authorization. It does not prohibit war altogether; it prohibits an unconstitutional war, a war that has not been authorized by Congress.

We must be accountable to the American people and to our men and women in uniform whose lives would be on the line. Our soldiers are brave enough to face the danger of war. If my friends in uniform whose lives would be on the line from a nightmare of escalation in the Gulf, I am standing up against this reckless policy. I believe this administration needs to work harder to prevent any war.

Tensions are the highest they have been in many years, and the risk of a costly miscalculation grows day by day. Just days ago, the President falsely claimed he does not need congressional approval to launch strikes against Iran. Article I, section 8 of the Constitution could not be clearer: It vests the power to declare war with Congress and Congress alone that has the authority to "declare war." This is not a close call; the Founders placed this responsibility squarely on our shoulders. The consequences of going to war are profound, so this decision rests with the people’s representatives, not one person—not even one President. It is time that Congress confront the administration’s rejection of diplomacy.

Our amendment prohibits funding for military action against Iran without congressional authorization. It does not prohibit war altogether; it prohibits an unconstitutional war, a war that has not been authorized by Congress.

We must be accountable to the American people and to our men and women in uniform whose lives would be on the line. Our soldiers are brave enough to face the danger of war. If my friends in uniform whose lives would be on the line from a nightmare of escalation in the Gulf, I am standing up against this reckless policy. I believe this administration needs to work harder to prevent any war.

Tensions are the highest they have been in many years, and the risk of a costly miscalculation grows day by day. Just days ago, the President falsely claimed he does not need congressional approval to launch strikes against Iran. Article I, section 8 of the Constitution could not be clearer: It vests the power to declare war with Congress and Congress alone that has the authority to "declare war." This is not a close call; the Founders placed this responsibility squarely on our shoulders. The consequences of going to war are profound, so this decision rests with the people’s representatives, not one person—not even one President. It is time that Congress confront the administration’s rejection of diplomacy.

Our amendment prohibits funding for military action against Iran without congressional authorization. It does not prohibit war altogether; it prohibits an unconstitutional war, a war that has not been authorized by Congress.

We must be accountable to the American people and to our men and women in uniform whose lives would be on the line. Our soldiers are brave enough to face the danger of war. If my friends in uniform whose lives would be on the line from a nightmare of escalation in the Gulf, I am standing up against this reckless policy. I believe this administration needs to work harder to prevent any war.
the power of declaring war in Congress; therefore no offensive expedition of importance can be undertaken until they shall have deliberated upon the subject and authorized such a measure.’’

This was the Commander in Chief speaking to the brave men of the American Revolution speaking. This was the man most trusted to be the first President of the United States, who was to steer the course and make sure the Presidency did not become a kingship. His conclusion was: “[T]herefore, no offensive expedition of importance can be undertaken until after they shall have . . . authorized such a measure.”

This is enormously at odds with the vision our colleague from Arkansas presented on the floor—dismissing the role of Congress, dismissing the Constitution, and instead saying let the President, as Commander in Chief, do what he will. That was not the vision.

George Washington, the Virginian who stand in DC, you can look across the Potomac River, and you can see a monument to George Mason. He made notes of the Constitutional Convention. George Mason remarked that he was “against giving the power of war to the President” because the President “is not safely to be trusted with it.” That was the point, that no one individual, no matter how wise—not even a George Washington—could be trusted with this decision. George Washington, as President, very clearly commented on the Constitution and saying: We have put a check on the dog of war by putting that power in the legislative body, not the executive.

Thomas Jefferson, one of the most brilliant minds our country has ever produced, commented: “We have already given in example”—referring to the Constitution—“one effective check to the dog of war by transferring the power of letting him”—the dog of war—“loose from the Executive to the Legislative.” So he is commenting on the Constitution and saying: We have put a check on the dog of war by putting that power in the legislative body, not the executive.

Jefferson became President. Did he change his mind when he became President? His initial quote I gave you was from 1789, but later he became President of the United States. And what did he think then? He thought the same exact thing. Just as President Washington, he said: “Consider the Congress alone is constitutionally invested with the power of changing our condition from peace to war, I have thought it my duty to await their authority for using force in any degree which could be avoided”—his President, Congress is invested with the power to declare war and the power to go to war should be vested solely in the Commander in Chief. Well, then, come and present a constitutional amendment on the floor of the U.S. Senate. You took an oath to the Constitution of the United States, and that oath says that power rests in this body. If you want to change the Constitution, then it is your job in Congress to come here and propose doing so. I guarantee it will be roundly defeated because the wisdom of our Founders that it is a mistake to give the power of war to one person is wise and does stand the test of time.

Alexander Hamilton noted the following:
The Congress shall have the power to declare war; the plain meaning of which is, that it is the peculiar and exclusive duty of Congress, when the Nation is at peace, to change that state into a state of war. . . .

Alexander Hamilton said: “exclusive duty of Congress” and “the plain meaning” of our Constitution.

This viewpoint continued to carry the day far into the future. Abraham Lincoln was speaking in 1848, and he said:

The provision of the Constitution giving the war-making powers to Congress, was dictated, as I understand it, by the following reasons.

Those are Lincoln’s words.

Kings had always been involving and impoverishing their people in wars, pretending generally, if not always, that the good of the people was the object. This, our (Constitutional) Convention understood to be the most oppressive of all Kingly oppressions and who was to say that Constitution that no one man should hold the power of bringing this oppression upon us.

In the words of these great leaders of America—Washington, Hamilton, Mason, President Lincoln—all point to the power and wisdom of putting the decision about war with the House and the Senate, not the President.

Now, this resolution before us says: Mr. President, there is no foregoing authorization to go to war against Iran. It is the floor of the Senate not the floor of the House. It is a discussion after debate specifically on that topic. And why is this? Because we have heard from the administration that they want to use the 2001 authorization for the use of military force, an authorization specifically about al-Qaeda in Afghanistan, to authorize war with Iran. Nothing could be more convoluted, and that is why we need to stand up and say: That is wrong. That is not right.

A man who pays even just a modicum of attention knows that the resolution to take on al-Qaeda in Afghanistan is very different than going to war against the Shiite Islam nation of Iran. But we have to say it because the administration has tried to persuade the Senate that this 2001 resolution somehow has a link that authorizes war.

And why are we so concerned at this moment? Why are we here on the floor in this debate? Well, it is because the drums of war are beating loudly. It is because we have a National Security Advisor who has said that no agreement can ever be reached with Iran and we have to act. That is why and when we have Secretary of State Rex Tillerson says that no one has ever stood up to Iran and we have to teach them a lesson, or words to that effect, and we have a President who has proceeded to say that any attack will be met by great and overwhelming force.

So envision these preplaced forces. And, in fact, the President has declared that a section of the Iranian military, the Revolutionary Guard is a terrorist force. Add all of that up, and the President is talking about looking for a trigger to apply great and overwhelming force. That is why we are here. A response in proportion to defend a direct attack on the United States is authorized by the War Powers Act. That is what is being honored by the resolution that is before us, the Udall-Paul-Kaine amendment that is before us. That is honored. But as for the use of great and overwhelming force the President is threatening, that is war. That has to come before this body.

The President went on and said: “In some areas, overwhelming will mean obliteration.” So for any attack? And we have heard the Secretary of State say if there is a Shiite force in Iraq that we can tie to Shiites in Iran and some communication, we will consider that an attack by Iran—looking for a trigger to go to war. And the President has said any act will be met with overwhelming force.

Not under our Constitution. You want that authority? You come here.

You want to change the Constitution? Then, come here. I say this to my fellow Senators: Do you want to change the Constitution? Bring your amendment here and propose doing so. I guarantee it will be roundly defeated because the President has no authority to apply overwhelming force or obliterating force and conduct a war against Iran.

Make your case here or honor the Constitution.

We are in a troubling and difficult time, and I would like to see every Member of the Senate down here talking to each other about this. That is why the majority of the Senate. It is not a few Members who are here to stand up for our Constitution and the vision of wisdom in our Constitution. This is the time, before there is that trigger in which the President responds with great and overwhelming force and before he responds with obliterating force. Now is the time to pass this amendment put together in a bipartisan fashion that lays out the fundamental requirements of our Constitution and the fundamental requirements defined by the War Powers Resolutions. These fundamental requirements repeated and honored by the greatest Presidents who have ever served our Nation.
Let us not allow the vision of our Constitution to be shredded. Let us honor our responsibility when we took an oath in office to defend it, and let us honor the wisdom of holding that debate on the floor, should the President ever ask us for such authorization to go to war against Iran.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Alabama.

MILITARY WIDOW’S TAX ELIMINATION ACT

Mr. JONES. Madam President, and Members of the Senate, I approach this at this time to say how much I appreciate my colleagues, Senator MERKLEY and Senator KAINÉ, for their eloquent thoughts on an important issue of our time.

Let me also now rise in total frustration on a completely different issue—but total frustration, bafflement, and, quite frankly, just angry and disappointed in this body. I am angry because we have turned our back for over 40 years on military families. We have turned our backs on the widows of the very men and women who have given their lives to protect this country, to uphold our democratic ideals, and to make possible the very work that we are doing in the Senate and the very work that we, as Members of the Senate and as Members of Congress, are charged to do every day on behalf of the American people and, particularly, on behalf of veterans and their families.

I am talking about this body’s refusal to bring up the Military Widow’s Tax Elimination Act—the refusal to bring it up for a single floor vote despite the fact that we have 75 cosponsors—75 cosponsors of this bill. It is the most bipartisan legislation, except for the robocall bill, which everybody could agree on. And we can’t get that to a vote in this body?

Where have we gone wrong? Where have the rules of the body—the rules that we, as Members of both parties, are operating under—gone off the rails that we can’t bring this to a vote, to just get a simple up-or-down vote, on a process that is ripe, and that is the NDAA?

In my 17 or 18 months—I forget how many now in this body—I have had some frustrating moments, as I know all of my colleagues who have been here for a long time have had a lot of frustrating moments. We have shut down government three times since I have been a U.S. Senator—three times. I have seen disaster relief held up for 5 or 6 months, with farmers and others needing that relief, needing that money, needing that help, and we held it up for political reasons so that someone can score a point, because everything is seen through the eyes of a political gamesmanship. That is how we are operating today, and it is incredibly frustrating for those of us who want to make sure we go forward with things working, see bipartisan efforts.

In this situation, we are talking about military families who are getting ripped off by us. You can call it the government if you want to, but at the end of the day, they are getting ripped off by every single Member of this body and the House of Representatives, and they have had it. It is no wonder that the American people think that Congress and Washington, in general, is just a joke. If we can’t fight for military widows and spouses, who are having their survivor benefits shortchanged, then, for whom are we going to fight? For whom are we going to stand up?

We always talk about standing up for the least of these. I have people wanting to stand up for the immigrants coming across the border. I have people wanting to stand up for corporations and to make sure that they are paying their share of the taxes, as opposed to overburden. I have people standing up for people every day, but here we have a chance to stand up for people who have given their lives for this country, and we are not doing it. We are not doing it.

If we can’t do the right thing on this, with 75 cosponsors, how can we possibly tackle immigration reform? How can we possibly tackle healthcare reform or education in this country if we can’t do some agreements and on one simple vote when we have 75 cosponsors?

How can we not fight for people like Cathy Milford, a retired schoolteacher from Mobile, AL, whose husband passed away from a service-connected illness just months after his retirement from the Coast Guard? Instead of a long and happy retirement together, Cathy has been fighting to right this wrong for all of the some 65,000 military spouses who are hurt by the current law.

During a recent visit here to Capitol Hill, she said: “Every time I talk about this”—and she is up here a lot talking about elimination of the military widow’s tax—“I talk about my husband and bury him all over again.”

Just think about that. Let that just sink in a minute: a military widow, one of many of thousands, who had to return to lobby Congress year after year at their own expense, saying she feels like she is digging up and burying her husband all over again when she has to talk about this issue. That is not only sad, it is shameful.

We have tried to pass this legislation. The bill has been in some form, repeatedly over the last almost 20 years. It has been included in the NDAA numerous times only to be stripped out during conference. It has been included without an immediate pay-for to offset the budget issues that everybody kind of falls back on and hangs their hat on. We don’t have that immediate pay-for.

It has passed before. It has passed before in this body with bipartisan support, but for some reason it just hasn’t been able to get across the finish line. For some reason, even though the bill today has historic levels of cosponsorship, we are not allowed to bring it up for a vote as an amendment to this NDAA. Frankly, that is the frustration.

It is a frustration that goes beyond just this bill. It is a frustration that we can’t debate on the floor of the Senate anymore. We can’t bring up amendments. I think we have brought up no one amendment in legislation in this Congress because of the rule between the leader and minority leader. There are all these deals going on. You have to have a Republican package; you have a Democratic package; you have to play one against the other. We are constantly playing the political games in this body when we should be working for the American people as a whole.

That is why today, at this time, I am once again calling for our bill to eliminate the military widow’s tax, to pass it or get it voted on and bring it to the floor and pass it on unanimous consent. Every one of my colleagues would do well to remember that the ones who should be fighting for these spouses. We are the ones. We are the only people they can turn to. This can’t be fixed on the streets. It can’t be fixed at the Department of Defense or the VA. Veterans’ Affairs legislature, the Congress of the United States, is the only one that can do it, and we are the ones who should be fighting for these military spouses, the widows and widowers whose loved ones gave their lives for this country, the widows and widowers whose lives are forever changed because of their family’s selfless service to this country.

Caring for military families has long been part of the foundation of our government. In President Abraham Lincoln’s second inaugural address, he spoke in no uncertain terms on this obligation. In the midst of the Civil War, he addressed a nation that had sustained unimaginable loss—unimaginable loss—in order to preserve the Union as we cherish.

The country was then more divided than it ever had been, and God help us if it ever gets that divided again, but the values Lincoln asserted during that speech were so fundamental that, even at war with itself, it could agree on the importance. He said this:

With malice toward none, with charity for all, in justice, in the right as God gives us to see the right, let us strive to finish the work we are in, to bind up the nation’s wounds, to care for him who shall have borne the battle and for his widow, and his orphan.”

This is the promise we have made to those who raise their hand in service to our Nation. This is the contract, the solemn contract, that we have made to those of us who have given our lives in service to this Nation; that we will honor and support them and care for their families if tragedy occurs.

June 27, 2019 CONGRESSIONAL RECORD — SENATE S4595
President Lincoln was assassinated just over a month after he issued this appeal, but the weight of his words still resonate today. In some ways, on this issue, they resonate more because in those days you could count on the fact that the legislative body, the Congress of the United States, would honor the words and take care of those families.

It has been 154 years since President Lincoln spoke those words; yet the Government of the United States, the Members of this body, the Members of the Party have yet to fulfill that promise. It has been 154 years, and we still get caught up in the deals that are made as to what gets on the floor and what does not get on the floor, the political deals that have to be jockeyed, where we give and take, and it is one over the other. We need to fix that today.

We need to fix it in a broader sense and let this body get back to its real work and be the great deliberative body it is supposed to be. We are not doing that, but that is a different issue for a different time.

Let’s start today and stand up and exhibit just a fraction, a small fraction—a small, small fraction—of the courage that these military spouses did on our behalf. Let’s let our actions speak louder than words simply ever could. Let’s put the issue to rest and let’s get behind the political deals and let’s do our duty to these people. Let’s popularize the idea of doing that, but that is a different issue for a different time.

Mr. INHOFE. Mr. President, reservists have come a reality. I owe it not just to the military families, which is where most of these cutbacks came from, but to the people on my ranch in Collinsville, OK, that Chris died in action. Chris was put on there on the initial legislation that the chairman showed and the bipartisan opposition that the chairman showed and the other Senators showed. I wish people could have seen it because we don’t get to see it. I don’t think if we opened it up that we would have seen it, but it was remarkable.

So we are where we are in the Senate. I understand that, and I knew that coming in here. I will simply say this. The House of Representatives is also going to take up the NDAA, and I hope my colleagues on the other side of the wonderful Capitol are listening. Put it in. It is not in the committee bill. Put it in. Bring it to conference because, if it is to continue, we have to continue to have this in this NDAA, and let’s get this done, once and for all.

Thank you, Chairman INHOFE, and thank you, Mr. President.

I yield the floor. The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from South Dakota.

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, if I might, let me describe where things are in the state of play with respect to the supplemental appropriations bill that deals with the border.

I know the situation at our border has been at a crisis point for weeks now. Our agencies are stretched to the breaking point, struggle for the overwhelming flow of migrants; yet we have House Democrats continuing to play politics with the border funding bill.

Again, to describe the state of play, we had a request from the President 7 weeks ago for $4.5 billion to address this humanitarian crisis we are having at our southern border, and the Democrats didn’t act on it. They described it as a manufactured crisis. When I say the Democrats, I am thinking about the House Democrats, which is where most spending bills originate.

After the House failed to act and failed to respond to the President’s request for emergency funding, the Senate decided to act. So the Senate Appropriations Committee took up and passed a bipartisan bill out of the Appropriations Committee by a vote of 30 to 1—not a vote that you see all that often around here these days.

So that bill was reported out to the floor. In the meantime, the House Democrats decided that maybe it wasn’t, after all, a manufactured crisis and perhaps they needed to act. So
they picked up a bill—a partisan bill—and passed it out of the House of Representatives on a party-line basis, after which the Senate voted on its bill, the bill I mentioned that was reported out of the Appropriations Committee by a vote of 8 to 1, and it came to the floor where it passed yesterday by a vote of 84 to 8—84 to 8 in the U.S. Senate.

Well, just to demonstrate that the bipartisan bill passed by the Senate is the vehicle that should move forward and should go to the President for his signature, the President had indicated he was going to take House-passed bill, but we took it up. We took up the House-passed bill yesterday on the floor of the U.S. Senate. We had a vote on it. It got 37 votes here on the floor of the Senate—not nearly enough, obviously, to pass the Senate. Of course, it was going to meet a certain veto by the President even if it had.

That being said, there were 37 votes for the House-passed partisan bill that came out of the House of Representatives. Here on the floor of the Senate, there were 84 votes for the bipartisan bill produced by the Senate Appropriations Committee.

Where we are right now is that was sent back to the House. The House, frankly, should just take up that bill and pass it. We know for certain the President would sign it. Again, I think it demonstrates a body of work that reflects both sides of the aisle. Republicans and Democrats—certainly in the Senate—to get a vote of 30 to 1 out of the Appropriations Committee or 84 to 8 on the floor of the Senate. You had to have a high level of bipartisan cooperation.

That bill to address the humanitarian crisis at our border is awaiting action by the House of Representatives. All they have to do is simply pick it up and pass it and send it to the President, where it will be signed into law, and we will get much needed resources needed to manage the southern border, where they desperately need it. I hope that will be the case.

We are being told that the House is now considering sending yet another partisan bill over here to the Senate. The only thing I can tell you is, if you want to get legislation signed into law by the President of the United States that actually does deliver and put the much needed assistance on the ground that is desperately needed on the southern border, the only surefire way to do that right now is for the House to pick up the Senate-passed bill, which passed here with 84 votes, pass it, and send it to the President, where it will be signed into law, and that $4.5 billion will be on its way to the border to assist with all the needs down there that are currently being unmet. I hope that can happen yet today.

That is the state of play with respect to the supplemental appropriations bill.
Margaret Thatcher once said that the problem with socialism is that eventually you run out of other people’s money. Once Democrats have taken every dollar they can from the rich to pay for their socialist fantasies, they will come after the paychecks of ordinary working families. The result will be higher taxes and fewer and fewer benefits and greatly reduced choices. Democrats’ socialist dreams would quickly trample the American people in a nightmare.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Maine.

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, before I deliver comments on a bill that I am introducing, let me express my disappointment that the Senate will not be voting today on the amendment that Senator JONES and I have filed to eliminate the military widow’s tax. This is a tremendous inequity, as is evidenced by the fact that 75% of our colleagues have cosponsored our free-standing bill.

Nevertheless, I am heartened by the commitment and the compassion of the Senate Armed Services Committee chair, Senator INOUE, who indicated his receptivity to dealing with this issue but in a different way on a different bill. I hope that today is just a temporary setback and that we can see this bill taken up as a free-standing bill by the entire Senate.

Mr. President, I send a bill to the desk and ask that it be appropriately referred.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. It will be received and appropriately referred.

The remarks of Ms. Collins pertaining to the introduction of S. 2018 are printed in today’s Record under “Statements on Introduced Bills and Joint Resolutions.”

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Washington.

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to speak as in morning business.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The remarks of Mrs. Murray pertaining to the introduction of S. 2006 are printed in today’s Record under “Statements on Introduced Bills and Joint Resolutions.”

Mrs. MURRAY. I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from New Jersey.

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. President, I rise to explain the context in which I will vote for the Romney amendment.

First, I am grateful for Senator Romney’s substantive contributions and his collegiality as a member of the Foreign Relations Committee. The plain text of the amendment states the obvious—that funds authorized by the NDAA may be used to ensure the safety and the security of our Armed Forces to defend themselves and U.S. citizens.

I believe every Member of this body certainly shares the fundamental understanding that our Armed Forces must have the ability to defend themselves and our citizens against foreign enemies. Indeed, the purpose of the NDAA is to provide the authorities that are necessary to ensure the Department of Defense is in a position to defend the United States and our citizens.

In my opinion, in that respect, this amendment is not necessary. For anyone who argues that the Romney language is somehow necessary because of the Trump administration, I say the Trump administration itself. Previous administrations have sent up representatives to explain to Congress their rationale for war or to explain the type of authorizations they are seeking. We should demand no less from this Administration.

I support the amendment, and I look forward to continuing appropriate oversight over the executive branch’s pursuit of military action around the world.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Utah.

Mr. ROMNEY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to complete my remarks before the vote.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. ROMNEY. Mr. President, I thank my esteemed friend and ranking member of the Foreign Relations Committee for his kind words in support of my amendment.

As we debate the Defense Authorization Act today, one of our most pressing concerns is how we deter Iran from escalation. The decisions we make on this bill will have a direct bearing on the options the President and the military have available to keep our military, our citizens, and our friends and allies safe.

The Senate is poised to vote soon on my amendment, No. 861. It would reaffirm what has long been American policy. Our military is authorized to defend itself and to protect our citizens. Enacting this amendment makes it clear to our military, as well as to any potential adversary, that America does not shrink in the face of attack. This is not an authorization to use military force against Iran or anyone else; it is a statement of continued commitment to our national defense.

Under the Constitution, only Congress may declare war, but also under the Constitution, the President can defend against attacks and can respond in an appropriate manner to an attack that has been made.

As we all know, my esteemed colleague from New Mexico, Senator Udall, has proposed an amendment on a related topic which I wish to briefly address.

We do not need the Udall amendment to tell us what the administration already demands—that Congress alone can declare war. His amendment is clearly intended to limit the President in some other ways that he has not yet explained to this body.

As it is written, the Udall amendment would dramatically limit the existing authority that the Constitution provides to the President to respond to Iran. It would prevent the President...
from defending U.S. citizens, U.S. interests, and our allies. This is not only my opinion; it is the carefully considered conclusion of the U.S. Department of Defense.

In its letter on June 26 to Chairman Inhofe, it states this, referring to the Udall amendment:

"The Department strongly opposes this amendment... At a time when Iran is engaging in escalating military provocation, this amendment could embolden Iran to further provocations."

Tying the President's hands in some undefined way in the midst of the current crisis is misguided, dangerous, and surely sends the wrong message to both Iran and to our allies.

Last week, the Iranians continued their provocative escalation in the Middle East. After weeks of buildup in which Iran attacked six commercial ships, and its proxies bombed an oil pipeline and launched a rocket into a commercial Saudi Arabian airport, Iran shot down an American drone over international waters.

The Udall amendment raises serious questions about how the military could respond to these attacks after the fact. Could we fire on a missile launcher that downed our drone? Could we think one of their small, outboard motor vessels that attached the mines to the ships that were attacked?

Imagine for a moment that in the future, another American aircraft, perhaps one that is manned by an American pilot, were to be shot down by an Iranian rocket. It is possible that the Udall amendment would limit our military's options to subsequently respond to such an outrage.

I don't pretend to know whether Iran will continue its pattern of aggression, but I do know that when bad actors think they can escape consequence for malevolent acts, such acts are more likely to occur in the future.

I am glad that Senator Udall's revised amendment concedes the broad point that our military has the inherent right of self-defense. But in the case of a rocket hitting one of our planes, the President should not have his hands tied in responding after such an attack in an appropriate manner.

Note also that while the Udall amendment provides for the military to defend itself from attack, it does not provide for the defense of our citizens. Iran is taking this as an invitation to attack Americans abroad.

Further, it would prohibit our military from defending or responding to an attack by Iran on our Iraqi partners so long as it didn't directly hit American troops. Passing the Udall amendment would effectively give a green light to Iranian forces to carry out attacks in Iraq so long as they don't attack U.S. forces.

If Iran were to attack Israel, one of our NATO allies, the Udall amendment would not allow the President to respond.

Finally, by carving out Iranian territory, the Udall amendment would potentially prevent us from pursuing and taking out terrorists who seek refuge in Iran.

I oppose the Udall amendment not because I want to go to war with Iran or rush to respond without carefully evaluating our long-term strategy to counter Iran's aggression, but because I want no one who wants to go to war with Iran. I fully concur with my many Senate colleagues who desire to reassert the constitutional role of Congress in declaring war. But to engage in this effort now and in an undefined way, and then to attach to that Iran when Iran has just shot down an American aircraft would send a terrible message to the Ayatollahs and to the world.

I mean, think about it. Iran shoots down an American aircraft, and what does the U.S. Senate rush to do? It rushes to vote in some undefined way to restrict military consequence. That is simply unthinkable.

My amendment is not about Iran. It does not even mention Iran. My amendment is about asserting the constitutional authorities that any President must have to properly protect and defend this Nation.

As the Department of Defense maintains, the President of the United States must always have the option of responding to attacks by Iran or anyone else at a time and place of our choosing—today and in the future.

I urge my colleagues to support my amendment.
amendment does not constitute an authorization to use military force, nor is there anything in the amendment that confers any new authority on the President.

As Senator ROMNEY, the author of the amendment, stated on the floor a half-hour ago, this amendment is not an authorization to use military force against Iran or anyone else. . . . Under the Constitution, only Congress may declare war. . . . I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Utah.

Mr. ROMNEY. Mr. President, I will reassert the same thing I just heard from the minority leader. I appreciate his words.

This amendment would reaffirm a basic principle. The United States has the right to defend itself and our citizens when attacked. It asserts what has always been a bedrock constitutional principle. This is not an AUMF. It is not an authorization for the use of military force.

Passing my amendment today would send a strong signal to our adversaries that we will defend ourselves if our interests, our people, our military, our allies are threatened and attacked.

My amendment is something that I believe everyone in this body can and should support.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Cloture having been invoked, the motion to recommit and the amendments pending thereto fall.

The postcloture time is expired.

The question is on agreeing to amendment (No. 861), offered by the Senator from Kentucky, Mr. MCCONNELL, on behalf of the Senator from Utah, Mr. ROMNEY.

The yeas and nays were previously ordered.

The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senator is necessarily absent: the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. ROUNDS).

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Colorado (Mr. BENNET), the Senator from New York (Mrs. GILLIBRAND), the Senator from California (Ms. HARRIS), the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS), and the Senator from Massachusetts (Ms. WARREN) are necessarily absent.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. Young). Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The result was announced—yeas 90, nays 4, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 187 Leg.]

YEAS—90

Alexander
Balduin
Barasso
Blackburn
Blumenthal
Blumenthal
Bloomenthal
Blunt
Boozman
Brown
Burr
Cantwell

Capito
Cardin
Carper
Casidy
Cassidy
Collins
Comer
Cornyn
Cortez Masto
Cramer
Mendez
Menendez
Merkley
Murray
Perdue
Paul

Crapo
Cruz
Daines
Enzi
Ernst
Feinstein
Feinstein
Fischer
Gardner
Graham
Grassley

Scott
Scott
Shelby
Sinema
Smith
Sullivan
Tester
Thune
Tillis
Toomey
 Udall
Van Hollen
Warner
Whitehouse
Wicker
Wyden

S. 1790

The amendment (No. 861) was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from North Dakota.

Mr. HOEVEN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to speak for 5 minutes on the NDAA.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. Nesbitt). Without objection, it is so ordered.

S. 1790

Mr. HOEVEN. Mr. President, I rise to speak on the importance of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2020 legislation that authorizes and funds the National Nuclear Security Administration.

This legislation fully supports our Armed Forces, our men and women in uniform, and provides for the defense of our Nation. Among its notable provisions, the bill supports a 3.1 percent pay increase for the members of our armed services, the largest in nearly a decade and very much deserved by the men and women in uniform who protect us.

It establishes a Space Force and ensures that America retains its leadership in this critical domain. It opens the way for significant investments in weapons systems, such as hypersonic missiles and directed energy weapons along with missile defense and cyber security capabilities. It also responds to concerns about family housing across the Department of Defense.

Importantly, the bill continues to provide for the modernization of our nuclear forces. This legislation fully authorizes fiscal year 2020 spending on our nuclear deterrent, including support for all three legs of the Nation’s nuclear triad. I also fully authorize the warhead life extension programs at the Department of Energy.

I want to highlight a couple of amendments I worked on and are included in the legislation relative to modernizing our nuclear triad. One of the amendments that has been included requires that the Air Force and the National Nuclear Security Administration report to Congress on the development of the next intercontinental ballistic missile and the W87-1, which is a modified warhead that will be placed on the new ICBM for decades to come.

It is vital that the Air Force’s missile defense development program, known as the Ground-Based Strategic Deterrent, GBSD, be synchronized with the W87-1 warhead so that a decade from now, we have a complete new weapons system that is ready for deployment. My amendment will help ensure that the deployment will happen on schedule and avoid unnecessary delays in that development.

The other amendment highlights the imporance of our nation’s ICBM force and demonstrates how ICBMs enhance deterrence as a part of the triad. ICBMs provide the most prompt and most dispersed segment of our nuclear forces, and they magnify the deterrent power of our nuclear triad.

I commend my colleagues for their support of these amendments, which is a strong statement of the continuing importance of the ICBM and the need to ensure that it is modernized along with the rest of our nuclear forces in order to keep us safe.

The bill is also critically important for military activities in my home State of North Dakota. Specifically, we worked to secure a number of provisions to support the missions at the Minot Air Force Base, which is home to two of the three legs of the nuclear triad. Importantly, the NDAA authorizes funding for B-52s, including the procurement of new engines. As a member of the Senate Defense Appropriations Committee, I have worked to authorize and appropriate money for new engines which will help modernize the B-52 and extend its life for years to come.

The NDAA also advances replacement of the Vermont-era Huey helicopters that provide security for the missile fields, and it supports the construction of a new helicopter facility at Minot to house the next generation. It also makes a strong commitment to the Long-Range Stand Off, LRSO, Program that will provide a new nuclear cruise missile for the B-52, as well as continuing to advance the investments in GBSD.

The bill also supports priorities at Grand Forks Air Force Base, which is home to the Global Hawk, which provides important intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance capabilities for the Air Force. In fact, it was the Navy version of the Global Hawk which was recently shot down in the Strait of Hormuz by Iran.

This bill authorizes more than $240 million for the Global Hawk Program and more than $115 million for the Battlefield Airborne Communications Node that is carried on the Global Hawk Block 20 aircraft. These investments in the Global Hawk have been a priority because the Global Hawk BACN system is urgently needed to provide communications support for operations around the world.
Finally, I would like to emphasize support for items that some of my colleagues put forward that I think are critically important both for my State and for the Nation as a whole. I am pleased to cosponsor an amendment from Senator Graham that commits us over the next decade to building our capacity to produce plutonium pits. We must build up this capacity so we can extend the life of our nuclear stockpile and preserve our nuclear deterrent in the future.

I also cosponsored an amendment from Senator Murkowski that requires the Defense Department to report on Russian and Chinese activities in the Arctic, which is an area of the world where we need to build up our capabilities in the coming years.

I would similarly express my support for Senator Hawley’s amendment that requires a report from our military commanders on their ability to deter aggressive actions from Russia and China. I hope that can be included on this legislation as well.

The bill also includes an important provision from Senator Klobuchar that I cosponsored to help ensure that the children of National Guard and Reserve members have access to additional support services in schools. I cosponsored a provision from Senator Baldwin, who joins me on the floor today, that will protect veterans’ benefits if and when they have to file for bankruptcy. I am pleased to cosponsor her amendment.

All of these items demonstrate just what a large undertaking the National Defense Authorization Act really is. It includes thousands of provisions and represents a lot of work from many Members in support of our military servicemembers and their families.

I look forward to passing the legislation today and moving it to conference and getting it enacted into law for our men and women in uniform.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Wisconsin.

ANNIVERSARY OF THE STONEWALL UPRISING

Ms. BALDWIN. Mr. President, I rise today to mark the 50th anniversary of the Stonewall Uprising of June 28, 1969.

The Stonewall Inn, which opened in 1967 on Christopher Street in Greenwich Village in New York City, was one of many establishments in cities across the country that served as sanctuaries for members of the LGBTQ community from persecution by police and by society at large. In the late 1960s, every State in America, save one, criminalized same-sex relationships. Many State and local governments also had harsh laws that restricted the ability of transgender people to express their identities, and LGBTQ people were prohibited from gathering socially. As a result, LGBTQ individuals in places like Stonewall Inn, where they gathered, were targeted frequently by law enforcement, including the New York City Police Department. By the end of the 1960s, LGBTQ individuals had already begun to stand up to police harassment, including at places like Cooper Do-nuts in Los Angeles in 1959, Compton’s Cafeteria in San Francisco in 1966, and the Black Cat Tavern in Los Angeles in 1967.

In the early morning hours of June 28, 1969, the NYPD raided the Stonewall Inn and arrested several people, just as it had done repeatedly over the days, weeks, and months prior. But this night was different. A few brave individuals—particularly transgender women of color, like Marsha P. Johnson and Sylvia Rivera—stood up and
fought back against this injustice. That night, they sparked an uprising against the NYPD with confrontations and protests at the Stonewall Inn and the surrounding area that lasted over the course of 6 days, until July 3, 1969. The Stonewall uprising empowered thousands of LGBTQ individuals to emerge from shadows and to come out publicly as they stood up for their community the night of June 28, 1969, and beyond, putting their lives and their safety at risk.

Alarmed by the public protests in Chicago, Los Angeles, New York, Philadelphia, San Francisco, Washington, DC, and elsewhere, the Stonewall uprising became a catalyst for the LGBTQ civil rights movement to secure social and political equality and inspired the formation of many advocacy organizations.

A year later, members of the LGBTQ community commemorated the first anniversary of Stonewall and reaffirmed their solidarity with the community by organizing the first Pride marches and events in New York City, San Francisco, Chicago, and Los Angeles.

Now, we remember and celebrate the Stonewall uprising every year in June as Pride Month.

Three years ago, President Obama declared the Stonewall Inn and its surrounding area a national monument, becoming the first national monument to commemorate the LGBTQ civil rights movement.

Last month, New York City announced that it would dedicate a monument honoring pioneering transgender activists and key leaders in the Stonewall uprising, including Marsha P. Johnson and Sylvia Rivera. It would be the first public monument in the world honoring transgender women.

Just a few weeks ago, the NYPD Commanders issued an official apology on behalf of the department stating: “The actions taken by the NYPD were wrong—plain and simple.”

I was just a kid when the Stonewall uprising happened. I didn’t hear about Stonewall on the news or even learn about it later in my history class. It wasn’t until I was in college when, as a part of my own coming out process, I found out about it. I learned about it in my history class. It wasn’t until I was in college when, as a part of my own coming out process, I began to research the history of the gay rights movement and I learned more about the Stonewall Inn and the people involved, and the movement that it created.

Five years after Stonewall, in 1974, Kathy Kozachenko became the first openly gay person elected to political office in the United States, winning a seat on the Ann Arbor City Council in Michigan. Three years later, in 1977, Harvey Milk was elected to the San Francisco City Council.

In 1986, I had the honor of winning election to the County Board of Supervisors in Madison, WI. It was my first role in elected office, but I wasn’t the first. In fact, I was the third openly gay person to serve on the Dane County Board. I was really fortunate to have role models who had come before me.

In 1998, I became the first openly gay person elected to the U.S. House of Representatives as a nonincumbent, and in 2002, I became the first out member of the LGBTQ community to be elected to the U.S. Senate in its history.

I remember my early years in public office when there were only about two dozen or so of us who were out across the country. We would meet on an annual basis to discuss how we could work together to exchange ideas about legislation that would advance equality, and we talked about how we would help to expand our numbers at the local, State, and national levels. I am proud to say that, today, there are more than 700 out LGBT people who are serving in elected office across the United States.

All of these public servants bring their real life experiences to the job, and they give the LGBTQ community a seat at the table of our local, State, and Federal Governmental bodies. Perhaps just as importantly, each of these public servants is a role model for the next generation. This is important progress, but we are not there yet. We have more work to do, and we must keep fighting to move our country forward.

Members of the LGBTQ community continue to experience bias in policing and are still at significant risk of violence and discrimination. According to the annual hate crimes report, which is published by the Federal Bureau of Investigation, LGBTQ individuals and, particularly, LGBT individuals of color continue to be the target of bias-motivated violence, but efforts to address this violence may be hindered by a continued lack of trust in law enforcement. At least 100 transgender people, primarily women of color, have been murdered in the United States since the beginning of 2015.

No LGBT person in the United States should have to live in fear of being the target of violence. In a majority of States in this country, LGBT Americans can still be fired, evicted from their homes, or denied services because of who they are or whom they love. Because there is no explicit, uniform Federal law protecting LGBT people from discrimination in education, employment, housing, and credit, and more, too many Americans are at the mercy of an inadequate patchwork of State and local laws.

The House took a historic step forward last month when it passed the Equality Act. It is time for the Senate to do the same so that all LGBT Americans, no matter where they live, can finally have the freedom of full equality.

This week, I introduced a Senate resolution to honor the 50th anniversary of the Stonewall uprising. It is the first resolution in the U.S. Senate to recognize the story of Stonewall. This resolution commends the bravery, solidarity, and resiliency of the LGBTQ community in the face of violence and discrimination, both past and present. It also condemns violence and discrimination against members of the LGBTQ community and recommit to securing full equality for LGBT people in our country. Stonewall is the story of those who came before us and let their voices be heard—of those who bravely stood up and spoke out so that others would not feel compelled to live in silence or invisibly or in secrecy.

When we look back at the Stonewall uprising and the activism that grew out of that moment, even the most basic progress seemed as if it would take a revolution to achieve—so we had one. We should be proud of the enormous progress that we have made over the last 50 years. Let us remain inspired by the courage of this story, the story of Stonewall.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Colorado.

Mr. GARDNER. Mr. President, Congress has no greater responsibility than providing for our national defense and keeping American citizens safe.

The National Defense Authorization Act is one of the most important pieces of legislation to be considered by the United States. It authorizes necessary systems, programs, and resources that support the men and women who serve our country in the Armed Forces. For decades, it has been approved with strong bipartisan support.

In my home State of Colorado, our military installations, including Fort Carson, the Air Force Academy, and Buckley, Peterson, and Schriever Air Force Bases, are on the cutting edge of readiness in protecting our national security. This legislation is foundational to their mission, their work, and our show of support for the military.

I thank Chairman INHOFE and Ranking Member REED for their bipartisan leadership on the Senate Armed Services Committee and on the floor. The tremendous responsibility of providing for national defense cannot be overstated, and they have handled the process with respect and the seriousness that it deserves. The security of the United States should always be more important than any partisan politics, and I appreciate their commitment that they have placed on national defense above all else.

I also thank my colleagues for their bipartisan work on the National Defense Authorization Act. In working with them, I was able to achieve a number of great victories in amendments for Colorado and the Nation as well.

Senator SCHATZ and I have a bipartisan amendment that will improve the public alert system and allow military communities access to clean and safe drinking water, which was another
amendment that we were able to work on. I was able to work with Senator TOOMEY and Senator VAN HOLLEN—Senators from both sides of the aisle—to impose sanctions on the murderous North Korean regime.

We will also vote today to support a bipartisan effort that I authored that will encourage the U.S. Congress to stand with the people of Hong Kong and their democratic values while we urge Hong Kong’s authorities to permanently withdraw their flawed extradition bill and support human rights in Hong Kong.

When one family member serves our country in uniform, the entire family serves. This legislation supports military families in Colorado and all over the world. It provides the largest pay increase in a decade for troops, and it continues to support military spouses. The NDAA addresses the challenges that soldiers and their families face when they live in privatized housing, and it expands resources to address the PFAS water contamination in many of our military communities. This is an issue of life and health, and it matters greatly to the people I represent. I was pleased to work with my colleagues to continue addressing PFAS contamination.

Of course, in Colorado, we are proud to play a very key role in defending the United States. These installations that I talked about are critical to national security and supporting our operations in space. I am thrilled that this year’s NDAA authorizes the U.S. Space Force so that the United States can remain a global leader in space and not fall behind China or any other foreign competitor.

Almost everything in today’s age relies on space technology—telecommunications, GPS, transportation logistics, precision agriculture, and, of course, the U.S. military. Establishing the U.S. Space Force will better organize the military to handle space operations and will put all military members who work in the space domain under the same organizational umbrella. Colorado is home to the North American Aerospace Defense Command and the U.S. Northern Command, and it is the legacy home of the Air Force Space Command. As we establish the U.S. Space Force, Colorado is uniquely positioned to take advantage of our Nation’s military operations in space and the mission set that space involves.

We cannot risk falling behind our foreign competitors in the second space age. In order to guarantee the safety and security of American citizens, we must maintain our leadership in space operations and defense. I urge my colleagues to support the National Defense Authorization Act, which supports our military operations across the globe and the brave women and men who serve in the U.S. military. I will always fight to protect and grow the presence of the U.S. military in Colorado and work to ensure that these bases, which are essential to both national security and Colorado communities, remain strong.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Colorado.

Mr. INHOFE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to vitiates the years and nays on the substitute amendment.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. INHOFE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that I and Senator JACK REED be given such time as we shall consume prior to the vote that will take place.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. INHOFE. Mr. President, in just a few minutes, the Senate will vote on the final passage of the National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal year 2020.

Throughout the last week and a half, we have debated the legislation here on the Senate floor in a fair process. I thank my colleagues who have supported this bill and have helped to make it through the amendment process. While I would have liked to have had more open amendments—and Senator REED and I both wanted to have more amendments on the floor—we knew that there was a problem and that we could not do that.

We are pleased that we will at least be able to clear the 93 amendments that we added on yesterday as part of the bipartisan substitute amendment in the manager’s package. These include the annual Intelligence Authorization Act, the Maritime Administration Authorization and Enhancement Act, and the Fentanyl Sanctions Act.

Ultimately, the job of the NDAA is to make tough choices about where we want to invest our resources. We put our forces where they matter—in taking care of our people, in implementing the national defense strategy, and in applying recommendations from the NDS Strategy Commission Report. This is something we have used as a blueprint, and it has been very successful in taking us through this process.

Everyone agrees there are things that are going to have to happen in order to rebuild our military. That is why our top line is $750 billion. Without that, we can’t achieve the goals that we all know are necessary. It also must happen as soon as possible. We can’t delay on this bill.

We still have more work to be done on the NDAA. We need to conference it. The Conference Committee can sometimes take a little bit of time. We know that is going to be done for us. We know that we want to get this thing done by our deadline, which would be October 1.

In the last week of July, we have to do a lot of other things. We have to do annual appropriations bills. We have to do the budget deal. So these are some of our most important responsibilities. We have to get them done, and here is why: Things are happening right now.

Two days ago, MSG Michael B. Riley of Heilbronn, Germany, and SGT James G. Johnston of Trumansburg, NY, lost their lives in Afghanistan while engaged in combat operations. It was tragic.

Their service and sacrifice is a reminder of why this bill is so important. We have to make sure our troops have the very best of everything, and we are in the process of getting there with this bill.

Our prayers are with Master Sergeant Riley’s and Sergeant Johnston’s families and loved ones. We will never forget their service or their sacrifice that they made, reminding us that freedom is not free.

There is no doubt in my mind that the NDAA we are about to pass will give our troops what they need, make American families safer, and enable us to stand up for democratic values around the world.

Let me single out and thank publicly the next speaker, the ranking member, Senator REED and Senator WHITE, for being a partner in this. We stayed together on this. We had areas where we disagreed, but we got around those, we got things done, and the end result is a very good one.

I know Senator REED is going to want to recognize, as I do, the significance of the staff we worked with and why that is so important. Of course, we want to make sure people know—you know, Senator REED and I get a lot of credit for doing a lot of stuff that other people do. We truly appreciate these people.

Let me list some of them. First of all, John Bonsell and Liz King from my staff and from Senator REED’s staff. They are the ones who really got involved in this, and we, without them, it would have been almost impossible—along with other people.


I have a few more so just relax for a minute. I think the others are actually from the minority side, and I am sure Senator REED is going to be recognizing them.

From my personal staff, Luke Holland, Andrew Forbes, Leacy Burke, Don Archer, Kyle Stewart, and Bryan Brody.

Lastly, from the floor staff, that is Laura Dove, Robert Duncan, Chris Tuck, Tony Hanagan, Katherine Kihroy, Brian Canfield, Abigail Baker, and Megan Mercer.
I yield the floor.

VOTE ON AMENDMENT NO. 764

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the question is on agreeing to amendment No. 764, as modified and amended.

The amendment (No. 764), as modified, as amended, was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title for the third time.

The bill (S. 1790), as amended, was ordered to be reported by the committee on the third reading and was read the third time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the cloture motion is withdrawn.

The bill having been read the third time, the question is, Shall the bill pass?

Mr. RISCH. I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The yeas and nays are as follows:

YEAS—86

Yeager

Fischler

Bergh

Hoekstra

Boozman

Inhofe

Risch

Lankford

Young

Portman

Reed

Barrasso

Graham

Grassley

Johnson

Romanoff

Warren

Collins

Hawley

Gardner

Sanders

Crapo

Hoeven

Hoeven

Sen.

Hoeven

Horne

Hyde-Smith

Hassan

Hawley

Hawley

Hawley

Isakson

Johnson

Johnson

Johnson

Johnson

Johnson

Johnson

Johnson

Johnson

Johnson

Johnson

Johnson

Johnson

Johnson

Johnson

Johnson

Johnson

Johnson

Johnson

Johnson

Johnson

Johnson

Johnson

Johnson

Johnson

Johnson

Johnson

Johnson

Johnson

Johnson

Johnson

Johnson

Johnson

Johnson

Johnson

Johnson

Johnson

Johnson

Johnson

Johnson

Johnson

Johnson

Johnson

Johnson

Johnson

Johnson

Johnson

Johnson

Johnson

Johnson

Johnson

Johnson

Johnson

Johnson

Johnson

Johnson

Johnson

Johnson

Johnson

Johnson

Johnson

Johnson

Johnson

Johnson

Johnson

Johnson

Johnson

Johnson

Johnson

Johnson

Johnson

Johnson

Johnson

Johnson

Johnson

Johnson

Johnson

Johnson

Johnson

Johnson

Johnson

Johnson

Johnson

Johnson

Johnson

Johnson

Johnson

Johnson

Johnson

Johnson

Johnson

Johnson

Johnson

Johnson

Johnson

Johnson

Johnson

Johnson

Johnson

Johnson

Johnson

Johnson

Johnson

Johnson

Johnson

Johnson

Johnson

Johnson

Johnson

Johnson

Johnson

Johnson

Johnson

Johnson

Johnson

Johnson

Johnson

Johnson

Johnson

Johnson

Johnson

Johnson

Johnson

Johnson

Johnson

Johnson

Johnson

Johnson

Johnson

Johnson

Johnson

Johnson

Johnson

Johnson

Johnson

Johnson

Johnson

Johnson

Johnson

Johnson

Johnson

Johnson

Johnson

Johnson

Johnson

Johnson

Johnson

Johnson

Johnson

Johnson

Johnson

Johnson

Johnson

Johnson

Johnson

Johnson

Johnson

Johnson

Johnson

Johnson

Johnson

Johnson

Johnson

Johnson

Johnson

Johnson

Johnson

Johnson

Johnson

Johnson

Johnson

Johnson

Johnson

Johnson

Johnson

Johnson

Johnson

Johnson

Johnson

Johnson

Johnson

Johnson

Johnson

Johnson

Johnson

Johnson

Johnson

Johnson

Johnson

Johnson

Johnson

Johnson

Johnson

Johnson

Johnson

Johnson

Johnson

Johnson

Johnson

Johnson

Johnson

Johnson

Johnson

Johnson

Johnson

Johnson

Johnson

Johnson

Johnson

Johnson

Johnson

Johnson

Johnson

Johnson

Johnson

Johnson

Johnson

Johnson

Johnson

Johnson

Johnson

Johnson

Johnson

Johnson

Johnson

Johnson

Johnson

Johnson

Johnson

Johnson

Johnson

Johnson

Johnson

Johnson

Johnson

Johnson

Johnson

Johnson

Johnson

Johnson

Johnson

Johnson

Johnson

Johnson

Johnson

Johnson

Johnson

Johnson

Johnson

Johnson

Johnson

Johnson

Johnson

Johnson

Johnson

Johnson

Johnson

Johnson

Johnson

Johnson

Johnson

Johnson

Johnson

Johnson

Johnson

Johnson

Johnson

Johnson

Johnson

Johnson

Johnson

Johnson

Johnson

Johnson

Johnson

Johnson

Johnson

Johnson

Johnson

Johnson

Johnson

Johnson

Johnson

Johnson

Johnson

Johnson

Johnson

Johnson

Johnson

Johnson

Johnson

Johnson

Johnson

Johnson

Johnson

Johnson

Johnson

Johnson

Johnson

Johnson

Johnson

Johnson

Johnson

Johnson

Johnson

Johnson

Johnson

Johnson

Johnson

Johnson

Johnson

Johnson

Johnson

Johnson

Johnson

Johnson

Johnson

Johnson

Johnson

Johnson

Johnson

Johnson

Johnson

Johnson

Johnson

Joseph

Kirkley

Risch

Roberts

Romney

Roschen

Rubio

Sasse

Schatz

Schumer

Scott (FL)

Scott (RI)

Shabazz

Shelby

Sisemore

Smith

Stabenow

Sullivan

Toomey

Tillis

Tomney

Ulrich

Van Holten

Warner

Whitehouse

Wicker

Young

Noes—6

Bennett

Gillibrand

Not Voting—6

Harr

Rounds

Sanders

Warren

Page 1 of 1

June 27, 2019
Despite then-Candidate Trump’s campaign rhetoric, I and others hoped that he would heed the advice of the advisers with respect to the Iran nuclear agreement, also known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action, or the JCPOA. For example, despite personal concerns about the JCPOA before it was signed, former Secretary of Defense Mattis told the Armed Services Committee at his confirmation hearing that when America gives her word, we have to live up to it and work with our allies.

In October 2017, Secretary Mattis told the Armed Services Committee that he believed it was in our national interest to remain in the JCPOA. General Dunford, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, echoed these sentiments at the time and cautioned that, in his words, “the U.S. will incur damage vis-a-vis our allies if we unilaterally withdraw from the JCPOA. Our allies will be less likely to cooperate with us on future military action to prevent Iran from acquiring a nuclear weapon and less likely to cooperate with us on countering other destabilizing aspects of Iranian behavior that is collectively in their interest.”

The administration should have sought to work with the international community to address the challenges posed by Iran by building upon the foundation of the JCPOA rather than squandering that opportunity in favor of “putting Iran on notice” and other inflammatory rhetoric.

Just over a year ago, President Trump made the disastrous decision to unilaterally withdraw the United States from the JCPOA and reimpose nuclear-related sanctions, in violation of previous U.S. commitments under the deal. Since withdrawing from the deal, the Trump administration has taken a series of additional escalatory actions, including the imposition of new sanctions on various aspects of the Iranian economy; cancellation of waivers that previously allowed importation of Iranian oil by China, India, Japan, South Korea, and Turkey; and the designation of the Iranian Revolutionary Guards Corps—often referred to as the IRGC—as a foreign terrorist organization.

The designation of a foreign government entity as a foreign terrorist organization is unprecedented, and it is not clear what purpose it served other than to unnecessarily raise tensions with Iran. As I learned during a recent visit to Iraq and Afghanistan, the IRGC designation has significantly complicated our relationships with foreign partners who described the action as provocative and destabilizing.

While the JCPOA was not a perfect deal, it was a necessary deal. It is important to remember that when the JCPOA was signed, Iran’s “breakout” timeline—the amount of time Iran would need to produce enough fissile material for a nuclear weapon—was only 2 to 3 months. Even by the most conservative estimates, the JCPOA stretched that timeline to more than a year.

By all accounts, the JCPOA has worked as intended. The JCPOA commits Iran to never seeking to develop a nuclear weapon, and effectively cuts off all pathways for Iran to achieve a nuclear weapon until at least 2030. The agreement dramatically reduced Iran’s stockpile of enriched uranium and the number of installed centrifuges. It also prevented Iran from producing浓缩的 plutonium and has subjected Iran to the most intrusive monitoring regime in the world to ensure it is living up to its commitments.

The JCPOA was appropriately built upon the concept of “distrust and verify,” and I support efforts by our European partners, as well as Russia and China, to preserve the JCPOA despite challenges the Trump administration has put in their way.

In announcing the administration’s withdrawal from the JCPOA, Secretary of State Pompeo articulated a set of 12 demands and indicated that “major changes” would need to be made by Iran before sanctions relief would be provided. The administration has sent mixed messages on whether its demands should be viewed as a set of preconditions for discussions on sanctions relief. The demands outlined by Secretary Pompeo are widely viewed as maximalist and leave little room for negotiation, especially given that the administration has already reneged on previous diplomatic commitments related to Iran’s nuclear program.

Without greater certainty by the administration on what specific actions would need to be taken by Iran to relieve U.S. economic pressure, I fear that Iran has little incentive to engage in negotiations.

Indeed, the administration has followed that initial set of 12 demands with a succession of orchestrated steps to force Iran into an ever-smaller corner that only serves to increase the odds of miscalculation and reduce diplomatic opportunities. The economic sanctions by the United States have left the Iranian economy reeling, with its gross domestic product shrinking by 5 percent and the inflation rate rising by 50 percent.

As part of this so-called “Maximum Pressure” campaign, the administration has just announced personal sanctions against Supreme Leader Ali Khamenei and other Iranian leadership. The Iranians have responded by indicating that these sanctions mean “the permanent closure of the doors of diplomacy.”

Rather than modifying its behavior, Iran has responded with those provocative and subsequent escalatory actions by increasing its malign activities in the region, including in Yemen and Syria, and announcing that it would stop complying with certain aspects of the JCPOA. If Iran follows through on those threats, the United States and the international community will be in a much less unified and therefore weaker negotiating position than we had leading up to the JCPOA.

As I assess the current state of affairs, I see four potential outcomes of the current approach being pursued by the administration.

First, Iran could bend to the will of the administration and announce its compliance with the so-called 12 demands laid out by Secretary Pompeo. However, Iran has a long history of struggle against outside forces. A notable example is the Iran-Iraq war of the 1980s. Additionally, any Iranian capitulation would likely threaten its top priority of regime survival, so clearly this is an unrealistic outcome.

Second, Iran could remain in the JCPOA despite seeing little of the economic benefits promised by the deal and hope that a future U.S. administration would return to the agreement. Iran’s recent announcement that it would stop complying with aspects of the JCPOA is a signal that it views the current arrangement as unsustainable and is willing to abandon the JCPOA completely if its economic situation does not improve in the near term.

Third, Iran could agree to return to the negotiating table, seeking a reduction in tensions and easing of sanctions. However, both the administration and Iranian leaders have made clear that they are not interested in such an approach.

In announcing the administration’s strategy for Iran last May, Secretary Pompeo stated that President Trump is “ready, willing, and able to negotiate a new deal” but also made clear that “we will not renegotiate the JCPOA itself.” On May 8, Iranian President Rouhani stated: “We are ready to negotiate, within the boundaries of JCPOA . . . It is not us who left the negotiation table.

These seem to be irreconcilable positions, especially after the latest round of sanctions directed at the Iranian leadership.

Lastly and most significant, I believe, the current approach could result in a military conflict between the United States and Iran. The destruction of an American unmanned drone flying in international airspace by a missile fired from Iran is an example of the potential for widespread conflict. Only at the last minute did President

June 27, 2019
Trump call off a strike against the Iranian missile sites in retaliation. He concluded correctly that such a strike would be disproportionate. But the incident underscores the precarious position we are in after months of the misguided "Maximum Pressure" campaign.

Iranian action, either directed by national leadership or mistakenly taken by zealous supporters, could put us on an escalatory ladder of strike and counterstrike that would involve the entire region from Afghanistan to the Levant.

In addition and equally troubling is that an unarticulated goal of this so-called "Maximum Pressure" campaign is to prompt Iran to leave the JCPOA either officially or by gradually increasing its stock of highly enriched uranium or other aspects of its nuclear program. This could give advocates for a military strike on Iran increased leverage in both domestic and international forums to get the world to support such an attack on Iran.

Like all of my colleagues, I am deeply concerned that Iran's threats to U.S. personnel facilities in the Middle East, U.S. forces have the unquestioned and inherent right to defend themselves, but absent an Iranian directed or sponsored attack or the imminent threat of such an attack on U.S. personnel facilities or key strategic interests, would likely prompt a regional asymmetric response by Iran, with significant military as well as economic consequences.

In this context, the President's demonstrated willingness not just to bend the facts but to indulge, in certain cases, in fabrications is particularly concerning and unacceptable when it may come to deploying our troops into harm's way. Congress has the responsibility to demand and, if necessary, challenge the basis for unsupported assertions of Iranian aggression and provocation that could be used to take this country to war.

Echoing one of the themes used in the Bush administration's justification for the 2003 Iraq war, Secretary of State Pompeo testified to the Senate in April that "there's no doubt there is a connection between the Islamic Republic of Iran and al Qaeda." He said, "Stop Iran. Stop al Qaeda. Full stop." And he refused to rule out the use of the 2001 AUMF as a means to conduct military action against Iran.

While Iran is a state sponsor of terror, I am not aware of compelling evidence to suggest Iran or Iranian affiliated groups are an "associated force" of al-Qaida for the purposes of the 2001 AUMF.

In fact, such an arrangement is hard to fathom, given the deep religious and ideological differences between the Shia leadership of Iran and the Sunni leadership of al-Qaida. The administration must come to Congress if it seeks to pursue such a course.

Likewise, any consideration of military action against Iran must fully account for the likely cost of such an engagement—in lives, resources, potential negative impact on the global economy, disruption of U.S.-Iranian relationships, and other unintended consequences. The administration must provide the American people with a clear-eyed assessment of what those costs may be in advance of any contemplated military engagement.

The Trump administration's escalatory attacks may soon place Iran in an untenable position. As a result, Iran may seek to change the status quo by initiating a limited military conflict with U.S. forces. Thereby requiring the intervention of the international community. If such a scenario comes to pass, our recent efforts to deter Iran through the deployment of additional military capabilities to the region will have failed, and even a limited conflict would be very difficult to manage or to bring to a conclusion.

The President and others in the administration have consistently downplayed the potential costs of conflict with Iran. In fact, just yesterday, the President said that "if something should happen [with Iran], we're in a very strong position. It wouldn't last very long." The President's assessment is undercut by his own Director of National Intelligence Dan Coats, who told Congress earlier this year:

Iran continues to develop and approve a range of new military capabilities to target U.S. and allied military assets in the region, including armed UAVs, ballistic missiles, advanced naval mines, unmannned explosive boats, submarines and advanced torpedoes, and antiship and land-attack cruise missiles. Iran has the largest ballistic missile force in the Middle East and can strike targets up to 2,000 kilometers from Iran's borders. Russia's delivery of the SA-20c S-300 system in 2016 has provided Iran with its most advanced long-range air defense system.

In addition to the conventional military capabilities laid out by Director Coats, Iran maintains a network of proxy forces throughout the region, many of whom operate in close proximity to the U.S. military in Iraq and Syria. They maintain the capability to conduct lethal action against our forces and facilities without notice.

Recently retired commander of the U.S. Central Command, General Votel, told the Armed Services Committee in February:

The Iranian regime masques its malign activities through proxies and surrogates enabled by the back door in Yemen, Syria, Iraq, and Lebanon. Iran is also attempting to build ground lines of communication through Iran and Syria into Lebanon, which has gained influence with Iran's armed forces with the formalization of Popular Mobilization Forces, and also exerted influence in Lebanon, Iraq, and Yemen, oftentimes affecting established sovereign governments.

The combination of Iran's known conventional and asymmetric capabilities should dispel any notion that conflict with Iran would be quick or could be won only through the use of U.S. air power. As former Secretary of Defense Robert Gates reportedly said in a recent speech: "If you think the war in Iraq was hard, an attack on Iran would, in my opinion, be a catastrophe."

I urge the President and those in the administration to take this moment of high tension to engage with our allies and partners with the goal of seeking a diplomatic solution to the current situation. In that context and in that spirit, I will support the Udall amendment tomorrow.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Texas.
 BORDER SECURITY

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, the 116th Congress, so far, has just talked about the humanitarian crisis at the border. Most of our Democratic colleagues have claimed up to this point that there is no crisis or emergency at the border.

We will recall that we started out the year with a government shutdown because of the battle over border security, and our Democratic friends made one thing perfectly clear: They would oppose any effort to fund our security mission at the border. That resulted in the 35-day shutdown.

The Speaker of the House at the time called the situation “a fake crisis at the border,” and the minority leader here in the Senate referred to it as “a crisis that does not exist.” Well, they weren’t the only ones. Throughout the Halls of the Capitol, Democrats in Congress used terms like “phony,” “imaginary,” and “make-believe” to describe the challenges our frontline officers and agents were facing every day.

While our Democratic colleagues have reflexively denied the existence of a crisis at the border, the problems have grown only bigger each day. Of course, it was 2014, I will remind my friends across the aisle, when Barack Obama, then President of the United States, declared a humanitarian and security crisis at the border. So it seemed very odd to me that, in 2019, they decided—when the numbers kept getting bigger and bigger—when conditions and violations worse and worse—all of a sudden that the humanitarian and security crisis had gone away.

The fact is, over the last 3 months, the number of illegal crossings across the southwestern border have hit six figures, something we haven’t seen since 2006. We surpassed the number of unaccompanied children apprehended at the height of the 2014 crisis that President Obama was speaking about.

Now, it seems, our Democratic colleagues have finally accepted the facts. This mass migration has nearly depleted our Federal resources, causing the President to request $41½ billion for immigration and border security get more extreme each day. Now, more than one Democrat running for the nomination for President actually supports making entering the country illegally legal—in other words, no orderly immigration system at all—a free-for-all, where it is easier for human traffickers and drug smugglers to come and remain here. And, of course, there is this: no consideration given for those would-be immigrants who are trying to wait patiently in line and do things exactly the right way and no consideration of the unfairness of those who would jump ahead of the line and enter illegally before those who are trying to do it the right way.

The House bill stands in stark contrast to the bipartisan agreement we passed here in the Senate, which funds a range of programs at the Federal departments and agencies working to manage the crisis, and, importantly, it is the only bill in town that has the support of the President. It is, after all, important to get the President’s signature on legislation for it to become law.

The Senate Appropriations Committee overwhelmingly supported this bill, and it passed the committee by a vote of 30 to 1. When the full Senate voted on it yesterday, only eight Members of the Senate voted no.

We have simply waited long enough. We waited too long, in my view, for Democrats to acknowledge this real humanitarian crisis. The House bill is inadequate and mostly a partisan effort.

Our Democratic colleagues have resisted acting for far too long already, making this humanitarian crisis worse. They circulate the very tragic pictures of a father with his young child face down in the waters of the Rio Grande River, and they somehow fail to acknowledge their own complicity in failing to act to provide the sorts of fixes to our asylum laws that would deter, if not prevent, that sort of thing from occurring. They know they really do need to look in the mirror.

We need to take action now, and I hope we don’t have to wait any longer for our colleagues in the House to pass the Senate’s bipartisan bill.
we saw the details of that deal in 2015, it quickly became clear that it was not much of a deal at all. If the goal is to prevent Iran from getting a nuclear weapon—well, it obviously failed in that goal.

As the majority leader said at the time, it “appears to fall well short of the goal we all thought was trying to be achieved, which was that Iran would not be a nuclear state.”

Despite the restrictions it would impose, the agreement would leave Iran with a vast nuclear program and allow it to continue to conduct research and development on advanced centrifuges and building intercontinental ballistic missiles.

Perhaps worse, the nuclear deal would lift those restrictions in a decade. In other words, it was 2015 when the JCPOA was signed by the relevant parties. So by postponing Iran’s ability to develop a nuclear weapon, we are already halfway there almost. It is no wonder that then-Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu delivered an address to Congress in March of 2015 and said the JCPOA “doesn’t block Iran’s path to the bomb; it paves Iran’s path to the bomb.” That certainly seemed true. We have since learned that violation of the nuclear deal and U.N. resolutions time after time, and it is clear that their resolve to create nuclear weapons remains their highest priority.

Just a year ago, President Trump announced the United States would pull out of the nuclear deal, a decision I strongly supported. Even at the time Secretary Kerry, the Secretary of State, admitted that the tens of billions of dollars the United States released to go to Iran would be used to fund their terrorist activities, he supported it nonetheless. He supported it even though it paved the way for Iran to get a nuclear weapon 10 years after the JCPOA was signed.

Since the Trump administration has withdrawn from the JCPOA, it has taken resolute action against Iran, including stronger sanctions on entities and individuals and the designation of the IRGC as a foreign terrorist organization, which it clearly is. Somehow, though, despite the unprovoked attacks, flagrant violations of international agreements, and human rights violations, some of our friends on the left have transformed the never-ending never in the context of Iran to grossly mischaracterized the situation and have somehow managed to point the finger at the Trump administration for starting the fight in the first place. They want to blame America, and they want to blame this administration.

Let me be clear. Iran is the aggressor. Their history as the chief mischief-maker in the Middle East began long before President Trump took office, so don’t lay this at his feet. From the Iran hostage crisis to their outright support of terrorist groups in the Middle East, to this latest strike at a U.S. aircraft, something they admitted— they said: We did it—their actions at every turn have demonstrated a desire not only to escalate the conflict with the United States and our interests and allies but to spread their violent extremism without regard for anyone else.

I have to say it has been 74 years since the United States, in 1944, dropped a nuclear weapon on the Japanese cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, and I hope and pray there is never again a nuclear weapon exploded on our planet, but can you imagine Iran, the No. 1 state sponsor of international terrorism, getting a nuclear weapon? We can never ever allow that to happen.

This last week marked the 23rd anniversary of a notable episode in Iran’s sad history of terrorism. That was the 23rd anniversary of the Khobar Towers bombing in Saudi Arabia. In 1996, a truck bomb was detonated adjacent to a building housing members of the U.S. Air Force’s 4404th Wing, killing 19 U.S. Air Force personnel and a Saudi local and wounding 488 others.

If Iran continues to escalate with no response from the United States or our allies, if Iran continues to escalate as much as they can, which I think is more dangerous than a proportional U.S. response to what happened in the Strait of Hormuz.

The President has opted for hard-hitting sanctions which I think are a good start. Those sanctions announced by the administration earlier this week represent an appropriate response to the Iranian escalation consistent with President Trump’s maximum pressure strategy on Iran. These sanctions will deny the Supreme Leader, the Supreme Leader’s office, and close affiliates access to resources they need to finance their rogue regime. There is no better—or in the interest of peace—to apply the maximum pressure on Iran to change their behavior. The tentacles of the IRGC run deep into their economy, and these sanctions will prevent them from amassing even greater power to develop sophisticated weapons.

We have seen reports that the economic challenges they are encountering as a result of the sanctions already in place are making it harder for them to finance their terrorist operations through their proxies. The actions taken by Iran show that they are feeling the squeeze of these sanctions, and they know exactly what they need to do before they can gain relief. As Secretary of State Pompeo said, “When the Iranian regime decides to forgo violence and meet our diplomacy with diplomacy, it knows how to reach us.”

I sincerely hope to see the day when the Iranian people can live without fear, when their government respects its citizens and international allies and lives by international norms and finally decides to forgo its nuclear weapons. Until that day comes, I hope our allies will stand with us in confronting the tyrants in Iran and doing everything in our power to push back against the world’s largest state sponsor of terror.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Connecticut.

S. 1790

Mr. BLUMENTHAL. Mr. President, tomorrow this body faces an opportunity, in fact, an obligation to reassert its proper constitutional role in waging war.

I urge my colleagues to support the Udall-Kaine amendment, a provision to prohibit funding for unauthorized and unapproved military operations against Iran. No vote will be more important during this session than the one we are about to see in our Senate. If we fail to adopt this amendment, the American people already believe we have ceded too much authority to the executive branch; that we are implicitly, if not directly and explicitly, approving an imperial presence. This amendment puts us to the test before the American people.

The Congress has a job to do. We should do that job tomorrow. We should insist that we have the authority and we have the obligation to consider whether there are military operations against Iran.

We can talk about policy. There is no question that Iran is a malign and treacherously bad actor in that part of the world. There is no doubt that it poses a clear threat to the American people, to our allies but to spread their violent extremism into their economy, and these sanctions will prevent them from amassing even greater power to develop sophisticated weapons.

We have seen reports that the economic challenges they are encountering as a result of the sanctions already in place are making it harder for them to finance their terrorist operations through their proxies. The actions taken by Iran show that they are feeling the squeeze of these sanctions, and they know exactly what they need to do before they can get relief. As Secretary of State Pompeo said, ‘When the Iranian regime decides to forgo violence and meet our diplomacy with diplomacy, it knows how to reach us.’

I sincerely hope to see the day when the Iranian people can live without fear, when their government respects its citizens and international allies and lives by international norms and finally decides to forgo its nuclear weapons. Until that day comes, I hope our allies will stand with us in confronting the tyrants in Iran and doing everything in our power to push back against the world’s largest state sponsor of terror.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Connecticut.
Mr. BLUMENTHAL. Let me begin by thanking Ranking Member JACK REED of Rhode Island and Chairman INHOFE of Oklahoma, as well as my other colleagues on the committee and my staff, who have worked tirelessly on this to include key elements of my proposal that are important to our military, as well as to our Nation.

This NDAA includes comprehensive reforms to the Military Housing Privatization Initiative. It changes military housing policies that are overdue and will prioritize families, ensure long-term quality assurance, and enhance accountability.

In the hearings held by the Armed Services Committee with military families who have experienced adverse health effects and financial burden from residing in hazardous housing, one point was absolutely clear: Our Nation is failing military families who already sacrifice so much and who have struggled to secure safe and livable conditions.

I visited some of the homes at the New London base, and I was struck by the mold, the repairs that were needed, the defects in appliances, and the complaints about lack of proper air-conditioning and heating. We owe our military families much better, and we owe law enforcement the support they need to crack down on fraudulent private contractors.

I am proud that the NDAA includes my provision to prohibit the Trump administration from modifying military installations to detain migrant children who have been forcibly separated from their parents. The separation of families for immigration policies have been absolutely abhorrent and antithetical to our values and ideals. They have been shameful and disgraceful.

We have seen the photos, and those pictures are worth a thousand of my words today, but the misuse of military resources, as I have repeatedly emphasized, to implement this administration’s radical immigration enforcement agenda—this provision is a small but necessary step toward protecting migrant families from the cruelties of this family separation policy. It is only the beginning. We need to ensure that the Department of Homeland Security reimburses the Defense Department when military resources are used for support at the border. This kind of measure will hopefully prevent DHS from using the Pentagon as a piggy bank—a financial resource for cruel and inhumane policies.

We need to ensure that the President is stopped from abusing his Executive authority by deploying troops to assist in deportation.

We also considered floor amendments to the NDAA. I want to highlight an amendment that I offered to improve equity in the post-9/11 GI bill benefit. Last July, the Pentagon issued a new policy on servicemembers’ ability to transfer unused education benefits to their family members. These new policies prevent servicemembers with more than 16 years of military service from transferring education benefits at the time that military servicemembers opt to transfer rather than when they become eligible. The Pentagon argues that these changes were made to encourage the retention of the most critical retention tool—all while breaking our promise to military families by moving the goalpost of transfer eligibility and exacerbating inequities in transferring educational benefits. Most notably, disqualifying servicemembers with more than 16 years of military services counterintuitively penalizes the men and women who have served this country in uniform for years.

My amendment would make the post-9/11 GI bill an earned benefit rather than a retention tool and ensure that all servicemembers who have completed 10 years of service in the armed services and Armed Forces are eligible to transfer their benefits to dependents at any time, both while serving on Active Duty and as a veteran.

Despite the passage of the NDAA and the need for this amendment continuing, I will continue to champion equitable education benefits for our military families.

This year’s NDAA makes important, unprecedented investments in the submarines, helicopters, and aircraft built in Connecticut. They are not only manufacturing submarines and helicopters in my State—employing thousands of skilled workers vital to our defense industrial base—but they are also critical to our national security. They keep our country safe, and they make sure our Nation and our military have a fair fight.

I was proud to lead the fight for increased investment in those Virginia-class submarines. That included $4.7 billion for those two submarines and nearly $4.3 billion in that advance procurement for a third Virginia-class submarine.

The NDAA also includes $2.3 billion—which is $140 million above the President’s request—for the Columbia-class submarine.

I was proud, as well, to champion over $10 billion for 94 F-35s, which are important to all of our military services. That is an additional 16 above the President’s request.

In helicopter production, we will keep faith with the warfighters and with the defense industrial base at Sikorsky.

Today’s effort is a tribute to the leadership and the bipartisan efforts in...
this Congress. I thank and applaud my colleagues for coming together on behalf of our Nation’s defense, which is especially important in a time of disillusionment and seeming dysfunction for the American people. I yield the floor.

REMEMBERING WILLIAM MODEN

Mr. GARDNER. Mr. President, I rise today to honor an officer of the Colorado State Patrol whose watch tragically came to an end earlier this month when he was killed in the line of duty.

On June 14, 2019, Trooper William Moden was responding to an accident that occurred on I-70 in Deer Trail, CO. He was doing what he did every day—responding to an incident and giving a helping hand to Coloradans in need. He was assisting the passengers of a vehicle who were involved in a crash—one of whom was an 18-month-old child—when he was struck by a passing vehicle.

Like too many of our Nation’s law enforcement officers, Trooper Moden gave his life while protecting and serving others.

William Moden was 37 years old and had served in the Colorado State Patrol for 12 years. His fellow troopers remember him as someone whose uniform was always perfect and whose boots were always polished. There is no doubt for any of them that he was meant to serve and that he did so with the utmost honor and dignity.

While Trooper Moden carried out his duties with seriousness, his friends and loved ones remember him as someone with a tremendous sense of humor. At a memorial service held last week, he was described as having an infectious laugh—a laugh that was usually the loudest in the room. Many at the service remembered the time he put on a dog’s shock collar just to see how it made others laugh. These are the kinds of memories his loved ones will remember forever.

Just as he answered when his Coloradans called, his friends and family say he was someone who could always be counted on. He was reliable, dependable, and they often described him as their “knight in shining armor”—someone who always provided the much-needed care and comfort. The chief of the Colorado State Patrol, Colonel Matt Parkard, described William Moden as “the true personification of what it means to be a Colorado State Trooper.”

At the memorial service last week, Trooper Moden was awarded the title of “Master Trooper”—a rank given only to those who show great leadership and character. To those who knew him, William completely exemplified these characteristics and is certainly deserving of this high honor.

We know we can never pay the debt of gratitude owed to people like William Moden, who risk their lives every day to ensure our communities are safe. The best we can offer is to never forget and to continue to celebrate the lives of those who sacrifice everything. I know my Senate colleagues will join me in mourning the loss of Trooper Moden and all those who have given their lives in defending the thin blue line.

So for the second time this year, I come to the floor of the U.S. Senate and remember the words of LTC Dave Grossman, who said, “American law enforcement officers are loyal and brave. They always do their duty—whether they are dressed as a knight in shining armor or in dirty diapers...”

I hope the outpouring of love and support that Trooper Moden’s family and friends have received in the past few weeks bring them a small bit of comfort.

To Trooper Moden’s family and loved ones, our State thanks you for your service, sacrifice, and willingness to share William with the people of Colorado.

Thank you.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from New Jersey.

BORDER SECURITY

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. President, I come to the floor once again to speak about a humanitarian crisis that is not taking place in Yemen or in Syria or in any foreign country but, rather, right here at the southern border of the United States.

They say a picture speaks a thousand words, but I think it is even more than that. Photographs have the power to cut through noise, speak the truth, and invoke action.

We all remember the heartbreakng image of a little boy who was covered in ash while he sat in an ambulance in Syria. It told us all we needed to know about the mass murder committed by Bashar al-Assad. Likewise, we remember the look in the eyes of the malnourished girl who was on the brink of death in Yemen—one of more than 85,000 children to have succumbed to hunger during Saudi Arabia’s disastrous bombing campaign. Yet the photo I have brought to the floor today has shaken me to the core as a father, as a grandfather, as a son of immigrants, and above all else, as an American.

Like the other photographs I mentioned, this one tells a story too. This one speaks an ugly truth, and that truth is that President Trump’s cruel, inhumane, and un-American border policies have failed to make us safer. They have failed to reduce migration to our border. They have also failed to live up to the American values that define our leadership around the world.

We will never forget this heartbreaking photo. More importantly, we will not forget the names of Oscar Alberto Martinez and his 23-month-old daughter, Valeria. They drowned in a desperate attempt to claim asylum in the United States.

Oscar, Valeria, and Tania, her mother, fled El Salvador in the hopes of seeking asylum in the United States. The Washington Post reported:

They traveled more than 1,000 miles seeking it…But the farthest the family got was an international bridge in Matamoros, Mexico. On Sunday, they were told the bridge was closed and that they should return Monday. Aid workers told The Post the line to get across the bridge was hundreds long.

The young family was desperate. Standing on the Mexican side of the Rio Grande, America looked within reach. Martinez and Valeria waded in. But before they all made it to the other side, the river waters pulled the 25-year-old and his daughter under and swept them away.

Later, when Mexican authorities recovered their bodies, Oscar and Valeria were still clinging to each other.

Here in the United States, it is hard to imagine what kind of desperate conditions would propel you to flee your home and embark on a perilous journey in search of protection from a foreign nation.

Most of these families who arrive at our border come from Guatemala, El Salvador, and Honduras—three countries that are collectively known as the Northern Triangle. It is a region that is plagued by transnational gang violence, weak institutions, and poverty. Young boys are forced into servitude by gangs. Young girls are beaten and raped if they refuse to become their girlfriends. Parents who try to protect their children end up getting killed.

These countries are among the most dangerous in the world. In El Salvador, a woman is murdered every 19 hours, and in Honduras—the country with the highest homicide rate in the world for women—a woman is killed every 16 hours.

To be blunt, these families face an impossible choice. It is either stay and die or flee for a chance to live.

I hope this photograph does anything, I hope it dispels us of the ludicrous notion that you can deter desperate families from fleeing their homes in search of safety. That is how the Trump administration describes its cruel policies at the border—deterrence.

In the name of deterrence, it is tearing children and babies away from their mothers and fathers. In the name of deterrence, it is shutting down entry points at the border and encouraging migrant families to seek more dangerous methods of getting into the United States, like crossing the Rio Grande. In the name of deterrence, children are being housed in unsanitary conditions, which leaves in-fants in dirty diapers and children without soap or toothpaste.

Let me share with our colleagues just a few of the statements that the children who have been kept in these abhorrent conditions made.

Said one 8-year-old boy:

They took us away from our grandmother, and now we are all alone. They have not
given us to our mother. We have been here for a long time. I have to take care of my little sister. She is very sad because she misses our mother and grandmother very much. . . . We sleep in four. There are two mats in the room, but the big kids sleep on the mats, so we have to sleep on the cement bench.

Consider the words of a 16-year-old girl:

We slept on mats on the floor, and they gave us aluminum blankets. They took our baby’s diapers, baby formula, and all of our belongings. Our clothes were still wet, and we were on a 3 a.m. schedule, so we got sick. . . . I have been in the U.S. for 6 days, and I have never been offered a shower or been able to brush my teeth. There is no soap, and our clothes are dirty. They have never been washed.

Finally, here are the words of a 17-year-old mother:

I was given a blanket and a mattress, but then, at 3 a.m., the guards took the blanket and mattress. My baby was left sleeping on the floor. In fact, almost every night, the guards wake us at 3 a.m. and take away our sleeping mattresses and blankets. . . . They leave babies, even little babies of 2 or 3 months, sleeping on the cold floor. For me, because I am so pregnant, sleeping on the floor is very painful for my back and hips. I think the guards act this way to punish us.

This is not the America I know. This is not the America this President wants us to forget who we are. This administration wants us to believe that if the Government of the United States is cruel enough, that if it deniers those who seek asylum all semblances of humanity, that if we ignore the basic standards of child welfare, and that if we abandon fundamental American values like respect for human rights, then desperate families who flee Central America will stop coming here.

It is not true. The entire doctrine of deterrence is grounded in hideous lies, beginning with the lie the President has fed the people from the moment he launched his campaign in 2015—the lie that immigrants are a threat to our security. President Trump has cast immigrants as criminals and rapists and drug dealers when the truth is that these migrants are the ones who are fleeing the criminals, the rapists, and the drug dealers.

I am sick and tired of these lies, like when the President repeatedly says he inherited the policy of family separation from the Obama administration. That is a lie. The Trump administration masterminded this despicable policy, pure and simple. His policies are not working. They have done nothing to stem the tide of families who seek asylum in the United States. They have done nothing to stabilize Central America and to alleviate the conditions that force families to leave their homes.

It is time to turn the page. There are so many alternatives to detention that are available to the DHS that are far more humane and far less costly to the taxpayers.

Consider the Obama administration’s pilot program known as the family case management system. It established procedures to treat migrant families humanely as their cases moved forward. Pregnant women, nursing mothers, or mothers with young children were given caseworkers who helped to educate them on their rights and their responsibilities. They were connected to resources or to family in the country who could help them.

According to an inspector general’s report, the program was an enormous success, with a release rate of 99 percent. That means that 99 percent of the time, families in the program showed up for their ICE check-ins and appointments. Likewise, they showed up 100 percent of the time for their immigration court hearings. Tell me—how many government programs work 100 percent of the time? It is very rare. This one did, but that didn’t stop President Trump from terminating it. Even though it had a 99-percent compliance to ensure the rate and had 100 percent who showed up for their hearings, oh, no. Evidently, that was not good enough for the Trump administration, for it was far more humane and far less costly to the taxpayers.

Beyond embracing alternatives to mass detention, we must ramp up humanitarian assistance at the border. That is why I voted yesterday for the House’s emergency supplemental bill, which would provide desperately needed support to on-the-ground organizations and would better ensure the humane treatment of children who are in CBP custody.

The House bill included strong guardrails to prevent this White House from using these funds to pursue its draconian detention practices and mass deportation agenda. While the Senate bill fell short in these areas, I hope the administration uses whatever money it receives to extend care to those children who are properly cared for—in a way that respects basic human rights.

Solving this crisis will take more than humanitarian funding. If President Trump were serious about reducing migration, he would be working day and night to improve the conditions that are driving families to flee Central America in the first place. Instead, he has cut off aid to the Northern Triangle and has undermined critical, fair, and timely processing of asylum seekers.

That is why I voted yesterday for the House’s emergency supplemental bill, which would provide desperately needed support to on-the-ground organizations and would better ensure the humane treatment of children who are in CBP custody.

The Trump administration has adopted a compliance and family separation policy, which the Trump administration knows it. Why do I say that? In recent years, Congress has not only increased funding for foreign assistance to Central America, but it has required these governments to meet clear benchmarks in areas like combating drug trafficking and improving border security, including preventing illegal migration, human smuggling and trafficking, and trafficking of illicit drugs and other contraband; and cooperating with the United States Government agencies and other governments in the region to facilitate the return, repatriation and reintroduction of illegal migrants arriving at the southwest border of the United States who do not qualify for asylum consistent with international law.

This one is dated August 11, 2018. There are nine certifications by the Secretary of State saying that the programs we had going on and working in Central America were, in fact, working. But we all know this President has no respect for facts or evidence-based reality. His decision to punish Central American governments for the migration crisis by slashing aid is only making the crisis worse. It absolutely makes no sense.

If we want to reduce migration from Central America, we need a bold strategy to address the root causes driving families in fear from their home. That is why my colleagues and I have introduced the Central America Reform and Enforcement Act. Our bill would dramatically expand U.S. engagement in Honduras, El Salvador, and Guatemala through proven programs that help strengthen the rule of law, combat violence, and build prosperity. Our bill would also minimize border crossings by expanding refugee processing centers in the region in an effort to reduce demand at the border, and, finally, it includes several measures to protect the welfare of children and ensure efficient, fair, and timely processing of asylum seekers.

Now, this administration may wish the Northern Triangle’s serious problems would just go away, but the longer we let these conditions fester, the greater this migration crisis will become.

There is a very real possibility that President Trump views a growing crisis at the border as an asset in his path to reelection in 2020. The President believes his best shot at winning elections is to stoke fear of migrant children who pose no threat but desperately need the safe embrace of Lady Liberty.

After all, President Trump cannot cure the Central America Reform and Enforcement Act. Our bill would address the root causes driving families in fear from their home. That is why my colleagues and I have introduced the Central America Reform and Enforcement Act. Our bill would dramatically expand U.S. engagement in Honduras, El Salvador, and Guatemala through proven programs that help strengthen the rule of law, combat violence, and build prosperity. Our bill would also minimize border crossings by expanding refugee processing centers in the region in an effort to reduce demand at the border, and, finally, it includes several measures to protect the welfare of children and ensure efficient, fair, and timely processing of asylum seekers.

Now, this administration may wish the Northern Triangle’s serious problems would just go away, but the longer we let these conditions fester, the greater this migration crisis will become.

There is a very real possibility that President Trump views a growing crisis at the border as an asset in his path to reelection in 2020. The President believes his best shot at winning elections is to stoke fear of migrant children who pose no threat but desperately need the safe embrace of Lady Liberty.

After all, President Trump cannot cure the Central America Reform and Enforcement Act. Our bill would address the root causes driving families in fear from their home. That is why my colleagues and I have introduced the Central America Reform and Enforcement Act. Our bill would dramatically expand U.S. engagement in Honduras, El Salvador, and Guatemala through proven programs that help strengthen the rule of law, combat violence, and build prosperity. Our bill would also minimize border crossings by expanding refugee processing centers in the region in an effort to reduce demand at the border, and, finally, it includes several measures to protect the welfare of children and ensure efficient, fair, and timely processing of asylum seekers.

Now, this administration may wish the Northern Triangle’s serious problems would just go away, but the longer we let these conditions fester, the greater this migration crisis will become.

There is a very real possibility that President Trump views a growing crisis at the border as an asset in his path to reelection in 2020. The President believes his best shot at winning elections is to stoke fear of migrant children who pose no threat but desperately need the safe embrace of Lady Liberty.

After all, President Trump cannot cure the Central America Reform and Enforcement Act. Our bill would address the root causes driving families in fear from their home. That is why my colleagues and I have introduced the Central America Reform and Enforcement Act. Our bill would dramatically expand U.S. engagement in Honduras, El Salvador, and Guatemala through proven programs that help strengthen the rule of law, combat violence, and build prosperity. Our bill would also minimize border crossings by expanding refugee processing centers in the region in an effort to reduce demand at the border, and, finally, it includes several measures to protect the welfare of children and ensure efficient, fair, and timely processing of asylum seekers.

Now, this administration may wish the Northern Triangle’s serious problems would just go away, but the longer we let these conditions fester, the greater this migration crisis will become.

There is a very real possibility that President Trump views a growing crisis at the border as an asset in his path to reelection in 2020. The President believes his best shot at winning elections is to stoke fear of migrant children who pose no threat but desperately need the safe embrace of Lady Liberty.

After all, President Trump cannot cure the Central America Reform and Enforcement Act. Our bill would address the root causes driving families in fear from their home. That is why my colleagues and I have introduced the Central America Reform and Enforcement Act. Our bill would dramatically expand U.S. engagement in Honduras, El Salvador, and Guatemala through proven programs that help strengthen the rule of law, combat violence, and build prosperity. Our bill would also minimize border crossings by expanding refugee processing centers in the region in an effort to reduce demand at the border, and, finally, it includes several measures to protect the welfare of children and ensure efficient, fair, and timely processing of asylum seekers.
President Trump to attempt to ban Muslims from traveling to the United States. The politics of hate is what led President Trump to end DACA and threaten 800,000 Dreamers with deportation to countries they have never called home. People are going through no choice of their own were brought to the United States, the only country they have ever pledged allegiance to is the United States and to the flag of the United States. The only nation they know is the Star Spangled Banner. The only place they have ever called home is America.

The politics of hate is what led President Trump to attack TPS holders and jeopardize the lives of parents of American-born children. The politics of hate is what led the administration to forcibly separate nearly 2,800 children from their parents—maybe thousands more, because they don’t even have a record-keeping system of where all of these children are. That is a policy that will forever be a stain on our history.

The politics of hate is what led President Trump to tweet out his plan to send ICE agents into our communities to terrorize our towns and cities with mass arrests and mass deportations. It is a plan that would leave millions of U.S.-born American citizen children wondering if their mother or father would never come to pick me up at school or why dad never made it home for dinner. It is a plan that would inflict traumatic and irreparable harm on American children who would not only have to reckon with the loss of their parent but the loss of the income provided by that parent. The politics of hate led to the remain-in-Mexico policy, which forces asylum seekers to remain in Mexico amid dangerous conditions.

Indeed, just yesterday, U.S. asylum officers requested that the courts block the Trump administration from requiring migrants to stay in Mexico, stating it is “fundamentally contrary to the moral fabric of our Nation and our international domestic legal obligations.”

Now, in the latest action, I fear it is the politics of hate that explain the awful press reports we heard today suggesting that President Trump plans to end a program that protects undocumented members of U.S. military families from deportation. Imagine—that someone who wears the uniform of the United States, who may serve halfway around the world in service to the Nation, who risks their lives, and now you are going to take the one program that put their mind at ease—that their spouse or child, who may be undocumented in the country and have the ability to stay because of that member’s service, and now you are going to say you are going to deport their children, their spouse.

Well, if someone is willing to wear the uniform of the United States, pledge allegiance to our flag, and risk their life to defend this Nation in battle, the last thing we ought to do is to deport their loved ones.

The Trump administration’s policies at our border have brought us nothing but chaos, despair, and shame. We cannot let the politics of fear and hate degrade the values that make America great.

We cannot walk off our country from the strife gripping Central America. We cannot tweet our way out of this problem. We must lead our way out of this problem with real solutions and strategies that bring sanity, dignity, and order back to our border and prevent the tragic loss of human life we saw earlier this week on the banks of the Rio Grande. We are just better than this. We are just better than this.

If my colleagues do not raise their voices, then, they are complicit to this. History will judge us poorly.

I hope we will have bipartisan voices who say: This is not what we are; this is not what we stand for. And we can work toward making sure this tragic photograph never ever happens again.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Ohio.

IMMIGRATION

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. President, I was coming to floor today to talk about legislation we just got passed in the last week in the Homeland Security Committee and the measure that I can convince some of my colleagues to join us in this effort, and I will talk about that bill in a moment. But first let me, if I could, address the photograph and the comments from my colleague from New Jersey.

He showed a tragic photograph that so many of my constituents and all Americans have seen—Oscar Alberto Martinez Ramirez and his daughter Valeria, facedown in the Rio Grande.

This man came from El Salvador. We don’t know all the details yet, but clearly he was interested in coming to the United States and applying for asylum, as so many others have come—hundreds a day, thousands a week, hundreds of thousands a month now, overwhelming the infrastructure at the border, pulling 40 to 60 percent of our Border Patrol off the border to deal with the humanitarian crisis that has occurred.

That tragic photograph—and it is a horrific photo of a daughter clinging to her father’s neck, having drowned in the Rio Grande coming over from Mexico—should be a wake-up call. I agree with that, but it should not be a wake-up call to have us continue to point fingers around the at the other side and blame someone else for the problem. It should instead be a wake-up call for solutions—for bipartisan solutions—because that is all that works to be able to resolve these issues.

I hope that first step will be taken today, because I just learned, as I came to the floor, that the House of Representatives is now considering taking up the legislation we passed here in the Senate just yesterday. It provides immediate emergency funds for humanitarian assistance at the border that is needed right now. We passed it with over 80 votes here in the Senate—82 votes, with 9 of our Members absent. I believe. Over 82 votes is very unusual for anything to happen here, particularly something so substantial.

It is bipartisan. It came out of the Appropriations Committee with a 30-to-1 vote to get these funds and these resources down to the border now to help with this true humanitarian crisis that we are facing. Everyone must acknowledge that.

The House was balking at that. They were sending us another bill that had some partisan elements to it to that no Republican could support in the House—not a single one.

Finally, I think they have decided to pick up our bipartisan bill and pass it, and thank God, because now the President can sign it and that aid can go down to our border immediately where it is needed.

But I have to be frank with you. That humanitarian aid going down to the border is not enough because I don’t think it would have had an impact on the tragic photograph that was talked about on the floor earlier.

That incident did not occur because of the lack of humanitarian aid that is badly needed. That incident occurred because there is this pull factor to come to our country, particularly from these Northern Triangle countries—Guatemala, Honduras, El Salvador. This particular gentleman, Oscar Alberto Martinez Ramirez, came from El Salvador.

There are push factors from those countries. And, again, this is causing so many families to come here, so many unaccompanied children to come here from those three countries in Central America. People are telling them: If you come to America and you ask for asylum, you will be let in.

Let’s be frank. These countries are countries that have real challenges and real problems.

My colleague from New Jersey is right. We have sent a lot of American taxpayer dollars down to those countries, and he noted that the reports back from the administration and others are positive, saying it is beginning to take a difference. We noted that that funding is now being reduced or even eliminated in some cases, but it was during the time when that funding was there that the people started coming.

So, yes, we should have more funding of that is effective for those countries. I agree with that. The Millennium Challenge Corporation funding is the new way we send that funding. It is more effective because it says: What are you doing in Central America to improve your infrastructure, your education, your judicial system, your rule of law, and to fight corruption? We need to do all those things.
But let’s be frank. Let’s be honest. We have been doing that, and yet the push factor is still there.

So I believe it is part of the answer, but I don’t think logic applied to this situation means that you could say that this is all of the answer because we have been doing it.

My taxpayers and other taxpayers, I think, around this country are willing to do more, but they also want to deal with the pull factor, and the pull factor is very simple: if you come to America and you apply for asylum right now, with the system being overwhelmed and with certain laws in place, including a court decision, you are released into the community, meaning you come into America. Most of the court cases that deal with whether you are successful or not in your asylum claim take over 2 years now. It takes over 2 years until you are before a judge for a hearing.

When those court cases occur, we are told by the Homeland Security Committee, that about 15 percent of those individuals are granted asylum—15 percent.

Now, in America, our wages are 10 to 20 times higher than they are in these Northern countries—El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras. Is it any wonder that they come here seeking a better way of life? No, you would too. But we have to have a system of laws here in this country where, yes, we accept people who have claims of asylum that are granted, but we don’t have open borders.

We have a system here, a system of laws, and it has clearly broken down now. Again, thousands come in every week, hundreds of thousands every month—mostly families, mostly children because of the way our laws work. I don’t think we should be separating families, by the way. So, if you have a child and you are a child, then under a court decision you could be held only for a short period of time, 20 days maximum, in emergency situations. What happens is that people are released into the community.

I will be frank with you. From what we have heard from Customs and Border Protection and from the Department of Health and Human Services, which are responsible for many of these detention facilities, they are so overwhelmed, they don’t even have room for 20 days, so people are allowed to come into the community. Again, the court cases happen a long time after that, and people are granted work permits. That is why people are coming. It is a pull. They are saying: If you get to America, we will get you in.

These traffickers are charging a lot of money. It is horrible. They are taking mortgages on people’s homes. They are saying “We will take half your pay for the next year.” Promising things that are frankly beyond what can be accomplished.

A situation in Ohio occurred a couple years ago with kids from Guatemala.

Unaccompanied kids coming from Guatemala were told: You can get in. It is good. We will take care of you. In this case, the traffickers took mortgages on the parents’ homes. They brought these kids to the United States, to the Department of Health and Human Services, to the Department of Homeland Security. They were then sent out to sponsor families, which is what they do. They take these minor children, underaged, and send them to sponsor families. Sometimes they can find families; sometimes they can’t. The government has sent these kids back to the traffickers because the traffickers applied for the very kids they had brought up from Guatemala.

Despite claims and promises to their parents that they would get a good education with a family taking care of these kids, do you know what they did with these kids? They put them on an egg farm in Ohio—underage kids—and exploited them. They took away their family, and basically none of us would find acceptable for any member of our family. They had them living in trailers, some of them under trailers, on mattresses without sheets, working 12 hours a day. Some of these kids were working 6 days a week, some 7 days a week. This is not America. Yet this was happening. Again, our system is broken. These traffickers were exploiting these children.

Finally, in this case, law enforcement and, yes, we accept people who have claims of asylum that are granted, but we don’t have open borders.

I had planned to come and talk about something else, and I will, briefly. But I must say, with regard to this immigration challenge we face as a country, I hope the tragedy we have now all seen online and on TV serves as a wake-up call to get to bipartisan solutions that actually help solve this problem. But if we just play politics with this on both sides, we will have more unnecessary deaths. We will have more tragic situations.

Again, I had planned to come and talk about something else, and I will, briefly. But I must say, with regard to this immigration challenge we face as a country, I hope the tragedy we have now all seen online and on TV serves as a wake-up call to get to bipartisan solutions that actually help solve this problem. But if we just play politics with this on both sides, we will have more unnecessary deaths. We will have more tragic situations.

Despite claims and promises to their parents that they would get a good education with a family taking care of these kids, do you know what they did with these kids? They put them on an egg farm in Ohio—underage kids—and exploited them. They took away their family, and basically none of us would find acceptable for any member of our family. They had them living in trailers, some of them under trailers, on mattresses without sheets, working 12 hours a day. Some of these kids were working 6 days a week, some 7 days a week. This is not America. Yet this was happening. Again, our system is broken. These traffickers were exploiting these children.

Finally, in this case, law enforcement and, yes, we accept people who have claims of asylum that are granted, but we don’t have open borders.

In the tragic photo of the story I just told, the answer is not politically pointing fingers. Blaming Donald Trump isn’t going to solve this problem. We need as a body to change the laws. We need as a body to provide more effective aid to those countries. That is true. The push factors and the pull factors both need to be addressed. But if we just play politics with this on both sides, we will have more unnecessary deaths. We will have more tragic situations.

Again, I had planned to come and talk about something else, and I will, briefly. But I must say, with regard to this immigration challenge we face as a country, I hope the tragedy we have now all seen online and on TV serves as a wake-up call to get to bipartisan solutions that actually help solve this problem. But if we just play politics with this on both sides, we will have more unnecessary deaths. We will have more tragic situations.

The trafficking that is going on of girls and women is all part of this too. It is not going to stop unless we as a group here in Congress, on a bipartisan basis, deal not just with the push factors but also the pull factors and deal with them realistically.

NONPROFIT SECURITY GRANT

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. President, the legislation I came to the floor to talk about today passed in the Homeland Security Committee last week to help make our synagogues, our churches, our mosques, and other nonprofit institutions safer.

Sad to say, we have seen a troubling pattern in recent years. Hate-fueled attacks at houses of worship and religious institutions, not just in our country but around the world, are becoming more and more common. A couple of months ago, a shooting at a synagogue outside San Diego took the life of Lori Gilbert Kaye, who heroically sacrificed herself to save her rabbi. Exactly 6 months to the day prior to that, the shooting at the Tree of Life synagogue in Pittsburgh, PA, claimed 11 lives, the worst act of anti-Semitic violence in U.S. history.

Sometimes this hate is manifested in other ways: bomb threats at the Jewish Community Center in Columbus, OH, and anti-Semitic graffiti sprayed on the Hebrew Union College walls in my hometown of Cincinnati, OH.

Right after the attacks on the synagogue in Pittsburgh last year, I went to the Jewish Community Center in Youngstown, OH, only 60 miles away from Pittsburgh. I met with Jewish community leaders. An attack on one is an attack on all. We must all stand up.
In Youngstown that somber day, we talked about where we go from here to stop anti-Semitism and hatred. I asked them for input about what the Federal Government can do to help keep the Jewish community safe. Part of the input I got was that we need more help on better securing our community centers, our schools, our churches, our synagogues, our mosques.

The resurgence of this anti-Semitism must be confronted and defeated with all the energy we can bring to bear. But sadly, it is not just related to the Jewish community, which has known it for over the centuries. Hate seldom stops at one religion or one country.

Hundreds of Christians in Sri Lanka were massacred in churches and hotels on Easter Sunday. In New Zealand, the shooting at the mosques in Christchurch killed at least 49 people. We will never forget the 2015 tragic killings of African-American parishioners at Emanuel AME Church in Charleston, SC, where I have visited and prayed, or the 2017 attacks on the First Baptist Church in Sutherland Springs, TX.

While I have highlighted unconscionable mass murders, there are so many other examples of vandalism and harassment. We saw this in my home State of Ohio this February, where a man holding a gun smashed the windows of a mosque in Dayton while worshipers were inside. We saw this in Louisiana this April when three historically Black churches were deliberately burned down within the same parish. This violence is senseless and contrary to our values as Americans.

Our first obligation as Americans and certainly as public officials is to stand up and say this must stop. Stop the hate—not just partisan finger-pointing but a single, unified message. Targeted hate—not just partisan finger-pointing but a single, unified message. Targeted hate—not just partisan finger-pointing but a single, unified message. Stop the violence, stop the hatred, and the violence are not acceptable in this country.

I am pleased to report that the Homeland Security Committee unani
mously approved this bill last week. I look forward to the floor, where I hope it can be passed on a bi
dipartisan basis. While our bill is pend
ing, I hope my colleagues in the Appro
ciations Committee will once again be receptive to the letter and spirit of our bill to make those resources available to urban and rural alike.

I will continue to work with my col
cleagues on both sides of the aisle to en
sure that the thousands of religious and other nonprofit institutions in Ohio and across our country are safe and welcoming places. I pray we will see the day when such security grants are not necessary because we will abide by the admonition to love our neigh
bors as ourselves. But in the meantime, let’s do whatever we can to give our com
munities the know-how, the resources, and the best practices so they can be safer and more secure.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Wyoming.

FISCAL CHALLENGES

Mr. ENZI. Mr. President, I thank the Senator from Ohio for his outstanding comments on faith-based security and the immigration crisis that we are fac
ing and the solutions he suggested. We have a lot of work to do there.

Now you get to hear from the ac
countant.

I come to the floor today to call at
tention to the Federal Government’s unsustainable fiscal outlook.

Yesterday in the Senate Budget Commit
tee we had a hearing on fixing our broken budget and spending process, with a focus on securing our country’s fiscal future. Our witness was the Comptroller General of the United States, the head of the Government Ac
countability Office.

In April of this year, GAO issued its third annual update on the nation’s fis
cal health. The report concluded that the Federal Government is on an unsustainable fiscal path.

In the Appropriations budget review this week, released this week on the long-term budget outlook painted a similarly bleak picture, noting that our surging Federal debt is putting our Nation at risk of a “fiscal crisis.” This is one of the charts we got to see. I know it is pretty hard for people to read. We are figuring out a way to make this bigger.

The impact will be tremendous. It shows that, in 2019, Social Security spending passed the $1 trillion mark for the first time. In 2021, the highway trust fund will be unable to meet all obliga
tions. In 2022, the discretionary spending caps will expire, allowing unlimited spending. In 2025, the Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation multipled
cy employee pension fund will be depleted. It will be insuffi
cient to pay full benefits to insolvent pension plans. In 2025, CBO projects the net interest spending will surpass the spending on national defense. In 2026, the Medicare hospital insurance trust fund will be depleted. With some in
coming revenue, it will be sufficient to pay 91 percent of hospital-related Medi
care spending, which is already forced to be low.

In 2030, the net interest spending will exceed $1 trillion annually. The inter
est will exceed $1 trillion annually.

In 2031, mandatory spending and in
terest will consume all Federal rev
eue. It means we will not get to make any decisions on anything that isn’t mandatory, which we can’t get to make decisions on right now.

In 2032, the Social Security trust fund will be depleted. The amount of money coming in that will be paid out right away will only pay 77 percent of the scheduled benefits. I will cover that more later.

Those are a few of the fiscal cliffs we are facing that could be solved now, that have to be solved now. If they are solved now, they have simpler, less impactful problems than if we wait until the cliff gets here.

The Federal Government is swim
ing in a sea of red ink that threatens to drown America’s future generations. If current laws don’t change, debt as a percentage of GDP will soar to unpre
cedented levels over the next 30 years. Let me repeat that. If current laws don’t change, debt as a percentage of GDP—that is production—will soar to unprecedented levels over the next 30 years. By 2032, our debt-to-GDP ratio—
this is debt-to-production—will surpass the historical records set in the aftermath of World War II. By 2049, debt will stand at 14 percent of GDP.
That is how bond investors determine the likelihood of getting their money back. Interest rates reflect that fact and go up as risk increases. As that percentage goes up, the risk increases. The amount we have to pay to borrow any money will go up, if people still loan us money, which gets us to what is on the chart.

In 2030, net interest will exceed $1 trillion a year annually. That is not buying anything; that is paying the interest.

In most of the Nation’s history, we have only seen periods of high spending and debt during wars and other emergencies, and the increase has been temporary, but today’s fiscal situation is different.

We are facing a demographic fiscal storm. For decades, nonpartisan experts, including the Congressional Budget Office and the Government Accountability Office, have warned of the budget pressures that we would face as baby boomers aged and began to retire. We heard yesterday from the GAO that, on average, more than 10,000 people per day turn 65 years of age, and in the next few years, that number will rise to more than 11,000. Here is a little chart of how those thousands per day grow.

Some of us were under the impression, for a while, that the baby boomers eventually would die. That is kind of an inevitable sort of thing. What we didn’t count on was the extra longevity that everybody will have and the fact that there are other generations coming up. So the chart does not tail off here on the end. The chart continues to grow, even though the birth rate is down.

The combination of aging population, longer lifespans, and rising per-beneficiary healthcare costs puts enormous pressure on our spending.

According to the CBO, the projected explosion in debt we will see over the next few decades and beyond occurs because of mandatory spending—particularly Social Security and major healthcare programs, specifically, Medicare and Medicaid—not to mention the interest payments on the national debt that will permanently grow faster than Federal revenues.

This autopaid money—spending that is never looked at—has already grown from about 36 percent of the Federal budget 50 years ago to 70 percent today. If left unchecked, CBO projects that more than 80 cents of every dollar the government spends will be on mandatory spending, guaranteed to be spent without further approval, not to mention the interest by 2049.

Because mandatory spending operates on autopilot, not subject to the annual appropriations process, it often escapes congressional scrutiny and proper oversight. It would be one thing if mandatory spending programs by-pass the appropriations process because they were fully funded through their own dedicated source of revenue, but that is not the case.

As this chart shows, many of the largest mandatory programs, such as Medicaid and food stamps, don’t have their own source of funding and instead rely entirely on money from the Treasury’s general fund. You can see the blue here. That is money that will be spent on these programs, not money that has to be spent to meet the obligations. On some of these, you will note that there is no blue at all. That means this is coming out of the general fund, which is where we expect to be able to meet that deficit and the other things we do. So there is enough spent right here on excess that doesn’t have a source of revenue that forces everything else we do to be borrowed, and I already mentioned the problems of borrowing.

Even though some of these programs do collect some revenue—and a few of them do collect their own revenue—they often spend more than they take in. It didn’t used to be the case. We used to be in a position to hand over Social Security and Medicare and pay into them by simply paying the employees’ contribution. But as the population ages, that situation is becoming less and less likely.

CBO projects that Social Security spending will total $14.4 trillion, but the program’s dedicated tax revenues will only cover $11.8 trillion of that. That is $14.4 trillion going out and $11.8 trillion coming in. You can’t do that very long.

CBO projects that under current law, Social Security’s combined trust funds would be exhausted through 2032. You may say: That is a long time into the future, 2032. Well, that is 3 years earlier than the Social Security trustees estimated just earlier this year. How many times can we have that accelerated by 3 years before we are at the cliff?

Total Medicare spending will amount to $11.5 trillion over the next 10 years, but the program just collects $6 trillion in dedicated taxes and premiums—again, $11.5 trillion going out and $6 trillion coming in.

CBO and the Medicare trustees both projected Medicare’s Hospital Insurance Trust Fund, which covers inpatient hospital services, hospice care, skilled nursing facilities, and home health services, will be depleted in 2026.

Spending on military and civilian retirement programs will total nearly $2 trillion, but Federal employees’ contributions toward their pension will only be $70 billion. I don’t like that word “trillion.” It is kind of hard to wrap your head around it. Billions are tough enough, but $2 trillion is $2,000 billion. That is what is going out, $2,000 billion. What is coming in is $70 billion. There is a little bit of a gap. Just as in the case of the Medicare programs, this difference will be made up with general fund revenues, which today are all borrowed funds.

Social Security and much of Medicare is supposed to be different though. Under current law, once their respective trust funds are exhausted, those programs will still pay out money, but they will only be able to pay out as much in benefits as they have coming in. Is that sustainable? How many hospitals will go out of business? For Social Security, revenue is projected to be sufficient to cover only 77 percent of scheduled benefits. Who on Social Security will be able to afford a cut of 23 percent? That is the fiscal cliff.

Of course, this shouldn’t be news to lawmakers. For years, the warnings that these programs are on an unsustainable fiscal course have gone largely unheeded, hoping that the next Congress, the next President, or maybe the next generation would be more willing to deal with the problem.

To be clear, I want to make sure Social Security and Medicare are able to continue providing benefits to current beneficiaries, as well as the many people who may need these programs in the future. That will require us to work together in a bipartisan manner to ensure these programs’ solvency. If we don’t make changes to the way these programs currently operate, currently operating at $11.5 trillion going out and $6 trillion coming in, the changes will need to be, and we will have fewer options.

We need to change the way we do things around here. Too often we wait to make the difficult decisions that everyone knows has to be made until we have a crisis on our hands. In the Budget Committee, we are focused on trying to put together bipartisan budget process reform proposals that will help us confront these thorny fiscal issues in a more reasoned, timely, and responsible way.

I am hopeful we will get there. I am encouraged with the conversations we have had that we will get there. These issues are too important to ignore, and we are going to need to work together if we are to put our people in a more sustainable fiscal course. We owe it to future generations to try.

We have handled some crises around here. Recently, we handled one of national disasters. The national disasters don’t come from the Appropriations Committee. They aren’t a part of the budget caps—they should be a part of the budget caps, but they don’t have to be a part of the budget.
concerns. The Federal Government is somewhere around six to seven times the size of Walmart and runs its business by the seat of its pants, in the sense that we have not done a budget that we have appropriated in nearly 20 years.

If you listened closely, you know we have some hard deadlines. The chairman referred to it as cliffs. Well, sometimes that is so figurative that you don’t believe it is going to happen or that it is going to be real. These are things we are going to have to contend with.

When the Medicare fund is depleted fully in 2026, benefits get cut immediately. Social Security is further down the trail, and there are going to be all kinds of issues. We are lucky, currently, that other countries and our own citizens will lend us money when we run trillion-dollar deficits routinely.

He mentioned the “Penny Plan.” In any business, if you were charged with the problems of your company’s problems by cutting back by either freezing expenses by a 1-percent cut or a 2-percent cut, that would be done easily because you have hard accountability. If you would perform in a business or a State government, I can guarantee you there wouldn’t be a lender that would let you perpetuate and keep doing it. The fact that we have a credit card that we can put it on year after year eliminates the accountability that you have in business.

I was on a school board for 10 years. I was in State government in Indiana, where we always have a cash balance and operate in the black and have a balanced budget. Even though we do that so routinely there, we passed a balanced budget amendment to our State constitution simply because government, even in a place like Indiana, oftentimes views how they spend the people’s money different, and this place does it better than any other place in the country.

So do we want to get to the point where we deplete the Medicare trust fund and where we run out of funds to pay pensioners or do we want to make the hard decisions?

It is funny. When I got here, I looked at the budget process. Budgets, even though they are not adhered to, might be a resolution, and it is not the law. Always, even if they do incorporate what you have anywhere else, you have anywhere else. It is a crisis. We need to plan for it.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. Enzi). Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. MORAN. Mr. President, while my remarks in front of me say “I rise today,” I sit today on this Senate floor to congratulate a Topeka, KS, native, a 2019 U.S. Open champion, Gary Woodland.

Gary Woodland grew up in Topeka and attended Shawnee Heights High School. After high school, he attended Washburn University on a full basketball scholarship before transferring to the University of Kansas to join the golf team. This U.S. Open was the first major championship victory of Gary Woodland’s career and Gary’s UW heritage history by becoming the first graduate of the University of Kansas to ever win a PGA major tournament.

Gary’s performance at Pebble Beach was truly elite. He scored under par in all four rounds, including an impressive 6-under-par 66 in the second round. On Sunday’s final round, Gary battled the elements and a late surge by last year’s U.S. Open champion, Brooks Koepka. On hole 16, Gary sunk a long birdie putt to solidify his win at 3 strokes under par, 1 stroke better than ‘Tiger Woods’ historic 2000 U.S. Open victory at Pebble Beach.

I congratulate Gary on this historic win, but I also recognize his actions off the course. Gary is an advocate for Special Olympics and also partners with Folds of Honor, a nonprofit organization that grants scholarships to family members of U.S. servicemembers. Gary even wore patriotic golf gear to honor our troops and Folds of Honor.

The final round also coincides with Father’s Day, and this undoubtedly made this championship even more significant as Gary’s father watched him sink the final putt on 18. Gary said, after his win, that his dad worked nights so he could pursue his love of sports and spend time with him during the day.

I recognize Gary, but I also want to recognize the entire Woodland family—
his parents, Dana and Linda; his wife, Gabby; his son, Jaxson; and the twin girls they are expecting. This is a tremendous achievement.

Kansans are extremely proud of you, Gary. We wish you and your family the best of luck moving forward, and we will continue to support you in your endeavors. I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. BRAUN). The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. BROWN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Hawaii.

Ms. HIRONO. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that following my objection, it is so ordered.

The quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Ohio.

Mr. BROWN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

PUBLIC SERVICE FREEDOM TO NEGOTIATE ACT

Ms. HIRONO. Mr. President, conservative, right-wing forces in our country are engaged in an all-out assault on working people. Their target? Private and public sector workers and the unions they engage in fighting on their behalf. While private sector unions at least have some protections under the National Labor Relations Act, public employees have been historically forced to rely on Supreme Court precedent to protect their basic rights.

That is why the Court’s decision last year in Janus was so damaging. In one fell swoop, the Court overturned more than 40 years of precedent from the Abood decision and barred public sector unions from collecting fair share fees from employees who had opted out of the union but whom the union is still legally required to represent.

The Supreme Court’s decision in Janus was not unexpected. Its decision was the culmination of decades-long efforts by groups like the Federalist Society and the Heritage Foundation to undermine settled precedent in Abood in order to weaken public sector unions. These groups worked methodically to achieve their goals.

First, they all but invited a challenge to Abood when he wrote his decision in Knox v. SEIU Local 100 and Harris v. Quinn. He called the justification for allowing a union to collect fair share fees “an anomaly.” He said “the Abood Court’s analysis is questionable on several grounds” and laid out the grounds as he saw them for someone to bring a case to overturn Abood.

This was an open invitation to conservative groups to then go looking for a plaintiff to do just that—to create an opportunity for the Supreme Court to overturn Abood. They funded Friedrichs v. California Teachers Association, which was fast-tracked to the Supreme Court in 2016, where “the signaler,” Justice Alito, awaited the case. Public employee unions received a temporary reprieve in a deadlocked 4-to-4 decision because of Justice Antonin Scalia’s unexpected death.

The west coast interests then saw a huge opportunity to fill the vacancy with a Justice to their liking. From applauding Senator McCONNELL’s single-handedly blocking the nomination of Merrick Garland to spending millions to confirm Neil Gorsuch, they wanted a Justice who was on their side.

They got it in Neil Gorsuch, who delivered the decisive fifth vote in Janus, torpedoing 41 years of precedent under the pretext of protecting “fundamental free speech rights.” Justice Elena Kagan saw right through this argument. In a strong dissent, she said: “The majority overthrows a decision entrenched in this Nation’s law . . . for over 40 years . . . and it does so by weaping the consent of Congress, in a way that unleashes judges, now and in the future, to intervene in economic and regulatory policy.”

Undermining public employee unions and, in fact, all unions has gained momentum because of the conservative majority on the Supreme Court. With this narrow majority, we are likely to see a lot more 5-to-4 decisions on ideological, partisan lines. This is not good for the country and not good for the credibility of the Court. We need a Supreme Court that strives to achieve consensus as often as possible, not one pursuing a hard-right ideological agenda.

In the face of these onslaughts from the Supreme Court and conservative interests, unions are fighting back. We have seen tens of thousands of teachers taking to the streets in cities and States across the country demanding and in many cases securing more investment in smaller class sizes, and a living wage for teachers.

In the year since Janus, public sector employee unions like AFSCME are adding thousands of new dues-paying members energized to fight back against the conservative assault on unions’ very existence.

Our public employee unions are doing their job to stay in the fight and Congress needs to do its part. That is why I joined 35 of my Senate colleagues and 27 of my House colleagues this week to introduce the Public Service Freedom to Negotiate Act of 2019.

This legislation affirms to all 17.3 million public sector workers nationwide that they value their service to the public and that they are fighting to protect their voice in the workplace.

Our bill codifies the right of public employees to organize, act concertedly, and bargain collectively in States that currently do not afford these basic rights.

Under our legislation, States have wide flexibility to write and administer their own labor laws, provided they meet the standards established in this legislation, and it will not preempt laws in States that substantially meet or exceed this standard.

The right to organize shouldn’t depend on whether or not your State has robust worker protections, like the State of Hawaii, and workers shouldn’t be held captive to the pro-union bent of the Roberts Five on the Supreme Court.

The fight to protect the right to organize is not an abstract issue. Unions have lifted people into the middle class, especially women and people of color.

I speak from personal experience. When I was a young child, my mother worked for years in low-wage jobs that provided no job security, no healthcare, and no stability. We lived paycheck to paycheck. That all changed when my mother and her coworkers organized and formed a union. That union happens to be the CWA.

Unionization brought job and economic security to their family. Our public employee unions are fighting on behalf of millions of people across our country who are serving our communities. They are our teachers, our firefighters, social workers, EMTs, and our police officers. They are us.

These are not normal times. We all need to come together to fight back against an all-out assault on working people.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Ohio.

Mr. BROWN. Mr. President, I want to thank all of our colleagues for the work we are doing to protect workers in this country. Our public employee unions are doing their job to stay in the fight and Congress needs to do its part. That is why I joined 35 of my Senate colleagues and 27 of my House colleagues this week to introduce the Public Service Freedom to Negotiate Act of 2019.

This legislation affirms to all 17.3 million public sector workers nationwide that they value their service to the public and that they are fighting to protect their voice in the workplace.

Our bill codifies the right of public employees to organize, act concertedly, and bargain collectively in States that currently do not afford these basic rights.

Under our legislation, States have wide flexibility to write and administer their own labor laws, provided they meet the standards established in this legislation, and it will not preempt laws in States that substantially meet or exceed this standard.

The right to organize shouldn’t depend on whether or not your State has robust worker protections, like the State of Hawaii, and workers shouldn’t be held captive to the pro-union bent of the Roberts Five on the Supreme Court.

The fight to protect the right to organize is not an abstract issue. Unions have lifted people into the middle class, especially women and people of color.

I speak from personal experience. When I was a young child, my mother worked for years in low-wage jobs that provided no job security, no healthcare, and no stability. We lived paycheck to paycheck. That all changed when my mother and her coworkers organized and formed a union. That union happens to be the CWA.

Unionization brought job and economic security to their family. Our public employee unions are fighting on behalf of millions of people across our country who are serving our communities. They are our teachers, our firefighters, social workers, EMTs, and our police officers. They are us.

These are not normal times. We all need to come together to fight back against an all-out assault on working people.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Hawaii.

Ms. HIRONO. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. BRAUN). Without objection, it is so ordered.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Ohio.

Mr. BROWN. Mr. President, I want to thank all of our colleagues for the work we are doing to protect workers in this country. Our public employee unions are doing their job to stay in the fight and Congress needs to do its part. That is why I joined 35 of my Senate colleagues and 27 of my House colleagues this week to introduce the Public Service Freedom to Negotiate Act of 2019.

This legislation affirms to all 17.3 million public sector workers nationwide that they value their service to the public and that they are fighting to protect their voice in the workplace.

Our bill codifies the right of public employees to organize, act concertedly, and bargain collectively in States that currently do not afford these basic rights.

Under our legislation, States have wide flexibility to write and administer their own labor laws, provided they meet the standards established in this legislation, and it will not preempt laws in States that substantially meet or exceed this standard.

The right to organize shouldn’t depend on whether or not your State has robust worker protections, like the State of Hawaii, and workers shouldn’t be held captive to the pro-union bent of the Roberts Five on the Supreme Court.

The fight to protect the right to organize is not an abstract issue. Unions have lifted people into the middle class, especially women and people of color.

I speak from personal experience. When I was a young child, my mother worked for years in low-wage jobs that provided no job security, no healthcare, and no stability. We lived paycheck to paycheck. That all changed when my mother and her coworkers organized and formed a union. That union happens to be the CWA.

Unionization brought job and economic security to their family. Our public employee unions are fighting on behalf of millions of people across our country who are serving our communities. They are our teachers, our firefighters, social workers, EMTs, and our police officers. They are us.

These are not normal times. We all need to come together to fight back against an all-out assault on working people.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Ohio.

Mr. BROWN. Mr. President, I want to first of all thank Senator HIRONO for introducing one of the most important bills of this session. It is all about collective bargaining rights. It is all about workers’ voices being heard and all about the dignity of work.

Just last week I was with Senator HIRONO with a number of her constituents from her State, and they talked about the support for manufacturing or especially her support for workers. I was particularly pleased when she mentioned the Communications Workers of America. I have staff with me on the floor—some of my Ohio staff, including my State director, who came out of the CWA. I know how important workers’ rights are. So I thank Senator HIRONO for introducing this bill. If we did nothing this session but pass that legislation, it would be a huge victory for workers.

Unfortunately, we have a Supreme Court that puts its thumb on the scales of justice in every case, choosing corporations over workers, choosing Wall Street over consumers, choosing, in far too many cases, health insurance companies over sick people. And today’s Supreme Court case is aimed and targeted directly at States like mine, Ohio, a State that is a swing State and has 12 Republican House Members, 4 Democratic House Members and has had that same configuration of 12 and 4 for 4 State elections because of redistricting. But it is no surprise, with the Supreme Court deciding that they were
going to put their thumb on the scale of justice again, against voting rights, against civil rights. That is what has happened in support of corporate money.

So dark money has affected the special-interest Supreme Court. We have never seen a Supreme Court in my lifetime that is this beholden to corporate interests, that is this beholden to billionaire contributors, that is this beholden to special interests. We have never seen a Court like this.

What does this mean? It means that instead of citizens choosing their elected officials, it is politicians choosing whom they represent. That is why you get these districts that will stay 12-to-4 Republican, where voters have no real say in these elections because of the way it is lined up.

We have a Supreme Court that is hostile to voting rights, hostile to worker rights, hostile to women’s rights, hostile to LGBTQ rights. That is what this Supreme Court has given us, as Senator McConnell, in his office down the hall, continues to push judges like this who don’t look toward the public interest. They are always looking toward rewarding their billionaire contributors.

Again, I thank Senator Hirono for her work.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Utah.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUEST—S. 386

Mr. LEE. Mr. President, I rise today to speak about the Fairness for High-Skilled Immigrants Act, an important and bipartisan piece of legislation on which I have been a proud sponsor and on which I have been proud to work with Senator Harris to bring this bill to fruition.

It has been many years in the making, and I am pleased to stand behind this legislation and to push it forward. There is no question that immigration is one of the most important and also politically fraught and politically charged issues in front of Congress right now. More often than not, we can’t even seem to agree on what the problems in our immigration system are, let alone come to an agreement about how best to solve them.

That makes it all the more important for us at least to come together to get something done in those areas where we can find common ground and do so across party lines on issues that are neither Republican or Democratic, neither liberal or conservative, but that are simply American issues that are central to who we are.

We are great as a country not because of who we are but because of what we do, because of the fact that we choose freedom, we choose to be welcoming and choose to be that shining city on the hill, where anyone can come into this country, be born or immigrate into this country as a poor person, and hope and have the reasonable expectation that one day, if they work hard and play by the rules, they might have the opportunity to retire comfortably, in some cases wealthy.

We have to find common ground in these areas. The Fairness for High-Skilled Immigrants Act is an important point of common ground.

Employment-based immigration visas—the one significant area of our immigration system based on skills and based on merit—are currently issued in accordance with rigid, arbitrary, antiquated, and outdated per-country quotas. This means that in a given year, immigrants from any one given country cannot, in most cases, be given more than 7 percent of the total number of visas allocated. As a result of this, immigrants from nations with large populations have significantly longer wait times to get a green card than do immigrants from smaller countries. In some cases, they could be stuck in a backlog of green card petitions for decades.

This makes no sense. This is arbitrary. It is capricious. It is unfair. It is un-American. It is not what we do. This is one of the many features of our Byzantine immigration code that are outdated and that need to be cast into the dustbin of history. These per-country visa caps cause serious problems for good people, for American businesses and American workers alike, and they cause unfair, undue, and immense hardship for the immigrants who happen to be unfortunate enough to be stuck in that very backlog.

While employment-based green cards are supposed to go to immigrants with high skills who will help grow the American economy, the per-country caps distort this system by causing some immigrants to wait years before receiving a green card for a reason that may be arbitrary and generally is completely detached from their qualifications. This undermines our ability to bring the best and the brightest individuals to our country. It is to our harm, and it is to our own shame.

Further, the per-country caps force the immigrants that are stuck in this backlog—95 percent of whom are already inside the United States—to make the difficult choice between, on the one hand, leaving and taking decades to get a green card, or on the other hand, leaving and taking their talents to a country that provides a fairer process for allocating legal immigrant status as a worker.

We must eliminate the per-country caps to ensure that immigrants are admitted into the United States purely based on merit rather than on the arbitrary, outdated, unreasonable basis of their country of origin. This, after all, is what the American dream has often been about. It is about who we are as a people rather than where our parents came from, who they were, what they looked like, and what language they might have spoken.

This reform would also ensure that the hardships caused by decades-long wait times would be eliminated.

Importantly, the Fairness for High-Skilled Immigrants Act also contains critical safeguards to ensure that the transition from the per-country cap system to a first-come, first-served system would occur smoothly and without unduly disrupting existing immigration flows. Specifically, this bill includes a 3-year set-aside of green cards for immigrants who are not in the backlog to ensure that they can continue to enter the country as we process backlog petitions.

In addition, the bill contains an important “do no harm” provision to make certain that green card applicants who are at the front of the line now will stay at the front of the line and not be faced with new delays as we work through the backlog during this transition process. These provisions will ensure that we are truly treating all immigrants in the employment-based system fairly.
For many years, this critical legislation was stalled because of the concerns of some Members that any reform to the employment-based visa system should be accompanied by new protections against fraud and abuse in the H–1B program. To address those concerns, in this Congress, I negotiated an amendment to the Fairness for High-Skilled Immigrants Act with Senator GRASSLEY to include new protections for American workers in how we process applications for H–1B visas.

The amendment negotiated with Senator GRASSLEY does three things: First, the Grassley amendment would strengthen the Department of Labor’s ability to investigate and enforce labor condition application requirements. In addition, it would reform the labor condition application process to ensure complete and adequate disclosure of information regarding the employer’s H–1B hiring practices. Finally, it would close loopholes by which employers could evade their certification obligations and would limit the annual cap on H–1B workers.

Importantly, the Grassley amendment—like the underlying bill itself—consists of provisions that have long enjoyed support from Members of this body and from both sides of the aisle and from every point along the ideological spectrum. They are drawn from an H–1B reform bill that has been championed both by Senator GRASSLEY and by Senator DURBIN. I am grateful that Senator GRASSLEY was willing to come to the table and work in good faith on achieving a reasonable compromise on this bill. I believe the deal we have struck is a fair and evenhanded way to address longstanding concerns about our H–1B system while eliminating country-of-origin discrimination in how we allocate skills-based green cards.

The reason the Fairness for High-Skilled Immigrants Act enjoys such broad support across the aisle and among both parties is because it does not include any of the typical partisan poison pills and other controversial provisions that so often undermine and in many cases doom other immigration reform efforts. This is a narrow, surgical reform—one that is necessary, one that is palatable, and one that is long overdue.

I would like to conclude by thanking Senator HARRIS, who has been an indefatigable partner with me on this bill. I have been proud to work side by side with her to eliminate the country-of-origin discrimination and bring about a system of fairness in how we allocate employment-based green cards.

This is an important and, indeed, essential immigration law and one that has been a long time coming.

Mr. President, I therefore ask unanimous consent that the Committee on the Judiciary report, amended from further consideration of S. 386 and that the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration. I ask unanimous consent that the Grassley amendment at the desk be agreed to; that the bill, as amended, be considered read a third time and passed; and that the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Kentucky.

Mr. PAUL. Reserving the right to object, I have offered a modest compromise amendment to this legislation. I stand ready and open to negotiate and discuss this. We have often discussed it in private and in public. I will object until we can get to negotiating terms, and we can hopefully pass this bill once we enter into a dialogue.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

The Senator from Utah.

Mr. LEE. Mr. President, I approach with great sadness and disappointment the response just brought about by my distinguished colleague, my friend, the junior Senator from Kentucky. This is an act that I believe has a great deal of respect for him. The fact that he and I have worked on so many issues side by side together in order to improve government makes this not easier but makes it more difficult.

The suggestion that Senator PAUL and I have introduced the legislation as I have. I worked on this nearly the entirety of the 8½ half years I have had the opportunity and great privilege to serve the people of Utah in the Senate. This is by far the closest we have ever come to having a deal, and we achieved that deal by keeping this bill focused on the very things this legislation deals with.

The suggestions that Senator PAUL has made, while born of great concern for our country and a noble degree of commitment to serving the people of this State, are not themselves compatible with the scope of this legislation, nor are they compatible with something that can reasonably pass through this body. That is one of the reasons I have introduced the legislation as I have.

We have an opportunity right now to pass this. This could pass this body right now. I find it greatly disturbing that my colleague and my friend has chosen not to allow this to pass this body today. This is something that could and should and otherwise would pass this body today without that objection.

I would respectfully but with all the urgency I am capable of communicating implore my colleague, the distinguished Senator from Kentucky, to reconsider his objection and allow this to pass.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. UDALL. Mr. President I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

AMENDMENT NO. 883 TO S. 1790

Mr. UDALL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to call up Udall amendment No. 883.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senate from New Mexico (Mr. UDALL), for himself and others, proposes an amendment numbered 883 to S. 1790, as amended.

Mr. UDALL. I ask unanimous consent that the reading of the amendment be dispensed with.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The amendment, as amended, is as follows:

(Purpose: To prohibit unauthorized military operations in or against Iran)

SEC. 1226. PROHIBITION OF UNAUTHORIZED MILITARY OPERATIONS AGAINST IRAN.

(a) IN GENERAL.—No funds authorized by this Act may be used to conduct hostilities against the Government of Iran, against the Armed Forces of Iran, or in the territory of Iran.

(b) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this section may be construed—

(1) to restrict the use of the United States Armed Forces to defend against an attack upon the United States, its territories or possessions, or its Armed Forces; or

(2) to limit the obligations under the War Powers Resolution (50 U.S.C. 1541 et seq.); or

(3) to affect the provisions of an Act or a joint resolution of Congress specifically authorizing such hostilities that is enacted after the date of the enactment of this Act.

Mr. UDALL. I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The yeas and nays are ordered.

Mr. UDALL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to speak on my amendment.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. UDALL. Mr. President, I rise to respond to some of the criticisms of the Udall amendment that I believe are misleading and deserve a response.

To start, I want to point out an area of agreement. The opposition says our amendment is simple, and it agrees on its intent—that this amendment would prohibit a war with Iran without there being congressional approval, and that is what the vote is about. The arguments from those in the opposition mislead to avoid that simple truth. They are trying to create excuses for why we should ignore the Constitution and open the door to war with Iran without having a vote. President
Trump has said he was 10 minutes away from doing just that.

Here is some of what we have heard. Critics say we only have one Commander in Chief, not 535, and so we should not pass this amendment.

We only have one Commander in Chief, but the Commander in Chief executes wars. Only Congress can declare them. Our Founders made that decision for good reason. Dictators and Kings usually invite dictatorial democracies don’t. In our democracy, the people decide whether we go to war or whether we don’t go to war through their elected representatives. Congress is the most direct voice of the people. Once that decision has been made, then it is up to one Commander in Chief to execute that war. The people of New Mexico did not send me here to be a battalion commander or a general, and I have no intention of acting like one. The people of New Mexico sent me here to do my constitutional duty, and article I, section 8 vests the power of war in the President. We have heard these kinds of arguments before. We have also heard that we cannot rely on Congress to authorize force if we need it to. We heard that Congress can barely name a post office. So how can we trust it with this kind of decision? What if Congress is out of town and cannot vote?

First, it is disappointing to hear Members of the Senate speak so cynically about the work our chamber has done during a debate as important as this. The Congress does not function perfectly. That is very true. Yet history is clear that Congress has authorized military force many times in the past. I have supported some, opposed others, but we had debates and votes. Only recently has the 2001 authorization been so abused to authorize military action all over the globe—far beyond the al-Qaeda and Afghanistan mission that Congress thought it was voting on.

Congress, though, has had these debates and has voted, and those decisions represent our national decisions. I see no reason to turn our back on our Constitution just because Iran is a regional threat and this administration believes that the circumstances warrant action against Iran. The letter reads that the President’s authority in discharging his responsibility as Commander in Chief, which is simply false.

The amendment straightforwardly affirms the constitutional authority of Congress to authorize military action—authority that the President is openly flouting in his public comments. Congress authorizes military action against Iran, the Commander in Chief would be free to execute it.

The letter asserts, without evidence, that our amendment will embolden Iran. I hope we are not so weak that we think our Constitution emboldens Iran.

Furthermore, if Iran is attacked, there is nothing in this amendment that would prohibit the United States from coming to its aid with defensive measures.

Third, if Israel is attacked and the United States wants to send our military to engage in direct hostilities, we are going to need to debate and authorize any response in Congress. That is simply what the Constitution says.

Overall, the letter cites nothing—the Constitution, no law, no DOD policy, no legal analysis, nothing—in support of its claims.

This letter from DOD, which lacks a constitutional Secretary, is a disavowal, but it should not be read as any authoritative take on this amendment, its intent, or its effect.

Some have said that this amendment would block the United States from helping Israel defend itself from an Iranian attack. I support Israel’s right to defend itself, and this argument does not hold up.

First, this amendment has no impact on our ongoing security assistance and cooperation with Israel, including the recent MOU signed with Israel by President Obama.

Second, if Israel is attacked, there is nothing in this amendment that would prohibit the United States from coming to its aid with defensive measures.

The best thing we can do to protect Israel is diplomacy to stop a broader regional war in the Middle East. If the United States does go to war with Iran, Israel is likely to face very serious threats, and that is something we should take seriously if we consider the use of force.

Israel’s Energy Minister Yuval Steinitz said in May that “things are heating up” in the Persian Gulf. He said:

"If there’s some sort of confrontation between Iran and the United States, between Iraq and its neighbors, I’m not ruling out that they will activate Hezbollah and Islamic Jihad from Gaza, or even that they will try to fire missiles from Iran at the State of Israel."

So the threats to Israel from Iran only make it more important that we have a full debate and vote on military action, not less important.
Again, the purpose of our amendment is simple: The President is threatening to launch military action against Iran without authorization, publicly flouting Congress. This amendment says that we are not going to go into an unauthorized war with Iran.

If the President and Members of this body think we need to take military action against Iran, then let's have that debate and let's vote.

The Udall amendment ensures we follow the constitutional process. To do otherwise is to be in dereliction of our constitutional duty.

Mr. ROMNEY. Will the Senator from New Mexico yield for a question?

Mr. UDALL. The Senator from New Mexico yields the floor.

Mr. ROMNEY. Mr. President, I very much appreciate the perspective and sincere thoughts and ideas coming from my good friend from New Mexico.

The Senator indicated that those who oppose this are trying to create excuses for why we should ignore the Constitution.

I would note that in my remarks this morning I noted specifically that this is not an authorization to use military force against Iran or anyone else. It is a statement of continued commitment to our national defense, and, precisely, it is saying that under the Constitution only Congress may declare war. That is something I said specifically.

But the Senator goes on to note—he says that the only Congress—specifically, his words are “ignore the Constitution, open the door to war with Iran without a vote.”

President Trump has said he was 10 minutes away from doing just that. Is the Senator saying that if the President were to do what he was contemplating, and that is to take out missile batteries with the potential of the loss of life of as many as 150, but also it could be with a prewarning, with no loss of life, but taking out missile batteries that have fired upon an American aircraft—unmanned American aircraft—if he were to have done that in response to their shooting down an aircraft in international airspace, that constitutes going to war and would have required a vote of Congress to authorize shooting down or attacking missile batteries that have fired rockets at an American airbase?

I am referring to the Senator’s comments specifically, and I will read the entire point.

The Senator said: “They are trying to create excuses for why we should ignore the Constitution and open the door to war with Iran without a vote.”

President Trump has said that he was 10 minutes away from doing just that. So in the Senator’s view, is responding in a very limited manner, as he was contemplating, taking out missile batteries potentially—would that have constituted going to war and required the vote of Congress?

That is my question, because I believe that is not the case. I believe the President has the constitutional authority and duty to respond, if necessary, in an appropriate way to return fire on the very batteries that have shot down an American aircraft. I yield the floor.

TRIBUTE TO BLAIR BRETTSCneider

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I want to tell you about two young women from Chicago who discovered they made together that has helped to transform the lives of hundreds of other young women.

Domiitira Nahishakuye moved with her family from the African nation of Burundi to Chicago in 2007. Three years later, she found herself overwhelmed. At 18, she was attending high school, trying to prepare for college, and caring for her three younger siblings.

Fortunately, Domi met another young woman named Blair Brett Schneider.

Blair grew up in Detroit. After graduating from the University of Miami in Florida, she had hoped to become a journalist, but the Great Recession caused Blair to rethink her career path. She moved to Chicago to work for AmeriCorps VISTA, sometimes called the domestic Peace Corps. Blair was a “gofer” for the refugee resettlement agency.

Not content with coffee runs and other “busy work,” Blair started talking to the families her agency was helping. That is how she met Domi.

Blair started to tutor Domi and help her with her homework at the after-school center. These responsibilities made it difficult for her to attend the sessions regularly.

Rather than give up, Blair started tutoring Domi at her home. She helped her master her studies and apply for college. She also helped Domi adapt to life in her new homeland.

Blair realized that Domi was not alone. Many immigrant girls and young women Blair spoke with shared the same needs, and many refugee agencies just weren’t set up to help them.

That realization led Blair to establish a foundation in 2011 to provide other young women refugees in Chicagoland with the same types of support that Blair offered Domi. It is called GirlForward. It has since expanded its reach to help young women in Austin and in other surrounding areas. The organization has helped hundreds of women secure citizenship and find jobs.

Ms. HIRONO. Mr. President, today I wish to discuss Senate amendment No. 861, offered by my colleague from Utah.

The author of the amendment, Senator ROMNEY, and others have made clear that this language does not constitute an authorization of the use of military force, or AUMF. I agree with that assessment.

While this amendment appears to restate existing Presidential authority to defend the country in the event of an attack, it includes other language that could be interpreted to provide more authority to the President. That concerns me, which is why I voted against this amendment.

Mr. DUCKWORTH. Mr. President, amendment No. 861 fully captures the utter failure of the modern Congress to assert and defend congressional war powers that the U.S. Constitution solely vests in the legislative branch. It treats matters of life and death as mere fodder for political “gotcha”
votes and represents an approach to legislating that is ultimately as simplistic as it is dangerous.

If one asked 10 attorneys to analyze the text of amendment No. 861, one might very well receive 10 wildly different opinions as to what the undefined terms in the amendment mean, from the use of the term “attack” by the government, military forces, or proxies of a foreign nation or by other hostile forces” to the phrase “used to ensure...” if it is interpreted that way, we will find ourselves in the same fix as we find ourselves to be now. As supporters argue, the amendment language avoids using the specific phrase “authorization for use of military force,” and thus one may argue that it is technically not an “AUM.”

“Yet adopting such an interpretation requires ignoring years of executive branch overreach when it comes to taking unilateral military action without seeking an authorization for use of military force or a declaration of war from Congress.

It requires willfully forgetting the behavior of our current President and past Presidents of both parties, who have chosen to define the concept of Commander in Chief under Article II of the U.S. Constitution to be less a commander and more an emperor while the legislative branch has sat idly by as its war powers were rapidly seized by the modern imperial Presidency.

Congress is a coequal branch of government, and it is time we started acting like it. We cannot trust any President to take a blank check and fill in a reasonable number. I must oppose amendment 861 because, in my reading, any President of any party would adopt the broadest legal interpretation possible in defining what constitutes an “other hostile force” or an “attack” or what it means to “ensure the ability of the Armed Forces of the United States to defend themselves.”

This language risks unintentionally authorizing President Trump to order all types of military strikes against any number of potential entities that the President deems to be a threat. How can Trump administration determine the precise baseline that defines the term “ability” of the military to defend itself? Would allowing the degradation of any platform or capability quality as falling to “ensure the ability” of the Armed Forces to defend itself? If so, that would authorize the use of funds in the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2020 to take unilateral, preemptive action again a foreign nation or hostile force to preserve the current capabilities of the U.S. military.

I am confident the author of this amendment would disagree with this interpretation of his legislative language. However, would the sponsor argue that such an interpretation is unreasonable or not possible? Would a Federal Court not defer to the Federal Agency’s interpretation of a vague and ambiguous statute? I do not know the answer to any of these, but I do know this: I am not willing to take that risk.

We are living with the consequences of a previous Congress that rushed to pass a concise authorization for use of military force at the last moment targeted and limited at first. We have watched as Republican and Democratic administrations alike subsequently employed creative and broad legal interpretations of that authorization to continually expand which parties were connected with the horrific terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001.

To this very day, the Trump administration cites this authorization for use of military force as legal justification to unilaterally deploy Americans all around the world in response to a threat that was authorized in response to an event that took place before some of these troops were even born. To be clear, I am not asserting that I oppose the premise or substantive motivation of every military action that has been taken under the recent Presidential administrations. I am simply stating that such actions must be debated and voted on by Congress.

I deployed to fight in a war I personally opposed because it was ordered by the Commander in Chief, and these orders were pursuant to an authorization for use of military force that was publicly debated and passed by a majority of our Nation’s elected representatives. Opposing a vaguely worded amendment whose own author and proponents assert is duplicative and unnecessary and which I believe may unintentionally open the door to unlimited unilateral military action, ultimately is a vote to make our military even more accountable, and a more perfect union in living out the principles contained in our founding document.

Critics may falsely allege that opposing amendment No. 861 is voting against our national defense and military. I will strongly reject any such ridiculous claim that slanders me with the accusation that I would ever risk the security and safety of the Nation I have proudly served in uniform. In voting against No. 861, I am safeguarding our military from excessive use without congressional oversight. I am simply making clear that we, in Congress, must begin exercising the same care and attention in doing our job as our troops do when executing their missions downstream.

One of my primary motivations for serving the great State of Illinois in the U.S. Senate is to help restore congressional war powers. To remind my colleagues that whether or not military action or expansion of the use of military force, every Member of Congress should agree that such matters deserve to be debated and carefully considered by our Nation’s duly elected representatives in the broad light of day. To remind my colleagues that we must always demand the Commander in Chief clearly outline our desired strategic end state before authorizing military action that puts our troops in harm’s way.

The bottom line is that only Congress has the power to declare war. We are the ones tasked with deciding when and how we send Americans into combat. We are the ones the Constitution charges with that power.

For too long, too many elected officials have avoided the responsibility and burden of declaring war. Fearing electoral risks and staring down coming elections, multiple Congresses have shirked their constitutional responsibility to our troops by refusing to repeal the existing authorization for use of military force, while avoiding consideration any new authorizations for use of military force. Enough—enough!

We need to do better by our servicemembers. We owe it to them to honor their sacrifices. Part of that means ensuring that no American sheds blood in a war Congress has not authorized, or unintentionally authorized by passing vague language such as in amendment No. 861 that can be twisted to be read as empowering President Trump to take preemptive military action.

We should be disciplined in forcing any President who wishes to go to war to bring their case to Congress and give the American people a vote through their elected representatives. That is how we truly respect our servicemembers and military families: by demanding debate that is honest and clear-eyed about the likely loss of life and the risks of escalation that accompany any use of force.

It is our duty, and it is the least we can do for those willing to risk their lives in safeguarding our democracy, our way of life, and our Constitution.

So with the drums of war beating louder and louder by the day, I must oppose amendment No. 861 and keep my promise to all who served or are serving now in defense of this country we love. I must continue seeking to hold all of us who have the honor of serving in Congress accountable for taking back congressional war powers. Moving forward, I urge the leadership of the Senate and House Armed Services Committees to work with me to strike or significantly restrict this language during the conference negotiations that will take place over the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2020.

LOWER HEALTH CARE COSTS ACT

Mr. ALEXANDER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that a copy of my opening statement at the Senate
Mr. ALEXANDER. Today we are voting on three proposals:

**Lower Health Care Costs Act**

The Lower Health Care Costs Act—a package of 54 proposals from 65 senators—will lower the cost of health care, which has become a tax on family budgets and on business. It will lower the cost of health care, which has become a tax on family budgets and on business. And last July, we received over 400 recommendations, some as many as 50 pages long. In May, Senator Murray and I released for discussion the Lower Health Care Costs Act. Since then, we’ve received over 400 additional comments on our draft legislation, and last Tuesday, we held a hearing to hear additional feedback.

Lower the cost of health care, which has become a tax on family budgets and on business. And last July, we received over 400 recommendations, some as many as 50 pages long. In May, Senator Murray and I released for discussion the Lower Health Care Costs Act. Since then, we’ve received over 400 additional comments on our draft legislation, and last Tuesday, we held a hearing to hear additional feedback.

First, the Poison Center Network Enhancement Act, offered by Senators Murray and Burr, to reauthorize and update the national network of poison control centers.

Second, the Emergency Medical Services for Children Program Reauthorization Act, offered by Senator Casey and me, to ensure that, from the ambulance to the emergency room, emergency health care providers are fully prepared to treat children, who typically require smaller equipment and different doses of medicine.

Third, the Lower Health Care Costs Act—a package of 54 proposals from 65 senators—will reduce what Americans pay out of their own pockets for health care.
There are other proposals:

For example, banning anti-competitive terms in health insurance contracts that prevent patients from seeing other, lower-cost, providers. The Wall Street Journal identified dozens of cases where anti-competitive terms in contracts between health insurers and hospital systems increase premiums and reduce patient choices.

Banning Pharmacy Benefit Managers, or PBMs, from charging employers, health insurance plans, and patients more for a drug than the PBM paid to acquire the drug, which is known as "spread pricing."

Eliminating a loophole allowing the first generic drug to submit an application to the FDA to block other generic drugs from being approved.

Provisions to improve care for expectant and new moms and their babies.

Provisions to make it as easy to get your personal medical records as it is to book an airplane flight.

And provisions to incentivize health care organizations to use the best cybersecurity practices to protect your privacy and health information.

I hope we will today vote to approve this legislative package so we can present it to Majority Leader McConnell and Minority Leader Schiff for the full Senate to consider next month and would expect that other committees will have their own contributions.

Since January, Senator Murray and I have been working in parallel with Senator Grassley and Senator Wyden, who lead the Finance Committee.

They are working on their own bipartisan bill. The Senate Judiciary Committee is marking up bipartisan legislation on prescription drug costs tomorrow. And in the House, the Energy and Commerce, Ways and Means, and Judiciary Committees have all reported out bipartisan bills to lower the cost of prescription drugs.

Secretary Azar and the Department of Health and Human Services have been extremely helpful in reviewing and providing technical advice on the various proposals to reduce health care costs.

And the president has called for ending surprise billing and reducing the cost of prescription drugs. The Administration has also taken steps to increase transparency so families and employers can better understand the costs of health care. The Administration has also helped to further important company efforts to support our local communities, particularly their school systems, and to protect our environment. Additionally, for many years, Trent has worked in a collaborative manner with key stakeholders with a genuine humility and desire to achieve a positive outcome.

As an individual citizen, Trent has also provided excellent service to the people of Idaho in his capacity as chairman of the Idaho Workforce Development Council and as a member of the boards of the Idaho Humanities Council, Idaho Community Foundation, and the Idaho Association of Commerce and Industry. Trent's prior public service includes 2 years as the State executive director of the Farm Services Administration, 3 years as chairman of the Idaho Republican Party, a year as staff to the Joint Economic Committee of Congress, and 8 years as staff to former U.S. Senator Steve D. Symms.

Prior to joining Bayer, Trent graduated from Brigham Young University, where he majored in political science and botany. He also earned an associate of arts degree from Ricks College in Rexburg, ID. After college, Trent worked as a botany instructor for the Yellowstone Institute, as well as an executive vice president for the Fox Creek Park Foundation. In addition to Trent's strong record of leadership and service to the community, Trent has served his family and church well. Trent has been married to the former Rebecca Lee since May 23, 1986, and together, they have four children: Brittani (deceased), Kathleen, Christin, and Alexander. Trent and his family enjoy horseback riding and backcountry hiking and camping. It is our sincere wish that Trent be blessed with many years of retirement with his family.

TRIBUTE TO TROY WITT

Mr. DAINES. Mr. President, this week I have the distinct honor of recognizing Troy Witt, of Garfield County, for his selfless actions in helping those in need.

Troy, a rancher and commercial trucker of Sand Springs, spearheaded an effort to send much needed donations to farmers and ranchers impacted by record flooding in Columbus, NE, in March of 2019. He was inspired by Montanans who came together following the Lodgepole Complex fire, Montana's largest fire of the 2017 wildfire season. After losing 85 percent of his ranch, Witt was overwhelmed by the outpouring of support and supplies he received from those he had never met.

When the opportunity presented itself, Witt decided to pay it forward. He planned to load up his 53-foot trailer with as much hay, fencing material, and other supplies as he could and drive the 700 miles to the drop-off site in Columbus. After the Garfield County Disaster and Emergency Services echoed Witt's plans, farmers from around Montana offered to donate supplies. His efforts helped bring hope to a region where hundreds had lost homes and businesses.

Witt's act exemplifies the spirit of compassion and selflessness that Montanans embody. I and many others thank Mr. Witt for his good deed.

TRIBUTE TO CLYDE TERRY

Mrs. SHAHEEN. Mr. President, today I wish to salute Clyde Terry for his many years of dedicated service and staunch advocacy on behalf of people with disabilities. Clyde is retiring from his longtime role as CEO of Granite State Independent Living, and he leaves behind a legacy worthy of our praise and our gratitude.

Granite State Independent Living—GSIL—is a nonprofit that breaks down barriers for seniors and people with disabilities and expands the training and support services available to them. Its mission is grounded in a firm belief that all people have a right to define their own level of independence. Under Clyde’s leadership, GSIL has blossomed into an essential statewide organization with a $37 million budget and several awards and accolades to its name, including Non-Profit of the Year Awards from Business NH Magazine, NH Business Review, and the Greater Concord Chamber of Commerce. Services range from helping clients meet the aging, education, and employment challenges faced by so many across the Granite State.

Clyde has tapped into a wealth of experience to build GSIL into an expanded and recognized organization that remains committed to its founding principles of personal choice and direction. Before his tenure at GSIL, he was
the executive director of the New Hampshire Developmental Disabilities Council, a State agency tasked with protecting the rights of our State’s most vulnerable citizens. While affiliated with the council, he coauthored a report on the then 25 locations in the United States and established himself as a national expert on election reform. He was also an administrative hearings officer in the State’s service systems, and before that, he helped to create and implement New Hampshire’s Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program.

Throughout his career, Clyde has shown a deep passion for improving the lives of the disabled, the aged, and the impoverished.

I was honored to recommend Clyde when a vacancy arose on the National Council on Disability in 2009. As a member of the council, he became a sought-after voice on the potential of autonomous vehicles to broaden a sense of independence among people with disabilities. He was also a fierce advocate for fighting for fair pay and equal treatment in the workplace. Clyde was eventually named chairperson of the council, a testament to his leadership and communication skills and his fluency on the broad set of issues in the disability community.

I have known Clyde for decades. We worked together on Gary Hart’s 1984 presidential race. Though the campaign eventually ended in heartbreak, Clyde emerged from the race having met Susan, who would become his beloved wife of many years. As Governor of New Hampshire and U.S. Senator, I always appreciated Clyde’s guidance and counsel.

On behalf of the people of New Hampshire, I ask my colleagues and all Americans to join me in thanking Clyde Terry for his years of service and advocacy and wishing him all the best in the years ahead.

MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE

At 19:32 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. 3353. An act making appropriations for financial services and general government for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2020, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Appropriations.

At 6:06 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Cole, one of its reading clerks, announced that the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. SCOTT) has signed the following enrolled bill (H.R. 3401) making emergency supplemental appropriations for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2019, and for other purposes:

The enrolled bill was subsequently signed by the Acting President pro tempore (Mr. McCONNELL).

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–1784. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Flupyradmethionine; Pesticide Tolerances” (FRL No. 9984–41–OSCP) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 25, 2019; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC–1785. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Flupyradmethionine; Pesticide Tolerances” (FRL No. 9984–36–OSCP) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 25, 2019; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC–1786. A communication from the Senior Official performing the duties of the Under Secretary of Defense (Personnel and Readiness), transmitting the report of four (4) officers authorized to wear the insignia of the grade of major general in accordance with title 10, United States Code, section 777, this will not cause the Department to exceed the number of frocked officers authorized; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC–1787. A communication from the Alternate Federal Register Liaison Officer, Office of the Secretary, Department of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Availability to the Public of Defense Nuclear Agency (DNA) Instructions and Changes Therein” (RIN 07000–AK37) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 26, 2019; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC–1788. A communication from the Alternate Federal Register Liaison Officer, Office of the Secretary, Department of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Availability to the Public of Defense Nuclear Agency (DNA) Instructions and Changes Therein” (RIN 07000–AK37) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 26, 2019; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC–1789. A communication from the Alternate Federal Register Liaison Officer, Office of the Secretary, Department of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Public Meeting Procedures of the Board of Regents, Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences” (RIN0790–AK36) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 26, 2019; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC–1790. A communication from the Chairman, the Board of Directors, National Reserve System, transmitting, pursuant to law, the 105th Annual Report of the Federal Reserve Board covering operations for calendar year 2018; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC–1791. 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 Entities to the Entity List and Revising of an Entry on the Entity List” (RIN0694–AH86) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 26, 2019; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC–1792. 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 Entities to the Entity List” (RIN0694–AH86) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 26, 2019; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC–1793. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Division of Trading and Markets, Securities and Exchange Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Capital, Margin, and Segregation Requirements for Security-Based Swap Dealers and Major Security-Based Swap Participants and Capital Requirements for Broker-Dealers” (RIN3235–AL12) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 25, 2019; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC–1794. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Division of Trading and Markets, Securities and Exchange Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the Mid-Chesapeake Bay Island Ecosystem Restoration Project, Chesapeake Bay, Dorchester County, Maryland; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–1795. A communication from the Assistant Secretary of the Army (Civil Works), transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the navigation improvements at San Juan Harbor, Puerto Rico; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–1796. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Air Plan Approvals; California, Antelope Valley Air Quality Management District” (FRL No. 9994–19–Region 9) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 25, 2019; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–1797. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Air Plan Approvals; California, Antelope Valley Air Quality Management District” (FRL No. 9994–20–Region 9) received in
the Office of the President of the Senate on June 25, 2019; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–1796. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Air Plan Approval; KY; Attainment Plan for Jefferson County SO2 Nonattainment Area” (FRL No. 9995–36 Region 6) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 25, 2019; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–1799. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Air Plan Approval; OK; Revision to Emission Guidelines for Greenhouse Gas Operating Units; Revisions to Emission Guidelines for Greenhouse Gas Emission Guidelines for Greenhouse Gas” (RIN0376–CH450) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 25, 2019; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–1800. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Air Plan Approval; New Mexico; Albuquerque/Bernalillo County; Minor New Source Review (NSR) Preconstruction Permitting” (FRL No. 9995–42 Region 4) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 25, 2019; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–1801. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Air Plan Approval; Oklahoma; Regional Haze Five-Year Progress Report” (FRL No. 9995–36 Region 6) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 25, 2019; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–1803. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Repeal of the Clean Power Plan; Emission Guidelines for Greenhouse Gas Emissions for Existing Electric Utility Generating Units; Revisions to Emission Guideline Implementing Regulations” (FRL No. 9995–70–OAR) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 25, 2019; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–1804. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Technical corrections to Maine Protection, Research, and Sanctuaries Act (MPRSA) regulations and disposal sites designated under the MPRSA” (FRL No. 9995–28–OW) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 25, 2019; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–1805. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the designation of a group as a Foreign Terrorist Organization by the Secretary of State (OSS–2019–0731); to the Committee on Transportation.

EC–1806. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to section 96(c) of the Arms Export Control Act, the certification of a proposed license for the export of defense articles, including technical data and defense services, to the United Kingdom to support the maintenance, repair, and overhaul of the F-133 propulsion system powering the F-35 Lightning II aircraft in the amounts of $11,594,348–11,595,348 more (Transmittal No. DDTCE–18–108) to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC–1807. A communication from the Deputy Assistant General Counsel for Regulatory Affairs, Benefit Guaranty Corporation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Change of Address for Region 1 Reports; Technical Correction” (FRL No. 9995–50 Region 1) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 25, 2019; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC–1810. A communication from the Associate General Counsel for General Law, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Removing the Outdated Regulations Regarding the National Hansen’s Disease Program, Amended” (RIN0767–9044) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 25, 2019; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC–1811. A communication from the Regulations Coordinator, Health Resources and Services Administration, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Removing the Outdated Regulations Regarding the Health Education Assistance Loan (HEAL) Program” (RIN0906–AB21) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 25, 2019; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC–1812. A communication from the Assistant General Counsel for Regulatory Affairs, Consumer Product Safety Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Safety Standard for Stationary Activity Centers” (16 CFR Parts 1112 and 1113) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 25, 2019; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

PETITIONS AND MEMORIALS

The following petitions and memorials were laid before the Senate and were referred or ordered to lie on the table as indicated:

WHEREAS, in 2002, Congress reauthorized the Farm Bill, which included country-of-origin labeling for beef, lamb, pork, farm-raised and wild fish, peanuts, and other perishable commodities; and

WHEREAS, in 2009, Congress reauthorized the Farm Bill, which included mandatory country-of-origin labeling for beef, lamb, pork, farm-raised and wild fish, peanuts, and other perishable commodities; and

WHEREAS, in 2019, the Montana Legislature passed the Country of Origin Placing Act until “funding and full implementation of federal mandatory country of origin labeling”; and

WHEREAS, in 2009, Montana’s country-of-origin labeling (COOL) laws were voided, as the federal act was implemented; and

WHEREAS, in 2015, federal COOL rules ceased being enforced for beef and pork products only due mainly to a World Trade Organization ruling; and

WHEREAS, consumers want to know the origin of their food; and

WHEREAS, American and Montana farmers and ranchers want consumers to know the origin of their food; and

WHEREAS, Congress should pass laws and the U.S. Department of Agriculture should implement rules and regulations for COOL certification for beef and pork products that do not impose undue compliance costs, liability, recordkeeping, or verification requirements on farmers and ranchers.

Now, therefore, be it resolved by the Senate and the House of Representatives of the State of Montana:

WHEREAS, the Senate and the House of Representatives of the 86th Montana Legislature urges Congress to pass a federal COOL law
for beef and pork products that meets World Trade Organization requirements; and it further
Resolved, That the Secretaries of State send copies of this resolution to the individual members of the United States House of Representatives and the United States Senate.

POM-98. A joint resolution adopted by the Legislature of the State of Montana memorializing its opposition to the bison grazing proposal by the American Prairie Reserve; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION No. 28
Whereas, the American Prairie Reserve (APR) controls private properties tied to 18 Bureau of Land Management (BLM) grazing allotments in Fergus, Petroleum, Phillips, and Valley counties; and
Whereas, the APR has requested that the BLM fundamentally shift long-established grazing practices on the 18 BLM allotments, which encompass 250,000 acres of public property; and
Whereas, APR has petitioned to change the allotments from seasonal or rotational grazing to year-round grazing and remove the interior fencing on those allotments; and
Whereas, the proposed grazing permit would allow the year-round, continuous grazing of public land by bison, which would impact the future grazing viability of the allotments; and
Whereas, the existing BLM designation for managed grazing is what science dictates the rangeland can support; and
Whereas, it is the responsibility of the BLM to ensure the future vitality of these public parcels is protected; and
Whereas, the removal of interior fences will eliminate the ability of BLM to control the access of bison to certain parcels to shorten grazing permits in response to drought or fire to protect the rangeland.
Now, therefore, be it resolved by the Senate and the House of Representatives of the State of Montana:

(1) That it is essential for the preservation of the future viability of Montana’s rangeland that the BLM deny the petition by the APR to alter grazing permits on the 18 allotments under the control of APR.

(2) That the denial of the proposed APR grazing permit change is critical for the health of Montana’s livestock and wildlife.

(3) That the rangeland owners and communities should not bear the cost of damages incurred by the lack of integrated bison management in the APR’s grazing proposal.

(4) That the APR grazing proposal would protect Montana farmers, ranchers, and communities.

(5) That the BLM should deny the APR bison grazing proposal.

(6) That the Secretary of State send a copy of this resolution to the United States Congress, the Department of the Interior, and the Bureau of Land Management.

POM-100. A petition from a citizen of the United States to the Secretary of State of Montana requesting that the Secretary of State send copies of this resolution to the President of the United States, the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, the Majority Leader of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, the Majority Leader of the United States Senate, the Consulate of Canada in the United States, the Consulate of Mexico in the United States, and the United States Senate Finance Committee, the United States House of Representatives Ways and Means Committee, the United States Senate Advisory Group on Negotiations, and the United States House Advisory Group on Negotiations, the United States Trade Representative, the United States Secretary of Commerce, the United States Secretary of Labor, and the Office of Management and Budget, and the Intellectual Property Enforcement Coordinator.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES
The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Mr. JOHNSON, from the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute:

S. 880. A bill to amend the Act of August 25, 1938, commonly known as the “Former Presidents Act of 1938”, with respect to the monetary allowance non-applicable to a former President, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 116-53).

EXECUTIVE REPORTS OF COMMITTEES
The following executive reports of nominations were submitted:

By Ms. MURKOWSKI for the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

*Mark Lee Greenblatt, of Maryland, to be Inspector General, Department of the Interior.

*Daniel Habib Jorjani, of Kentucky, to be Solicitor of the Department of the Interior.

*By Mr. GRAHAM for the Committee on the Judiciary.

*William Shaw Stickman IV, of Pennsylvania, to be United States District Judge for the Western District of Pennsylvania.

By Mr. Chaffetz, from the Committee on Oversight and Governmental Affairs, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute:

S. 2000. A bill to amend title XIX of the Social Security Act to remove an institutional bias by making permanent the protection for recipients of home and community-based services against spousal impoverishment; to the Committee on Finance.

By Ms. STABENOW for the Committee on Finance.

S. 202. A bill to amend title XIX of the Social Security Act to remove an institutional bias by making permanent the protection for recipients of home and community-based services against spousal impoverishment; to the Committee on Finance.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS
The following bills and joint resolutions were introduced, read the first and second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

By Mr. CASEY (for himself and Mr. DAINES):

S. 1999. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide transitional coverage for certain low-income beneficiaries; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. CASEY (for himself, Ms. SMITH, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. MILLER, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Ms. SANCHEZ, Mr. BROWN, Ms. STABENOW, and Ms. KLOHUCHI):

S. 3003. A bill to amend title XIX of the Social Security Act to remove an institutional bias by making permanent the protection for recipients of home and community-based services against spousal impoverishment; to the Committee on Finance.

EXECUTIVE REPORTS OF COMMITTEES
The following executive reports of nominations were submitted:

By Ms. MURKOWSKI for the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

*Mark Lee Greenblatt, of Maryland, to be Inspector General, Department of the Interior.

*Daniel Habib Jorjani, of Kentucky, to be Solicitor of the Department of the Interior.

*By Mr. GRAHAM for the Committee on the Judiciary.

*William Shaw Stickman IV, of Pennsylvania, to be United States District Judge for the Third Circuit.

Charles R. Eckridge III, of Texas, to be United States District Judge for the Southern District of Texas.

June 27, 2019
the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Ms. SMITH (for herself and Mr. CRAMER):
S. 2017. A bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to establish insulin assistance programs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. COONS (for himself and Mr. GRAHAM):

By Mr. MENENDEZ (for himself, Mr. GRAHAM, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, and Ms. SMITH):
S. 2006. A bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to prohibit certain conduct relating to the use of horses for human consumption; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. SCHATZ (for himself, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. BROWN, Mr. MARKEY, Ms. Cortez Masto, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. REED, Mr. BOOKER, Ms. HARRIS, Mr. WARREN, and Ms. SMITH):
S. 2007. A bill to prohibit the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development from implementing a proposed rule regarding requirements under Community Planning and Development housing programs; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mrs. MURRAY (for herself, Mr. BOOKER, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. BROWN, Ms. CANTWELL, Mr. CARPER, Mr. CASEY, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. DURBIN, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Ms. HARRIS, Ms. HIRONO, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. MENG, Mr. MERRICK, Mr. MURPHY, Mr. REED, Ms. ROSEN, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. SCHATZ, Mrs. SHARER, Ms. SINEMA, Ms. SMITH, Ms. STARKER, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Ms. WARREN, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, and Mr. WYDEN):
S. 2008. A bill to prohibit, as an unfair or deceptive act or practice, commercial sexual orientation conversion therapy, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. COONS (for himself and Mr. HODIN):
S. 2009. A bill to amend the Energy Policy Act of 2005 to require the establishment of a small business voucher program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. REVELL (for himself and Mr. HODIN):
S. 2010. A bill to increase research, education, and treatment for cerebral cavernous malformations; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. CORNYN (for himself, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. MANCHIN, Ms. SINEMA, and Mr. CRUZ):
S. 2011. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to reduce the credit hour requirements for Servicemembers under the Post-9/11 GI Bill; to the Committee on Education, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. FEINSTEIN (for herself, Mr. SCHUMER, Ms. HARRIS, Mr. BENNET, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. CARDIN, and Mr. RUBIO):
S. 2012. A bill to provide that certain regulatory actions by the Federal Communications Commission shall have no force or effect; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. CRAPO (for himself and Mr. LATINO):
S. 2013. A bill to protect the right of individuals to bear arms at water resources development projects; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mr. MARKKEY:
S. 2014. A bill to provide grants to States to encourage the development and maintenance of firearms licensing requirements, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina (for himself and Mr. MANCHIN):
S. 2015. A bill to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to direct the Secretary of Education to develop a plain language disclosure form for borrowers of Federal student loans, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. COTTON (for himself and Mr. RUHSO):
S. 2016. A bill to help individuals receiving disability insurance benefits under title II of the Social Security Act obtain rehabilitative services and return to the workforce, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mrs. BLACKBURN (for herself, Ms. ERNST, Mrs. HYDE-SMITH, Ms. McSALLY, Mrs. CAPITO, and Mrs. PESCO):
S. 2017. A bill to amend section 116 of title 18, United States Code, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Ms. COLLINS (for herself and Mr. JONES):

By Mr. WYDEN (for himself, Mr. SANDERS, and Mr. VAN HOLLEN):
S. 2019. A bill to ensure Members of Congress have access to Federal facilities in order to exercise their Constitutional oversight responsibilities; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. CASEY (for himself and Mr. GRASSLEY):
S. 2020. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to expand the use of telehealth services for remote imaging for chronic eye disease; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. BOOKER:
S. 2021. A bill to amend the Immigration and Nationality Act by striking marijuana use, possession, and distribution as grounds of inadmissibility and removal; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. MORAN (for himself and Ms. SINEMA):
S. 2022. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to provide for improvements to the specially adapted housing program of the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans’ Affairs.

By Mr. RISCH (for himself, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. HOVEN, Mrs. CAPITO, Ms. ROSEN, and Mr. KENNEDY):
S. 2023. A bill to authorize the Federal and State Technology Partnership Program of the Small Business Administration, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship.

By Mr. CORNYN (for himself and Mr. COONS):
S. 2024. A bill to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to improve the American History for Freedom grant program; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. PERDUE (for himself, Mr. MERRICK, Mr. CASSIDY, Mrs. HYDE-SMITH, Mr. ISAKSON, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. MURPHY, and Mr. BRUMMENTHAL, and Ms. KLOBUCHAR):
S. 2025. A bill to amend the Motor Carrier Safety Improvement Act of 1999 to modify the definition of agricultural commodities, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. LEAHY (for himself, Mr. PERDUE, Mr. BROWN, and Ms. COLLINS):
S. 2026. A bill to amend the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act to reauthorize the farm to school program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

By Ms. DUCKWORTH (for herself, Mr. WYDEN, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. MARKY, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. KAIN, Mr. SANDERS, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, and Ms. KLOBUCHAR):
S. 2027. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to expand the scope of the Adviser to the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans’ Affairs.

By Mr. WICKER (for himself, Mr. WARDEN, Mr. CARSON, and Ms. CAPITO):
S. 2028. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide for new markets tax credit investments in the Rural Jobs Zone; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. DAINES:
S. 2029. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to permanently extend the Indian coal production tax credit, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. WYDEN:
S. 2030. A bill to prevent Federal agencies from interfering with the marijuana policy of the States; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. BARRASSO:
S. 2031. A bill to amend the FAST Act to allow states to include on information on small business concerns owned and controlled by veterans in reporting under the disadvantaged business enterprise program of the Small Business Administration, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Ms. FEINSTEIN (for herself, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. SCHATZ, Mr. DURBIN, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. TILLIS, Mr. KAIN, Ms. ERNST, and Mr. CRAMER):
S. 2032. A bill to expand the use of the cannabinol and marijuana; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. ISAKSON (for himself and Mr. ROSSU):
S. 2033. A bill to require the Secretary of Transportation to promulgate standards and regulations requiring all new commercial motor vehicles to be required to be capable of limiting maximum operating speed, to encourage the implementation and main-
S. 2036. A bill to amend the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act to provide grants to States for summer employment programs for youth; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pension.

By Ms. MURKOWSKI (for herself and Mr. SCHUMAT).

S. 2037. A bill to amend the STEM education program for American Indian, Alaska Native, and Navajo students to include a STEM teacher certification program; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pension.

By Ms. CORTEZ MASTO (for herself, Ms. SMITH, and Mrs. GILLIBRAND).

S. 2039. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend the credit for alternative fuel vehicle refueling property, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Ms. CORTEZ MASTO (for herself, Ms. SMITH, Mr. WYDEN, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Ms. HIRONO, and Mr. MERKLEY).

S. 2042. A bill to establish a working group on electric vehicles, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Ms. CORTEZ MASTO (for herself, Ms. STABENOW, Ms. SMITH, Mr. WYDEN, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Ms. HIRONO, and Mr. MERKLEY).

S. 2043. A bill to establish the Green Spaces, Green Vehicles Initiative to facilitate the installation of zero-emissions vehicle infrastructure on National Forest System land, National Park System land, and certain related land, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. SCHUMER (for himself, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, and Ms. KLOBUCHAR).

S. 2044. A bill to require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint coins in commemoration of the National Purple Heart Hall of Honor; to the Committee on Banking, Hous-
ing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. BLUMENTHAL (for himself, Mr. DURBIN, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. WARNER, Mr. Kaine, and Mrs. GILLIBRAND).

S. 2045. A bill to provide incentives for hate crime reporting, provide grants for State-run hate crime hotlines, and establish alternative sentencing for individuals convicted under the Matthew Shephard and James Byrd, Jr. Hate Crimes Prevention Act; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Ms. McKAYL (for herself and Ms. SINEMA).

S. 2044. A bill to amend the Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2009 to establish an Agency Infrastructure Account, to amend the Reclamation Safety of Dams Act of 1978 to provide additional funds under that Act, to establish a review of flood control rule curves pilot project within the Bureau of Reclamation, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mrs. SHAHEEN (for herself, Mr. RUBIO, and Mr. CARDIN).

S. 2045. A bill to reauthorize the SBIR and STTR programs and for other purposes; to the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship.

By Mr. PETERS.

S. 2046. A bill to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to protect the health care benefits of retired public safety officers, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. SCHUMER.

S. 2047. A bill to provide for a 2-week extension of the Medicaid community mental health services demonstration program, and for other purposes; considered and passed.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

The following concurrent resolutions and Senate resolutions were read, and referred (or acted upon), as indicated:

By Mr. TOOMEY (for himself and Mr. WARNER):

S. Res. 267. A resolution recognizing the September 11th National Memorial Trail as an important trail and greenway all individuals should enjoy in honor of the heroes of September 11th; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. COTTON:

S. Res. 268. A resolution expressing the sense of the Senate that the Federal Government should not bail out any State; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. CARDIN (for himself and Mr. VAN HOLLEN):

S. Res. 269. A resolution commemorating the life of Lucio Ojito "Alex" Villamayor and calling for justice and accountability; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Ms. BALDWIN (for herself, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. SCHUMER, Ms. COLLINS, Ms. CANTWELL, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. CASEY, Ms. HARRIS, Mr. MURPHY, Mr. BENNET, Mr. DURBIN, Ms. MURRAY, Mr. BUCKER, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. SANDERS, Ms. COONS, Ms. SMITH, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. CARDIN, Ms. HIRONO, Ms. BLUMENTHAL, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. CARDIN, Ms. HASSAN, and Mrs. FRENSTED):

S. Res. 270. A resolution recognizing the 50th Anniversary of the Stonewall uprising; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. BURR (for himself and Mr. TESTER):

S. Res. 271. A resolution designating July 12, 2019, as “Collector Car Appreciation Day” and recognizing that the collection and restoration of historic automobiles is an important part of preserving the technological achievements and cultural heritage of the United States; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. RUBIO (for himself, Ms. BLACKBURN, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. BRAUN, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. INHOFE, and Mr. CRUZ):

S. Con. Res. 21. A concurrent resolution strongly condemning human rights violations, violence against civilians, and cooperation with Iran by the Houthis and its allies; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 110

At the request of Ms. COLLINS, the name of the Senator from Nebraska (Mrs. FISHER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 110, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide for a permanent extension of the lower income threshold for the medical expense deduction.

S. 120

At the request of Mr. HOEVEN, the name of the Senator from Montana (Mr. DAINES) was added as a cosponsor of S. 210, a bill to amend the Tribal Law and Order Act of 2010 and the Indian Law Enforcement Reform Act to provide for advancements in public safety services to Indian communities, and for other purposes.

S. 235

At the request of Mr. COONS, the name of the Senator from Texas (Mr. CORNYN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 235, a bill to authorize the Secretary of Education to award grants to establish teacher leader development programs.

S. 239

At the request of Mrs. SHAHEEN, the name of the Senator from New Hampshire (Ms. CANTWELL) 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. 367

At the request of Mr. Udall, the name of the Senator from Delaware (Mr. COONS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 367, a bill to provide for the administration of certain national monuments, to establish a National Monument Enhancement Fund, and to establish wildlife areas in the States of New Mexico and Nevada.

S. 546

At the request of Mr. GARDNER, the names of the Senator from Missouri (Mr. HAWLEY) and the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. WICKER) were added as cosponsors 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.

At the request of Mrs. GILLIBRAND, the name of the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. Cramer) was added as a cosponsor of S. 546, supra.

S. 560

At the request of Ms. BALDWIN, the names of the Senator from Michigan (Mr. PETERS) and the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. WICKER) were added as cosponsors of S. 560, a bill to amend the Patient Health and Retirement Security Act of 1974, and the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to require that group and individual health insurance coverage and group health plans provide coverage for treatment of a congenital anomaly or birth defect.

S. 578

At the request of Mr. WHITEHOUSE, the name of the Senator from Missouri (Mr. HAWLEY) 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. 668

At the request of Mr. BROWN, the name of the Senator from Missouri (Mr. HAWLEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 668, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to waive coinsurance under Medicare for colorectal cancer screening tests, regardless of
whether therapeutic intervention is required during the screening.

S. 678

At the request of Mr. Inhofe, the name of the Senator from Tennessee (Mrs. Blackburn) was added as a cosponsor of S. 678, a bill to declare English as the official language of the United States, to establish a uniform English language rule for naturalization, and to avoid misconstructions of the English language texts of the laws of the United States, pursuant to Congress' powers to provide for the general welfare of the United States and to establish a uniform rule of naturalization under article I, section 8, of the Constitution.

S. 894

At the request of Mr. Markley, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 684, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to repeal the excise tax on high-cost employer-sponsored health coverage.

S. 727

At the request of Mr. Coons, the name of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. Isakson) was added as a cosponsor of S. 727, a bill to combat international extremism by addressing global fragility and violence and stabilizing conflict-affected areas, and for other purposes.

S. 803

At the request of Mr. Toomey, the name of the Senator from California (Mrs. Feinstein) was added as a cosponsor of S. 727, a bill to combat international extremism by addressing global fragility and violence and stabilizing conflict-affected areas, and for other purposes.

S. 851

At the request of Ms. Baldwin, the name of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. Wyden) was added as a cosponsor of S. 851, a bill to direct the Secretary of Labor to issue an occupational safety and health standard that requires covered employers within the health care and social services industries to develop and implement a comprehensive workplace violence prevention plan, and for other purposes.

S. 872

At the request of Mrs. Shaheen, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. Smith) was added as a cosponsor 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.

S. 876

At the request of Ms. Duckworth, the name of the Senator from Idaho (Mr. Crapo) was added as a cosponsor of S. 876, a bill to amend the Energy Policy Act of 2005 to require the Secretary of Energy to establish a program to prepare veterans for careers in the energy industry, including the solar, wind, cybersecurity, and other low-carbon emissions sectors or zero-emissions sectors of the energy industry, and for other purposes.

S. 1071

At the request of Mrs. Shaheen, the name of the Senator from Maryland (Mr. Cardin) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1071, a bill to support empowerment, economic security, and educational opportunities for adolescent girls around the world, and for other purposes.

S. 1227

At the request of Mr. Grassley, the name of the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. Whitehouse) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1227, a bill to require the Federal Trade Commission to study the rule of intermediaries in the pharmaceutical supply chain and provide Congress with appropriate policy recommendations, and for other purposes.

S. 1243

At the request of Mr. Booker, the names of the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. Markey), the Senator from Illinois (Ms. Duckworth), the Senator from New York (Mrs. Gillibrand), the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. Blumenthal) and the Senator from Hawaii (Ms. Hirono) were added as cosponsors of S. 1243, a bill to provide standards for facilities at which aliens in the custody of the Department of Homeland Security are detained, and for other purposes.

S. 1392

At the request of Mr. Sullivan, the name of the Senator from Nebraska (Mrs. Fischer) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1392, a bill to direct the Comptroller General of the United States to conduct an assessment of the responsibilities, workload, and vacancy rates of suicide prevention coordinators of the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes.

S. 1428

At the request of Mr. Wyden, the name of the Senator from Michigan (Mr. Peters) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1428, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to permit treatment of student loan payments as elective deferrals for purposes of employer matching contributions, and for other purposes.

S. 1457

At the request of Mrs. Blackburn, the name of the Senator from Florida (Mr. Rubio) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1457, a bill to provide for interagency coordination on risk mitigation in the communications equipment and services marketplace and the supply chain thereof, and for other purposes.

S. 1488

At the request of Mr. Udall, the name of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. Blumenthal) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1488, a bill to improve the integrity and safety of interstate horseracing, and for other purposes.

S. 1531

At the request of Mr. Cassidy, the name of the Senator from Delaware (Mr. Coons) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1531, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to provide protections for health insurance consumers from surprise billing from out-of-network providers, and for other purposes.

S. 1532

At the request of Mr. Wicker, the name of the Senator from Maine (Ms. Collins) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1532, a bill to promote the deployment of commercial fifth-generation mobile networks and the sharing of information with communications providers in the United States regarding security risks to the networks of those providers, and for other purposes.

S. 1757

S. 1768

S. 1847

S. 1863

S. 1866

S. RES. 252

S. 1964

S. 2128

S. 2110

S. 2019
Maryland (Mr. CARDIN) were added as cosponsors of amendment No. 556 intended to be proposed to S. 1790, an original bill to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2020 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 703

At the request of Mr. SCHUMER, his name was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 742 intended to be proposed to S. 1790, an original bill to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2020 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 742

At the request of Mr. MARKEY, the names of the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MORAN) and the Senator from Massachusetts (Ms. WARREN) were added as cosponsors of amendment No. 883 intended to be proposed to S. 1790, an original bill to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2020 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 883

At the request of Mr. UDALL, the names of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. CASEY), the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS), the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. SCHATZ), the Senator from Massachusetts (Ms. WARREN), the Senator from Oregon (Mr. WYDEN), the Senator from California (Ms. HARRIS), the Senator from Maryland (Mr. VAN HOLLEN), the Senator from Wisconsin (Ms. BROWN), the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. BLUMENTHAL), the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. MARKEY), the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. BOOKER), the Senator from Vermont (Mr. LEAHY), the Senator from Hawaii (Ms. HIRONO) and the Senator from Ohio (Mr. BROWN) were added as cosponsors of amendment No. 883 proposed to S. 1790, an original bill to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2020 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mrs. MURRAY (for herself, Mr. BOOKER, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. BROWN, Ms. CASEY, Mr. CARPENTIER, Ms. CARSON, Ms. CASEY, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. DURBIN, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Ms. HARRIS, Ms. HIRONO, Ms. KLOBUCAR, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. MURPHY, Mr. REED, Ms. ROSEN, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. SCHATZ, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Ms. SINEMA, Ms. SMITH, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Ms. WARREN, and Mr. WYDEN):

S. 2008. A bill to prohibit, as an unfair or deceptive act or practice, commercial sexual orientation conversion therapy, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, half a century ago, members of the LGBT community, who were tired of being accosted and abused and assaulted just because of who they were or whom they loved, took a stand to say "enough is enough" and pushed back against the forces of history that said they were anything less than mark the sanctity of freedom fighters like Marsha P. Johnson, Sylvia Rivera, and so many others both named and unnamed who dared that day to live their entire truth, countless others today have been set free. Now, 50 years later, through dogged persistence and sacrifice, we have been able to pass laws and create policies that respect and protect members of the LGBT community—from challenging hateful bans against lesbian and gay relationships, to securing land-mark civil rights protections against hate crimes, to, finally, making marriage equality the law of our land.

This year, as we commemorate the 50th anniversary of the Stonewall protests that sparked the modern movement for LGBTQ+ equality, I am very proud to stand here on the floor of the Senate as an unapologetic ally for this vibrant community. As we close out this month's annual celebration of Pride, I come to the floor today to reintroduce legislation to further protect gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender, queer, intersex, asexual, and gender nonconforming individuals from the dogma of our Nation's homophobic and transphobic past because, even as we reflect on the progress we have made, we have a lot more to do to achieve equality.

In the Senate, I have been very proud to stand shoulder to shoulder with the community in Washington State and around the country to continue our progress and work to expand protections to help members of the community thrive, from our efforts to reduce bullying and harassment at colleges and universities through legislation named after Tyler Clementi—a student who tragically died by suicide in college—to reducing the epidemic of harassment and discrimination in workplaces through the Be HEARD Act, which is a bill I recently introduced that would hold businesses accountable for discriminating, give workers the resources and support they need to seek justice, and clarify that discriminating on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity are unlawful under the Civil Rights Act.

I am very grateful to my colleague Senator BOOKER and our friend Representative LEEU for joining me today in reintroducing the Therapeutic Fraud Prevention Act—the first Federal ban on so-called conversion therapy—because, in 2019, we know that being a member of the LGBTQ+ community is still perceived as some chronic condition that requires medical treatment; rather, the politicians who say it is are on the wrong side of history.

In fact, we know that conversion therapy is a painful and discriminatory practice. The American Psychological Association has said it is "unlikely to be successful in changing someone's sexual orientation" and would "involve some risk of harm" contrary to the claims of its proponents. And we know that it is a practice that is especially harmful to LGBTQ+ children, who we already know are vulnerable to increased harassment and discrimination because of who they are.

I am proud that the home State of Washington has already banned conversion therapy, but that is not enough so long as any child or any person in our country can be harmed by this sham. That is why I am very proud to be here to reintroduce the Therapeutic Fraud Prevention Act and to remind all of our friends that we stand with them throughout history and throughout the future to make sure that everyone is protected with their rights.

The Therapeutic Fraud Prevention Act is legislation that would classify conversion therapy as the fraudulent practice our communities and science know it is. It would clarify in our Nation's laws that providing or facilitating commercial conversion therapy or advertising such services is an unfair and deceptive practice, and it would ensure that Federal regulators and State attorneys general have the ability and authority to enforce this ban.

We have come far in our long battle for LGBTQ+ equality, and I am ready to get to work to get this important legislation over the finish line because, after 50 years of struggle, as a nation, we have come to know that love is love and that love wins. However, after 50 years, we also know it gets better but only if we work to make it so.

From the horrors of the Pulse massacre, to the ever-climbing number of murdered African-American and Latinx transgender women, to President Trump's transgender military ban and his administration's assault on LGBTQ+ rights, so many of the challenges that face the community today mirror the critical struggles they faced all those years ago at the Stonewall Inn. Like then, too many in the community are still threatened by violence, oppression, and even greater danger because they are also women, transgender, people of color, poor, and the list goes on.
That is why this legislation and recognitions like Pride Month are so important. All month, I have been thrilled to see the photos from Pride celebrations back in Washington State—from Spokane, to Yakima, to Olympia—filled with so much cheer, resilience, and strength. Only this week, only two weeks ago, I traveled back here to Washington and argue in this Chamber about why we shouldn’t confirm people to judicial or executive posts who don’t believe in the full humanity and equality of so many of our family members, friends, neighbors, and coworkers.

It is obvious that this work is still very important, and we have it cut out for us, but I remain hopeful because I have seen how far we have come in just 50 years. By continuing to honor the righteous tradition of Marsha, Sylvia, and so many others by raising our voices against injustice and taking key steps like this legislation to make life easier and ensure a next generation of LGBTQIA+ Americans, I know we will see even more progress in the next 50 years.

By Ms. COLLINS (for herself and Mr. JONES):

S. 2018. A bill to provide Federal matching funding for State-level broadband programs; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, I rise today to introduce the American Broadband Buildout Act of 2019, or ABBA. This legislation would help ensure that rural Americans have access to broadband services at speeds they can use to participate in the global economy and make it more affordable for every- one.

The bipartisan bill that we are introducing would help close the digital divide between urban and rural America by directing the FCC to provide up to $5 billion in funding to assist States and State-approved entities in building “last-mile” infrastructure to bring high-speed broadband directly to homes and businesses in areas that lack it. Let me briefly discuss a few key points about the bill that I would like to highlight.

First, projects that receive funding must be located in unserved areas where broadband is unavailable at speeds that meet the FCC standards. Without broadband, Lisa Harvey-McPherson will have lost the opportunity to connect to her family. As the author of that letter, Lisa Harvey-McPherson put it, “Our hospice team could be doing so much more with video and telemonitoring technologies if Maine had better connectivity.”

The following Northern Light Health examples highlight technology opportunities that are therefore more expensive to serve. Simply put, “Our hospice team could be doing so much more with video and telemonitoring technologies if Maine had better connectivity.”

One broadband application that holds promise is rural America is telemedicine. As a native of Aroostook County—the largest county by land area east of the Mississippi, with fewer than 70,000 residents—I know how important healthcare is to the vitality and even to the survival of rural communities. Often, these communities struggle to attract and retain the physicians they need to ensure their having access to quality care for their citizens. Broadband can help to bridge this gap by enabling innovative healthcare delivery in these rural communities.

In an example described in a recent letter, hospitals working at Northern Light Home Care and Hospice were able to use the internet and video technology to help support a patient who was living on an island off the coast of Maine—not as far as the seagulls flies but hours away in travel time. Although the connection was very poor, the video enabled the hospice nurses to monitor the patient’s symptoms and provide emotional support to her family. As the provider of this technology, Lisa Harvey McPherson put it, “Our hospice team could be doing so much more with video and telemonitoring technologies if Maine had better connectivity.”

I ask unanimous consent that immediately following my remarks, this letter from Lisa Harvey-McPherson be printed in the RECORD.

Mr. President, in closing, rural Americans deserve to enjoy the benefits of high-speed internet in the same way that urban Americans do, but a digital divide has arisen due to the simple fact that rural areas are more sparsely populated than urban ones and are therefore more expensive to serve. The bill that Senator Jones and I are introducing today would help to bridge this digital divide by funding future-proof broadband where it is needed most and giving a real boost to job creation in rural America.

I urge my colleagues to support our bill.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:


Senor SUSAN COLLINS,
Dirksen Senate Office Building,
Washington, DC.

DEAR SENATOR COLLINS: On behalf of Northern Light Health member organizations and the patients we serve, I want to thank you for your support for the need to advance health care technology in Maine. Technology is an essential strategy to increase access to health care services in rural Maine. Northern Light Health is a technology leader in Maine, provide a variety of telehealth services including cardiology, stroke, psychiatry, trauma, pediatric intensive care and in-home telemonitoring services state wide. As we work to expand opportunities for patients to receive health care services through technology we consistently encounter the challenge of inadequate (or complete lack of) broadband capacity. Northern Light Health member organizations compete nationally to recruit specialists to Maine, technology is often the only option to expand access to specialists in rural Maine.

The following Northern Light Health examples highlight technology opportunities
and the need to increase broadband speed and capacity in rural Maine.

Our hospice program cared for a patient on an island off Hancock County. Staff placed a tablet at the patient’s home and one with the hospice nurse. Because of the challenges of Island travel, it took hours to get to the home to manage and support the patient and her family. Broadband connection was very poor we were able to help with symptoms and emotional support using video technology. Our hospice team could be doing so much more with video and telemonitoring technologies if Maine had better connectivity.

At Northern Light AR Gould in Presque Isle, they are a pilot site for the telehealth virtual walk-in clinic. Those using the system within the pilot are amazed at the ease of access to a provider to ask those easy questions that keep patients out of the ED. If successful, in a broader roll-out, patients in local communities will have access to walk-in level care (colds, rashes, general health questions) without leaving their home via technology. This is important given the average age of the population and the difficulty of traveling roads during the winter months in Aroostook County. The fully expanding the telehealth virtual clinic is broadband capacity.

Broadband access is also a professional recruitment issue. Nurse practitioners have difficulty finding meaningful employment. Addressing rural broadband capacity will support recruitment efforts.

In Aroostook County we are also evaluating telepsychiatry services for the regional nursing homes. This will significantly increase access to psychiatric services which is in clinical demand. Connectivity is a foundational component of offering this service.

Our electronic health record has expanded access to individualized health information for our patients, connectivity is a barrier to patients accessing this important resource in rural Maine.

As we increase our electronic health record capacity providers are reliant on this technology as much as they are reliant on clinical tools like a stethoscope. In areas with broadband capacity challenges the providers spend time looking at buffering symbols on their screens for long periods of time in the day.

We appreciate the opportunity to share these examples with you and your staff as you explore Congressional solutions to Maine’s broadband challenge.

Sincerely,

LISA HARVY-MCPHERSON RN, MBA, MPPM, Vice President Government Relations.

By Mr. LEAHY (for himself, Mr. PERDUE, Mr. BROWN, and Ms. COULTER):

S. 26. A bill to amend the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act to reauthorize the farm to school program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

In 2010, Congress passed the Healthy and Hunger-Free Kids Act, which reauthorized child nutrition programs and made healthy meal choices a reality to children nationwide. Far too many children and adolescents in the United States are overweight and obesity, which puts them at risk for developing chronic health conditions later in life. One of the best ways to help students make healthy choices is to teach them about their food and how it is grown. Making that connection makes a difference. That is why I championed the inclusion of funding for a farm to school grant program, which was included in the Healthy and Hunger-Free Kids Act.

The program has been tremendous success and interest nationwide, and has awarded grants in all 50 states and the District of Columbia to support programs in more than 33,000 schools. Building upon the success of this program, I am glad to be joined today by Senators PERDUE, BROWN, and COLLINS in introducing the Farm to School Act of 2019. In years past, I have championed this important farm to school legislative effort with one of my dearest friends, Thad Cochran, who sadly passed away last month.

We all know that hungry children cannot learn. Studies have shown that healthy nutrition in a young person’s diet is crucial to cognitive ability and academic performance. In 2017, food insecurity and obesity rates are still too high in this country, resulting in poor health, and learning and behavioral difficulties at school. The school meal program has made tremendous strides in recent years, not only that children have access to meals throughout the school day, but that those meals are nutritious. The Farm to School program has given children and schools across the country the tools to craft farm-fresh, healthy, and delicious meals that students enjoy.

The Farm to School grant program offers support to farmers and local economies, while teaching kids about nutritious foods and how they are grown. The program has a strong educational component, making our school cafeterias an extension of the classroom, giving students an opportunity to learn about nutrition, well-balanced meals, and even how to grow the food themselves.

In Vermont, I have seen first-hand how farm to school efforts have better connected children with the food in their cafeteria. Students participate in school gardens, sustainability projects, and taste tests for new school menu items. With the help of a USDA Farm to School grant, the Burlington School Food Project has created a partnership with a local Vermont beef processor and 100 percent of the beef served the last school year was locally sourced. beef, and that will continue next year as well. Organizations in Vermont such as Vermont Food Education Every Day, Shelburne Farms, and the Northeast Organic Farming Association have been able to expand their programs to link more farms to the classroom throughout Vermont.

Farm to school is equally crucial to farmers and ranchers by opening another market to them to sell their locally grown and locally harvested goods. The program links the classroom with the farm to engage students in the importance of farming and contributing to the local economy. Every dollar spent on local food generates up to an additional $2.16 in economic activity.

This program is so popular among school and farmers alike that demand for grants far outpaces available funding. Since the program began in 2013, USDA has received more than 1,900 applications, but has only been able to fund 437 projects. The Farm to School Act of 2019 would build upon the success of the program and expand its reach by increasing the funding for the program to $15 million per year.

The bill also recognizes the importance of growing the program to include preschools, summer food service program sites, and after-school programs.

Ensuring children have enough food to eat is an issue that unites us all. There is simply no excuse that in the wealthiest, most powerful Nation on Earth people go hungry. Small changes in eating habits by children will result in lifelong health benefits for generations to come. The Farm to School program empowers children and their families to make healthy choices now and in the future. As the Senate begins considering reauthorizing the child nutrition bill this year, I look forward to including these improvements in the Farm to School program.

By Mrs. FEINSTEIN (for herself, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. SCHATZ, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. KLOBUCAR, Mr. Tester, Mr. Kaine, Ms. Ernst, and Mr. CRAMER):

S. 2032. A bill to expand research on the cannabidiol and marijuana; to the Committee on the Judiciary.
It also improves regulations dealing with changes to approved quantities of marijuana needed for research and approved research protocols. These improvements will eliminate lengthy delays that researchers encounter under current regulations. Sec. 313. This legislation seeks to increase medical research on CBD.

It does so by explicitly authorizing medical and osteopathic schools, research universities, practitioners and pharmaceutical companies to produce the marijuana they need for approved medical research. This will ensure that researchers have access to the material they need to develop proven, effective medicines. Once the FDA approves these medications, pharmaceutical companies are permitted to manufacture and distribute them.

Third, the bill fosters increased communication between doctors and patients.

Because it is a Schedule I drug, some doctors are hesitant to talk to their patients about the potential harms and benefits of using marijuana, CBD, or other marijuana derivatives as a treatment, for fear that they will lose their DEA registrations. Yet, if patients are using CBD, dr. s. deriving medical benefits without their doctors’ knowledge, it could impact the effectiveness of the care they receive. That is why our bill authorizes these discussions to occur.

Finally, because existing Federal research is lacking, the bill directs the Secretary of Health and Human Services to expand and coordinate research to determine the potential medical benefits of CBD or other marijuana-derived medications on serious medical conditions.

I have heard from many parents who have turned to CBD as a last resort to treat their children who have intractable epilepsy. Anecdotally, CBD has provided positive results. I have heard similar stories from people who use marijuana to treat various other medical conditions.

But a common concern echoed in many of these conversations is that there is a lack of understanding about the proper delivery mechanism, dosing, or potential interactions that CBD or marijuana may have with other medications. Some also worry because these products aren’t well regulated or factory sealed, and often are labeled inaccurately.

Without additional research, our ability to adequately address these concerns is limited and uninformed. The need for additional research, along with the need to increase the supply of CBD and marijuana for research, was highlighted in the National Academy of Sciences report, titled “The Health Effects of Cannabis and Cannabinoids: The Current State of Evidence and Recommendations for Research.”

I firmly believe that we should reduce the regulatory barriers associated with researching marijuana and CBD. If and when science shows that these substances are effective in treating serious medical illnesses, we should enable products to be brought to the market with FDA approval. I hope my colleagues will join me in supporting this important piece of legislation.

Thank you, Mr. President. I yield the floor.

By Mr. CARIDN (for himself and Mr. VAN HOLLIN): S. 2036. A bill to amend the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act to provide grants to States for summer employment programs for youth; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, I would like to call the Senate’s attention to the Youth Summer Jobs and Public Service Act of 2019 that I am introducing today with my colleague from Maryland, Senator VAN HOLLIN. This legislation authorizes the Department of Labor to award Summer Employment for Youth grants to connect youth with jobs that serve their local communities and private businesses over the summer months.

Since the mid-1990s, my home city of Baltimore has organized the Youth Works program out of the Mayor’s Office of Employment Development. The Youth Works program provides individuals between the ages of 14 to 21 with a summer job with employers ranging from private entities, local community nonprofit organizations, to city and State government agencies throughout the City. At these summer jobs, participants are provided with meaningful work experiences, are able to learn to develop the attitudes and grit necessary to compete in the workforce, gain exposure to a variety of career fields, and have a safe, stable environment over the summer months during the day. For the 2019 Youth Works session that begins next week, Baltimore County Federal funding ensures that the program will have a job for five days a week, five hours per day from July 1st through August 2nd and be paid a minimum of $10.10 per hour for their service.

This program has grown to be one of the largest youth summer employment programs in the Nation. After the unrest in my home city in April 2015, the Federal Department of Labor provided the Maryland Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation and the Baltimore City’s Mayor’s Office of Employment with a $5 million grant to develop innovative job training strategies and work opportunities for youth and young adults across Baltimore. This Federal grant allowed the number of individuals able to be served by the Youth Works program from an historic average of 5,000 participants to the more than 8,000 served today. Last year, Youth Works provided 8,600 Baltimore County businesses, local government agencies, and philanthropic ventures, more than 14,000 individuals applying for Youth Works slots this upcoming summer.

Unfortunately, due to the lack of funding between the partnership between the City, State, private business, and philanthropic ventures, more than Baltimore City youth who sought summer employment will be denied the opportunity to gain experience in the workplace, foster confidence that they are capable of being successful in a new environment, and lose the security of a safe environment over the summer. We can and must do more to help individuals willing and eager to start their careers.

The Youth Summer Jobs and Public Service Act would seek to eliminate the existing barriers for students seeking to participate in Youth Works or other summer employment programs around the Nation. If enacted, my legislation would allow States to compete for Summer Employment for Youth grants to serve communities like Baltimore that have high concentrations of eligible, low-income youth. The grants would be utilized by local communities to carry out programs like the Youth Works program that provide summer employment opportunities that are directly linked to academic and occupations learning by providing meaningful work experiences. States competing for grants would be required to partner with private businesses to the extent feasible and to prioritize jobs and work opportunities that directly serve their communities, such as through summer employment with local community nonprofit organizations and city and State government agencies. This additional Federal funding will allow programs such as Youth Works and allow other communities across Maryland to establish their own programs and develop Maryland’s next generation of workforce.

I am proud to lead this Senate effort with my colleague from Maryland and appreciate the work of Representative CEDRIC RICHMOND of Louisiana who initially led this effort in the U.S. House of Representatives and will shortly introduce companion legislation this Congress. I urge my Senate colleagues to join with me in this effort to connect youth with summer employment opportunities and start their journey towards fulfilling, successful careers.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the text of the bill be printed in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD following my remarks.

There being no objections, so ordered.

S. 2036

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 “Youth Summer Jobs and Public Service Act of 2019”.

SEC. 2. GRANTS TO STATES FOR SUMMER EMPLOYMENT FOR YOUTH.

Section 129 of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (29 U.S.C. 3164) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(d) GRANTS TO STATES FOR SUMMER EMPLOYMENT FOR YOUTH.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act, from the amount appropriated under paragraph (2), the Secretary may award grants to States to provide assistance to local areas that have high concentrations of eligible youth to enable such local areas to carry out programs described in subsection (c)(1) that provide summer employment opportunities for eligible youth, which are directly linked to academic and occupational learning, as described in subsection (c)(2)(C).

“(2) GRANTS TO PUBLIC AGENCIES.—A State shall—

“(A) partner with private businesses to the extent feasible to provide employment opportunities at such businesses; and

“(B) prioritize jobs and work opportunities that directly serve the community.

“(3) COORDINATION.—There is authorized to be appropriated $100,000,000 to carry out this subsection for each of fiscal years 2020 through 2024.”.

By Mr. SCHUMER (for himself, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. BRAND, and Ms. KLOBUCHAR):

S. 2042. A bill to require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint commemorative coins in recognition of the Purple Heart Hall of Honor; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the text of the bill be printed in the Record.

There being no objection, the text of the bill was ordered to be printed in the Record, as follows:

S. 2042

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 “Purple Heart Hall of Honor Commemorative Coin Act”.

SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

The Congress finds the following:

(1) The mission of the National Purple Heart Hall of Honor is—

(A) to commemorate the extraordinary sacrifice of members of the United States who were killed or wounded by enemy action; and

(B) to collect and preserve the stories of Purple Heart recipients from all branches of service and across generations to ensure that all recipients are represented.

(2) The National Purple Heart Hall of Honor was founded on its doors on November 10, 2006, in New Windsor, New York.

(3) The National Purple Heart Hall of Honor is colocated with the New Windsor Cantonment Historic Site.

(4) The National Purple Heart Hall of Honor is the first to recognize the estimated 1,800,000 servicemembers of the United States wounded during World War II representing recipients from the Civil War to the present day, serving as a living memorial to their sacrifice by sharing their stories through interviews with veterans, and the Roll of Honor, an interactive computer database of each recipient enrolled.

(1) $35 per coin for the $5 coin;

(2) $10 per coin for the $1 coin; and

(3) $5 per coin for the half-dollar coin.

(b) DISTRIBUTION.—Subject to section 5134(f)(1) of title 31, United States Code, all surcharges received by the Secretary from the sale of coins issued under this Act shall be promptly paid by the Secretary to the National Purple Heart Hall of Honor, Inc., to support the mission of the National Purple Heart Hall of Honor, Inc., including capital improvements to the National Purple Heart Hall of Honor facilities.

(c) AUDITS.—The National Purple Heart Hall of Honor, Inc. shall be subject to the audit requirements of section 5134(f)(2) of title 31, United States Code, in order to the amounts received under subsection (b).

(d) LIMITATION.—Notwithstanding subsection (a), no surcharge may be included with respect to the issuance under this Act of any coin during a calendar year if, as of the time of such issuance, the issuance of such coin would result in the number of commemorative coin programs issued during such year to exceed the annual 2 commemorative coin program issuance limitation described in section 5134(m)(1) of title 31, United States Code (as in effect on the date of the enactment of this Act). The Secretary of the Treasury may issue guidance to carry out this subsection.

By Mr. SCHUMER:

S. 2047. A bill to provide for a 2-week extension of the Medicaid community mental health services demonstration program, and for other purposes; considered and passed.

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the text of the bill be printed in the Record.

There being no objection, the text of the bill was ordered to be printed in the Record, as follows:

S. 2047

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

SECTION 1. EXTENSION OF THE MEDICAID COMMUNITY MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES DEMONSTRATION PROGRAM.

Section 223(d)(3) of the Protecting Access to Medicare Act of 2014 (22 U.S.C. 1396w-12 note) is amended by striking “June 30, 2019” and inserting “July 14, 2019”.

SEC. 2. MEDICAID IMPROVEMENT FUND.

Section 1941(b)(1) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1396w-1(b)(1)) is amended by striking “$6,000,000” and inserting “$1,000,000”.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 267.—RECOGNIZING THE SEPTEMBER 11TH NATIONAL MEMORIAL TRAIL AS AN IMPORTANT TRAIL AND GREENWAY ALL INDIVIDUALS SHOULD ENJOY IN HONOR OF THE HEROES OF SEPTEMBER 11TH

Mr. TOOMEY (for himself and Mr. WARNER) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources:

S. Res. 267

Whereas September 11th, 2001, was the date of one of the worst terrorist attacks on United States soil, claiming nearly 3,000 lives at the
World Trade Center in New York City, the Pentagon in Virginia, and the Flight 93 crash site near Shanksville, Pennsylvania;

Whereas the United States came together to honor the individuals who lost their lives on September 11th, the first responders, in the days, weeks, and months after the attack by erecting the 9/11 Museum, the Pentagon Memorial, and the Flight 93 National Memorial;

Whereas, as a further tribute to first responders and the individuals who lost their lives in the terrorist attack on September 11, the United States Congress, by unanimous consent, agreed to the Senate resolution;

rials; Trail Alliance, in partnership with State and local authorities and the individuals who lost their lives on September 11;

Whereas the National September 11 Memorial and Museum in New York City, the Pentagon Memorial, and the Flight 93 National Memorial;

Whereas the September 11th National Memorial Trail forms an unbroken triangle that links the cities, towns, and communities along the trail that are home to State and local memorials and other significant sites that reflect the spirit of United States patriotism and resilience;

Whereas the September 11th National Memorial Trail serves as an important recreational and transportation venue for promoting tourism, economic development, healthy bodies and minds, and cultural and educational opportunities;

Whereas the September 11th National Memorial Trail has the support of States, local communities, and the private sector;

Whereas recognition by the Senate of the September 11th National Memorial Trail does not confer any affiliation of the Trail with the National Park Service or the National Trails System;

Whereas recognition by the Senate of the September 11th National Memorial Trail does not authorize Federal funds to be expended for any purpose related to the Trail; and

Whereas Members of the United States Congress have urged the Government of Paraguay to invite the United States Federal Bureau of Investigation to provide technical assistance for the investigation into Alex Villamayor’s death and the United States Embassy in Asunción, Paraguay has offered such assistance to Paraguayan authorities;

Whereas, Alex Villamayor’s death was ruled a homicide and Rene Hofstetter and Mathias Wilbs were charged with crimes in relation to Alex Villamayor’s murder;

Whereas, in the initial weeks of the investigation, Paraguayan authorities refused to collect blood and DNA samples from individuals present at the scene of the crime, conduct gunshot residue analysis on individuals present at the crime scene, and collect cellular phone records and data from individuals present at the crime scene;

Whereas, in August 2015, Alex Villamayor’s brother Juan was shot and killed in a drive-by shooting; and

Resolved, That the Senate—

Whereas Alex Villamayor was murdered on June 27, 2015, in the City of Encarnación in Paraguay; and

Whereas, in September 2015, Mathias Wilbs, an employee at the property where Alex Villamayor was murdered, admitted in a public interview that he had removed the murder weapon from the crime scene and placed another firearm in Alex Villamayor’s hand; and

Resolved, That it is the sense of the Senate that—

(1) the Federal Government should take no action to redeem, assume, or guarantee any debt, including pension obligations, of a State; and

(2) the Secretary of the Treasury should report to the Senate with respect to any negotiations with any creditor of a State relating to assuming or guaranteeing any debt of a State that promises of support by the Federal Government were not professed: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

Whereas, in November 2016, Paraguayan authorities charged the charges against Alain Jacks Díaz de Bedoya related to Alex Villamayor’s murder;

Whereas Members of the United States Congress have urged the Government of Paraguay to invite the United States Federal Bureau of Investigation to provide technical assistance for the investigation into Alex Villamayor’s death and the United States Embassy in Asunción, Paraguay has offered such assistance to Paraguayan authorities;

Whereas, in October 2015, Paraguayan authorities opened a formal investigation of Alain Jacks Díaz de Bedoya for his role in Alex Villamayor’s murder;

Whereas, in September 2015, Alex Villamayor’s death was ruled a homicide and Rene Hofstetter and Mathias Wilbs were charged with crimes in relation to Alex Villamayor’s murder;

WHEREAS the United States have the legal obligation to fully discharge the financial condition of the State to investors who purchase the debt of the State;

Whereas Congress has rejected prior requests from creditors of a State for payment of the defaulted debt of a State; and

Resolved, That it is the sense of the Senate that—

Whereas the September 11th National Memorial Trail passes through Virginia, Maryland, West Virginia, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, New York, Delaware, and the District of Columbia;

Whereas the Secretary of the Treasury should report to the Senate with respect to any negotiations with any creditor of a State relating to assuming or guaranteeing any debt of a State that promises of support by the Federal Government were not professed: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That it is the sense of the Senate that—

(1) the Federal Government should take no action to redeem, assume, or guarantee any debt, including pension obligations, of a State; and

(2) the Secretary of the Treasury should report to Congress any negotiations in actions that would result in an outlay of Federal funds on behalf of creditors of a State.

Resolved, That the Senate—

Whereas Alex Villamayor graduated with honors from Paraguay’s Pan American International University (UPAI) and was accepted to attend Montgomery College in Maryland in the Fall of 2015;

Whereas Alex Villamayor was murdered on July 3, 1998, to parents Puning Luk Villamayor and Luis Felipe Villamayor in Rockville, Maryland;

Whereas Alex Villamayor was remembered by his family as a smart, loving, and compassionate young man with a good sense of humor, who was committed to his parents, siblings and the community;

Whereas Alex Villamayor was moved with his family at the age of six to Paraguay, where he was a devoted member of his church and always had attention for those less fortunate;

Whereas Alex Villamayor’s hand;

Resolved, That it is the sense of the Senate that—

Whereas Congress has rejected prior requests from creditors of a State for payment of the defaulted debt of a State; and

Resolved, That it is the sense of the Senate that—

Whereas Alex Villamayor was murdered on June 27, 2015, in the City of Encarnación in Paraguay;

Resolved, That it is the sense of the Senate that—

Whereas Alex Villamayor was murdered on July 3, 1998, to parents Puning Luk Villamayor and Luis Felipe Villamayor in Rockville, Maryland;

Whereas Alex Villamayor was remembered by his family as a smart, loving, and compassionate young man with a good sense of humor, who was committed to his parents, siblings and the community;

Whereas Alex Villamayor was moved with his family at the age of six to Paraguay, where he was a devoted member of his church and always had attention for those less fortunate;

Whereas Alex Villamayor graduated with honors from Paraguay’s Pan American International University (UPAI) and was accepted to attend Montgomery College in Maryland in the Fall of 2015;

Whereas Alex Villamayor was murdered on July 3, 1998, to parents Puning Luk Villamayor and Luis Felipe Villamayor in Rockville, Maryland;

Whereas Alex Villamayor was remembered by his family as a smart, loving, and compassionate young man with a good sense of humor, who was committed to his parents, siblings and the community;

Whereas Alex Villamayor was moved with his family at the age of six to Paraguay, where he was a devoted member of his church and always had attention for those less fortunate;

Whereas Alex Villamayor graduated with honors from Paraguay’s Pan American International University (UPAI) and was accepted to attend Montgomery College in Maryland in the Fall of 2015;

Whereas Alex Villamayor was murdered on June 27, 2015, in the City of Encarnación in Paraguay;

Whereas Alex Villamayor’s death was ruled a homicide by Paraguayan authorities before a comprehensive investigation was carried out;
Díaz de Bedoya, who was also present at the time of Alex’s death. While the charges against, Mr. Díaz de Bedoya were eventually dropped, in April 2018 Rene Hofstetter was convicted of homicide and sentenced to 12 years in prison and Mathias Wilbs sentenced to two years and 10 months on obstruction of justice.

In spite of these convictions, I remain concerned about the handling of this case. As an advocate for the families of United States citizens slain or assaulted abroad.

Mr. CARDIN, Mr. President, today I rise to pay tribute to an exemplary young Marylander whose life was tragically cut short four years ago today. Senator VAN HOLLEN and I have just introduced a resolution which pays tribute to Alex’s life, calls for justice and accountability in his murder, and procedures to ensure other families do not suffer the same tragedy.

Luis Alejandro “Alex” Villamayor was born on July 3, 1998, to parents Puning Luk Villamayor and Luis Felipe Villamayor in Rockville, Maryland. Those who knew him refer to him as a smart, loving, and compassionate young man with a good sense of humor. Alex was committed to his parents, siblings, and friends. He was a devoted member of his church and always sought to help those less fortunate.

Alex Villamayor moved with his family to Paraguay at the age of six. He attended high school there and graduated with honors from the Pan American International School and was accepted to Montclair College. He ultimately planned to pursue a career to help and support the Paraguayan people, but was tragically murdered on June 27, 2015, in the city of Encarnacion.

Alex’s death was wrongly ruled a suicide by Paraguayan authorities, who had not properly investigated the death at that point and failed to collect blood and DNA samples from individuals present at the crime scene.

After Alex’s family noted gross inconsistencies in accounts of his death, Alex’s body was exhumed for additional forensic examination, which found that he had been raped and physically assaulted prior to his death. Finally, in September 2015, Alex’s death was ruled a homicide. Rene Hofstetter and Mathias Wilbs were charged with assault in relation to Alex Villamayor’s murder and Paraguayan authorities opened a formal investigation of Alain Jacks.
equality, and well-being for LGBTQ individuals; and
(3) commends the bravery, solidarity, and resiliency of the LGBTQ community in the face of violence and discrimination, both past and present.

SENATE RESOLUTION 271—DESIGNATING JULY 12, 2019, AS “COLLECTOR CAR APPRECIATION DAY” AND RECOGNIZING THAT THE COLLECTION AND RESTORATION OF HISTORIC AND CLASSIC CARS IS AN IMPORTANT PART OF PRESERVING THE TECHNOLOGICAL ACHIEVEMENTS AND CULTURAL HERITAGE OF THE UNITED STATES

Mr. BURR (for himself and Mr. Tester) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. Res. 271

Whereas many people in the United States maintain classic automobiles as a pastime and do so with great passion and as a means of expression;
Whereas the Senate recognizes the effect that the more than 100-year history of the automobile has had on the economic progress of the United States and how those automobiles have been instrumental in the restoration and exhibition of classic automobiles;
Whereas the collection, restoration, and preservation of automobiles is an activity shared across generations and across all segments of society;
Whereas thousands of local car clubs and related businesses have been instrumental in preserving a historic part of the heritage of the United States by encouraging the restoration and exhibition of such vintage works of art;
Whereas automotive restoration provides well-paying, high-skilled jobs for people in all 50 States; and
Whereas automobiles have provided the inspiration for music, photography, cinema, fashion, and other artistic pursuits that have become part of the popular culture of the United States: Now, therefore, be it
Resolved, That the Senate—
(1) designates July 12, 2019, as “Collector Car Appreciation Day”;
(2) recognizes that the collection and restoration of historic and classic cars is an important part of preserving the technological achievements and cultural heritage of the United States; and
(3) encourages the people of the United States to engage in events and commemorations of Collector Car Appreciation Day that create opportunities for collector car owners to educate young people about the importance of preserving the cultural heritage of the United States by including through the collection and restoration of collector cars.

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 21—STRONGLY CONDEMNING HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS, VIOLENCE AGAINST CIVILIANS, AND COOPERATION WITH IRAQ BY THE HOUTHI MOVEMENT AND ITS ALLIES IN YEMEN

Mr. COTTON (for himself, Mrs. Blackburn, Mr. Rubio, Mr. Braun, Mr. Cornyn, Mr. Inhofe, and Mr. Cruz) submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. Con. Res. 21

Whereas, in 2014 and 2015, the Houthi movement, also known as Ansar Allah, and its allies attacked Yemen’s internationally recognized government and seized control of the capital, Sana’a, and the port city of Aden;
Whereas, since 2015, the Houthis have expanded their armed campaign beyond Yemen’s capital, targeting cities, airports, and installations in Saudi Arabia and possibly beyond, including hundreds of missile and drone attacks against civilians and women and children in Saudi Arabia that have killed innocent civilians;
Whereas the Houthi movement’s slogan is, “God is great! Death to America! Death to Israel! Curse upon the Jews! Victory to Islam!”;
Whereas al Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula and the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria—Yemen Province have taken advantage of the Yemeni civil war to expand their territory and resources;
Whereas Iran and its proxies have provided direct financial, material, and logistical support to the Houthis for at least a decade;
Whereas the United Nations Panel of Experts on Yemen has found that Iran is in violation of Security Council Resolution 2216 (2015) for supplying the Houthis with missiles and drones;
Whereas the Houthi regime has been directly responsible for approximately 2,000,000 children under 5 years of age;
Whereas in January 2018 and January 2019 reports, the United Nations Panel of Experts on Yemen expressed concern that ballistic missiles and Houthi drones are a serious threat to the security, stability, and overall development of Yemen;
Whereas in October 2016, the Houthis launched multiple rocket attacks on United States Navy warships while they were in international waters near the Bab-el-Mandeb Strait;
Whereas in July 2018, the Houthis attacked two Saudi oil tankers transiting through the Bab-el-Mandeb Strait;
Whereas, on May 23, 2018, a Houthi missile attack, which was considered and agreed to:
Resolved, That the Senate—
(1) condemns the Houthi movement in Yemen for—
(A) its blatant disregard for human rights and innocent life;
(B) its ideology of hate toward Israel and Jewish people both in Yemen and around the world;
(C) preventing critical humanitarian aid from reaching people in Yemen;
(D) the targeting of international commerce in the Red Sea and Bab-el-Mandeb Strait; and
(E) missiles and drone attacks against civilians;
(2) expresses concern about Iran’s extensive support for the Houthis and the economic and security consequences for the region of Iranian foothold on the Arabian Peninsula;
(3) urges the Houthis and other parties in the Yemeni civil war to uphold the terms of the December 2018 ceasefire and withdrawal agreement agreed to in Stockholm, Sweden, until May 2019;
Whereas according to the United Nations monitoring mission in Yemen, the Houthis have not removed many Iranian installations and equipment from the port city as of June 12, 2019; and
Whereas, on June 24, 2019, the United States, United Kingdom, Saudi Arabia, and the United Arab Emirates released a joint statement that raised concerns that Iranian activities were destabilizing both Yemen and the broader region, reaffirmed support for the efforts of United Nations Special Envoy Martin Griffiths, and called on all parties in Yemen to accelerate implementation of the Stockholm agreement; Now, therefore, be it
Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring), That Congress—
(1) condemns the Houthi movement in Yemen for—
(A) its blatant disregard for human rights and innocent life;
(B) its ideology of hate toward Israel and Jewish people both in Yemen and around the world;
(C) preventing critical humanitarian aid from reaching people in Yemen;
(D) the targeting of international commerce in the Red Sea and Bab-el-Mandeb Strait; and
(E) missiles and drone attacks against civilians;
(2) expresses concern about Iran’s extensive support for the Houthis and the economic and security consequences for the region of Iranian foothold on the Arabian Peninsula;
(3) urges the Houthis and other parties in the Yemeni civil war to uphold the terms of the December 2018 ceasefire and withdrawal agreement agreed to in Stockholm, Sweden, until May 2019;
(4) urges the United States Government to support a peace process to end the civil war and humanitarian crisis in Yemen while preventing Iran and terrorist groups, including al Qaeda and the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria—Yemen Province, from gaining a permanent foothold on the Arabian Peninsula.

AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 904. Mr. McConnel (for Mr. Hoeven) proposed an amendment to the bill S. 50, to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to assess sanitation and safety conditions at Bureau of Indian Affairs facilities that were constructed to provide affected Columbia River Treaty tribes access to traditional
fishing grounds and expend funds on construction of facilities and structures to improve those conditions, and for other purposes.

SA 905. Mr. MCCONNELL (for Mr. HOEVEN) proposed an amendment to the bill S. 212, to amend the Native American Business Development, Trade Promotion, and Tourism Act of 2000, the Buy Indian Act, and the Native American Programs Act of 1974 to provide industry and economic development opportunities to Indian communities.

TEXT OF AMENDMENTS
SA 904. Mr. MCCONNELL (for Mr. HOEVEN) proposed an amendment to the bill S. 50, to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to assess sanitation and safety conditions at Bureau of Indian Affairs facilities that were constructed to provide affected Columbia River Treaty tribes access to traditional fishing grounds and expend funds on construction of facilities and structures to improve those conditions, and for other purposes; as follows:

On page 3, line 23, strike “such sums as are necessary” and insert “$11,000,000 for the period of fiscal years 2020 through 2025”.

SA 905. Mr. MCCONNELL (for Mr. HOEVEN) proposed an amendment to the bill S. 212, to amend the Native American Business Development, Trade Promotion, and Tourism Act of 2000, the Buy Indian Act, and the Native American Programs Act of 1974 to provide industry and economic development opportunities to Indian communities; as follows:

On page 12, line 16, insert “the extent to which the programs and services overlap or are duplicative,” after “development,”.

NOTICE OF INTENT TO OBJECT TO PROCEEDING
I, Senator JACKY ROSEN, intend to object to proceeding to the nomination of Troy D. Edgar, of California, to be Chief Financial Officer, Department of Homeland Security, dated June 27, 2019.


AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET
Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I have 4 requests for committees to meet during today’s session of the Senate. They have the approval of the Majority and Minority leaders.

Pursuant to rule XXVI, paragraph 5(a), of the Standing Rules of the Senate, the following committees are authorized to meet during today’s session of the Senate:

COMMITTEE ON BANKING, HOUSING, AND URBAN AFFAIRS
The Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, June 27, 2019, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing.

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES
The Committee on Energy and Natural Resources is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, June 27, 2019, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing.

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY
The Committee on the Judiciary is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, June 27, 2019, at 2:15 p.m., to conduct a hearing on the following nominations: Peter Joseph Phlipott, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Third Circuit, Charles R. Esksrillde, III, to be United States District Judge for the Southern District of Texas, William Shaw Stickman IV, to be United States District Judge for the Western District of Pennsylvania, Jennifer Philpott Wilson, to be United States District Judge for the Middle District of Pennsylvania, and Wilmer Ocasio, to be United States Marshal for the District of Puerto Rico, Department of Justice.

SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE
The Select Committee on Intelligence is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, June 27, 2019, at 2 p.m., to conduct a closed hearing.

Mr. MORAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that Jake Vence and James Schmidt, legislative correspondents in my office, be granted floor privileges for the remainder of the day.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

PRIVILEGES OF THE FLOOR
Mr. BLUMENTHAL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that my defense follow, Joshua Culver, be granted floor privileges for the length of the current debate on the NDAA.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. BROWN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the following members of my staff from Ohio and Washington be granted floor privileges for the remainder of the day: Diana Baron, Mary Topolinski, Shilseha Bamberg, Alea Brown, John Patterson, Joe Gilligan, Ann Longsworth Orr, and John Ryan.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader is recognized.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR
Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to consider the nomination for the consideration of Calendar Nos. 300 through 325 and all 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 and the Senate then resume legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The nominations, considered and confirmed, are as follows:

IN THE NAVY
The following named officer for appointment in the United States Navy Reserve to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., section 12203:

To be rear admiral
Rear Adm. (ih) Gene F. Price

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Navy Reserve to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., section 12203:

To be rear admiral
Rear Adm. (ih) Shawn E. Duane
Rear Adm. (ih) Scott D. Jones
Rear Adm. (ih) John B. Mustin
Rear Adm. (ih) John A. Smeraldo

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Navy Reserve to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., section 12203:

To be rear admiral
Rear Adm. (ih) Alan J. Reyes

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Navy Reserve to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., section 12203:

To be rear admiral
Rear Adm. (ih) Troy M. McClelland

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. Charles A. Flynn

IN THE NAVY
The following named officer for appointment in the Navy Reserve to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., section 12203:

To be rear admiral (lower half)
Capt. Mark E. Moritz

The following named officer for appointment in the Navy Reserve to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., section 12203:

To be rear admiral (lower half)
Capt. Michael T. Curran

The following named officer for appointment in the Navy Reserve to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., section 12203:

To be rear admiral (lower half)
Capt. Christopher A. Asselta

The following named officer for appointment in the Navy Reserve to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., section 12203:

To be rear admiral (lower half)
Capt. Leslie E. Reddanz, III

The following named officer for appointment in the Navy Reserve to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., section 12203:

To be rear admiral (lower half)
Capt. Kenneth R. Blackmon
Capt. Robert C. Nowakowski
Capt. Thomas S. Wall
Capt. Larry D. Watkins
The following named officer for appointment in the Navy Reserve to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., section 12203:
To be rear admiral (lower half)
Capt. Scott K. Fuller
Capt. Michael J. Steffen
The following named officer for appointment in the Navy Reserve to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., section 12203:
To be rear admiral (lower half)
Capt. Paula D. Dunn
The following named officer for appointment in the Navy Reserve to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., section 12203:
To be rear admiral (lower half)
Capt. Pamela C. Miller
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 general
Gen. John W. Raymond
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 general
Lt. Gen. Paul J. LaCamera
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 general
Capt. Philip W. Yu
IN THE AIR FORCE
The following named Air National Guard of the United States officers for appointment in the Reserve of the Air Force to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., sections 624 and 12211:
To be major general
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 624 and 12211:
To be major general
Brig. Gen. Joseph L. Bieholder
Brig. Gen. William B. Blaylock, II
Brig. Gen. Thomas R. Bouchard
Brig. Gen. Paul B. Chauncey, III
Brig. Gen. Paul D. C. Clymer
Brig. Gen. William J. Edwards
Brig. Gen. Lee M. Ellis
Brig. Gen. Pablo Estrada, Jr.
Brig. Gen. Laphie C. Flora
Brig. Gen. Troy D. Galloway
Brig. Gen. Lee W. Hopkins
Brig. Gen. Marvin T. Hunt
Brig. Gen. Mark C. Jackson
Brig. Gen. Richard F. Johnson
Brig. Gen. Tim C. Lawson
Brig. Gen. Kevin D. Lyons
Brig. Gen. Michael J. Mitchell
Brig. Gen. Michel A. Natali
Brig. Gen. Chad J. Parker
Brig. Gen. Gregory C. Porter
Brig. Gen. Jeffrey D. Smiley
Brig. Gen. David N. Vesper
IN THE NAVY
The following named officer for appointment in the United States Navy Reserve 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. Ricky L. Williamson
The following named officer for appointment in the United States Navy to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., section 624:
To be vice admiral
Capt. Huan T. Nguyen
NOMINATIONS PLACED ON THE SECRETARY’S DESK
IN THE AIR FORCE
PN426 AIR FORCE nominations (43) beginning THOMAS JOSEPH ALFORD, and ending GABRIEL MATTHEW YOUNG, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of February 25, 2019.
PN651 AIR FORCE nominations (16) beginning ELMBERT R. ALFORD, IV, and ending TRACIE L. SINGLE, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of April 29, 2019.
PN731 AIR FORCE nomination of Catharine M. Tolvo, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of May 13, 2019.
PN732 AIR FORCE nominations (2) beginning CHRISTIAN P. COOPER, and ending RYAN E. SNYDER, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of May 13, 2019.
PN733 AIR FORCE nominations (9) beginning KEITH A. BERRY, and ending STEVEN P. ROGERS, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of May 13, 2019.
PN803 AIR FORCE nominations (2) beginning HASSAN N. BATAYNEH, and ending ASAD U. QAMAR, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of May 23, 2019.
PN842 AIR FORCE nominations (2) beginning JASON A. KOLKOSKI, and ending ROBIN T. BINGHAM, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of June 5, 2019.
IN THE ARMY
PN431 ARMY nominations (15) beginning JASON BULOCK, and ending DEMETRIUS WILLIAMS, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of February 25, 2019.
PN432 ARMY nominations (75) beginning JULIE A. AKE, and ending DO13176, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of February 25, 2019.
PN534 ARMY nomination of Shane R. Reeves, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of March 26, 2019.
PN659 ARMY nominations (19) beginning ARTHUR R. ALFORD, and ending STANTON D. TROTTER, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of April 29, 2019.
PN683 ARMY nominations (167) beginning JASON B. ALISANGCO, and ending DO14026, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of April 29, 2019.
PN734 ARMY nominations (5) beginning GLEN N. JUMAN, and ending GABRIELLE T. MCNEAR, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of May 13, 2019.
PN735 ARMY nomination of Carmen Y. Salcedo, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of May 13, 2019.
PN737 ARMY nominations (2) beginning RUSSELL F. DUBOSE, and ending TIMOTHY D. FORREST, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of May 13, 2019.
PN794 ARMY nominations (33) beginning MICHAEL J. BALLARD, and ending DO15102, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of May 23, 2019.
PN805 ARMY nomination of Andre L. Thomas, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of May 23, 2019.
PN806 ARMY nomination of DO13839, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of May 23, 2019.
PN807 ARMY nomination of Christopher B. Pettis, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of May 23, 2019.
PN809 ARMY nominations (49) beginning EDWARD C. ADAMS, and ending G010558, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of May 23, 2019.
PN810 ARMY nominations (20) beginning MICHAEL J. BALLARD, and ending DO15102, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of May 23, 2019.
PN811 ARMY nominations (308) beginning JOHN R. ABELE, and ending DO14610, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of May 23, 2019.
IN THE MARINE CORPS
PN325 MARINE CORPS nominations of Shawn A. McGowan, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of January 24, 2019.
PN523 NAVY nominations (5) beginning M. D. WILLIAMS, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of May 13, 2019.

PN578 NAVY nominations (5) beginning ANTHONY L. LACOURSE, and ending SANDHILL C. ZAHUMENSKY, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of May 13, 2019.

PN759 NAVY nominations (2) beginning SCOTT A. HIGGINS, and ending FEIHUA KU, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of May 13, 2019.

PN461 NAVY nominations (17) beginning NATHANIEL A. BAILEY, and ending LEONARD W. WALKER, IV, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of May 13, 2019.

PN762 NAVY nominations (2) beginning ONOFRE P. MARGIONI, and ending KURT J. BRESMAN, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of May 13, 2019.

...
Mr. MccONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of the following nominations: Executive Calendar No. 342.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

The clerk will report the nominations.

Without objection, it is so ordered.

The clerk will report the nominations.

The legislative clerk read the nomination of Veronica Daigle, of Virginia, to be an Assistant Secretary of Defense.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the nomination.

Mr. MccONNELL. I ask unanimous consent that the Senate vote on the nomination with no intervening action or debate; that if confirmed, the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table; 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 nomination be printed in the Record.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the Daigle nomination?

The nomination was confirmed.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. MccONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of the following nominations: Executive Calendar No. 113.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

The clerk will report the nomination.

The legislative clerk read the nomination of Robert Wallace, of Wyoming, to be Assistant Secretary for Fish and Wildlife.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the nomination.

Mr. MccONNELL. I ask unanimous consent that the Senate vote on the nomination with no intervening action or debate; that if confirmed, the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table; 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 nomination be printed in the Record.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the Wallace nomination?

The nomination was confirmed.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. MccONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of the following nominations: Executive Calendar No. 329, 330, and 331.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the Scolese nomination?

The nomination was confirmed.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. MccONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of the following nominations: Executive Calendar No. 332.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the Young nomination?

The nomination was confirmed.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. MccONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of the following nominations: Executive Calendar No. 342.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the Yound nomination?

The nomination was confirmed.
The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?
Without objection, it is so ordered.
The clerk will report.
The legislative clerk read the nominations of Ronald Douglas Johnson, of Florida, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of El Salvador; and David Michael Satterfield, of Maryland, to be a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Career Minister, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of Turkey.
There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the nominations en bloc.
Mr. MCCONNELL. I ask unanimous consent that the Senate vote on the nominations with no intervening action or debate; that if confirmed, the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table; 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 nomination be printed in the RECORD.
The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?
The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.
The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the Jorgjani nominations?
The nomination was confirmed.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of the following nominations: Executive Calendar Nos. 121, 122.
The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?
Without objection, it is so ordered.
The clerk will report.
The legislative clerk read the nominations of Lane Genatowski, of New York, to be Director of the Advanced Research Projects Agency-Energy, Department of Energy.
There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the nomination.
Mr. MCCONNELL. I ask unanimous consent that the Senate vote on the nomination with no intervening action or debate; that if confirmed, the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table; 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 nomination be printed in the RECORD.
The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?
Without objection, it is so ordered.
The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the Johnson and Satterfield nominations 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. 109, 110, and 360.
The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?
Without objection, it is so ordered.
The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the Johnson and Satterfield nominations en bloc?
The nominations were confirmed en bloc.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate vote on the nominations with no intervening action or debate; that if confirmed, the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table; 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. Is there objection?
Without objection, it is so ordered.
The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the Bamzai nominations?
The nominations were confirmed.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate vote on the nominations with no intervening action or debate; that if confirmed, the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table; 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. Is there objection?
Without objection, it is so ordered.
The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the LeBlanc and Felton nominations?
The nominations were confirmed en bloc.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

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. 343.
The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion.
The motion was agreed to.
The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nominations.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

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. 47.
The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion.
The motion was agreed to.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate vote on the nominations with no intervening action or debate; that if confirmed, the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table; 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. Is there objection?
Without objection, it is so ordered.
The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the Bamzai nominations? Yes?
The nominations were confirmed.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate vote on the nominations with no intervening action or debate; that if confirmed, the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table; 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. Is there objection?
Without objection, it is so ordered.
The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the LeBlanc and Felton nominations? Yes?
The nominations were confirmed.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 47.
The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion.
The motion was agreed to.

EXECUTIVE SESSION
CLOTURE MOTION
Mr. MCCONNELL. 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 legislative clerk read as follows:

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR
Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 52.

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. 52.

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. 101.

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. 101.

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. 101.

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. 101.

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. 101.

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. 101.

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 legislative clerk read the nomination of Peter C. Wright, of Michigan, to be Assistant Administrator, Office of Solid Waste, Environmental Protection Agency.

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 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 Peter C. Wright, of Michigan, to be Assistant Administrator, Office of Solid Waste, Environmental Protection Agency.

Mr. McConnell, Steve Daines, John Thune, John Kennedy, James M. Inhofe, Pat Roberts, Mike Crapo, Chuck Grassley, Richard Burr, John Barrasso, Jerry Moran, John Barrasso, Shelby Moore Capito, John Boozman, Johnny Isakson, Thom Tillis, John Hoeven.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

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.

Mr. MCCONNELL. I ask unanimous consent that the mandatory quorum calls for the cloture motions be waived.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Wyoming.

CONFIRMATION OF ROB WALLACE

Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, I would just last a few words about Rob Wallace, the newly confirmed Assistant Secretary for Fish, Wildlife, and Parks at the Department of Interior.

I have known Rob for over 35 years. Without question, Rob is the right person for the job. Throughout his long and distinguished career, Rob has struck the proper balance between wildlife management, habitat management, and the use of our public lands.

In terms of wildlife conservation, Rob's experience and leadership in Wyoming and in our Nation's capital are ideally suited for this critically important position.

Throughout his 45-year career, Rob has served in a variety of jobs that directly relate to the two Federal agencies he has been nominated to oversee. Rob began his career as a seasonal park ranger in Grand Teton National Park. Since then, Rob has served in a number of positions. He has been Assistant Director of the National Park Service, chief of staff for Wyoming Senator Malcolm Wallop, staff director for the U.S. Senate Energy and Natural Resource Committee—a committee on which I currently sit. He has been chief of staff for Wyoming Governor Jim Geringer, and manager of U.S. Government Relations for the General Electric Company.

Rob currently serves as the president of the Upper Green River Conservancy. It is the Nation's first cooperative conservation bank. Rob cofounded the Upper Green River Conservancy. It protects core sage grouse habitat in the ecologically rich and energy rich Upper Green River watershed in Southwest Wyoming.

He built an innovative partnership of ranchers, conservation groups, energy companies, investors, and other stakeholders. Rob is also the founding member of the board of the Grand Teton National Park Foundation, a group of people absolutely working together, committed to the Grand Teton National Park. It promotes the park's cultural, historic, and natural resources.

Rob also served on the boards of many organizations dedicated to conserving wildlife and enhancing our national parks.

Rob's nomination passed the Environmental and Public Works Committee by unanimous vote, and a near-unanimous reported vote in the Committee of Energy and Natural Resources.

Rob Wallace is an outstanding choice for this position of Assistant Secretary for Fish, Wildlife and Parks. He is the right person for the job, and I am so pleased the Senate has now confirmed his nomination.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Florida.

SIGNING AUTHORITY

Mr. RUBIO. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the majority leader, the senior Senator from South Carolina, the junior Senator from Texas, and the junior Senator from North Carolina be authorized to sign duly enrolled bills or joint resolutions from June 27 through the July 8.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

IRAN

Mr. RUBIO. Mr. President, I am going to try to do this in about 12 minutes, since I am not sure of the time commitment. Rob's experience and leadership in Wyoming and in our Nation's capital are ideally suited for this critically important position.

Here is what Iran was still doing. Iran was still sponsoring terrorism. You are asking why is it that that is just terrorism? Iran wants to be the dominant power in the Middle East, and one of the ways they seek to achieve it is to find all of these groups—Hezbollah, Shia militias in Iraq and Syria, the Houthis in Yemen—and empower those groups.

They have an organization called the IRGC, which is the real military and the real power in Iran. Underneath the IRGC, there is an organization called the Quds Force, which is their covert operations unit led by a guy named General Soleimani. He goes around the entire region sponsoring these groups—training them and providing weapons.

There are a couple of things I want to say at the outset. Here is the first. A lot of people who cover this stuff in the news like very simplistic terms. It makes it easier to write the articles and makes it easier to describe the circumstances. The terminology people like to use are "hawk," or "dove," or "war-like." I am not in favor of war. I have actually never advocated for a military attack on Iran, in these circumstances especially. There are a lot of reasons for it, but it will take me more than 15 minutes to explain it all. Suffice it to say, it is certainly not the first or the second.

The policy of the United States in Iran today is the one I support; that is, crippling economic sanctions that deny them the money to do the bad things they do but also a forced posture that we are prepared with enough people there in the military, so if they do attack us, we can defend ourselves.

I want to say at the outset that I am not going to today to support an attack or war or to call for war but to speak about reality and the situation as we face it today.

The second thing I want to point to is there is this notion out there that there should be some constitutional limitation on the President when it comes to the use of force in virtually every circumstance and that somehow the current President is being enabled by the Members of his party here to do something that he would not be able to do if he didn't have the support of the Republican Senate, or the Republican House, or the Republican House.

The argument that I don't think we have talked about this week, which I currently sit. He has been chief of staff for Wyoming Senator Malcolm Wallop, staff director for the U.S. Senate Energy and Natural Resources. He has served in a variety of jobs that directly relate to the two Federal agencies he has been nominated to oversee.

Rob began his career as a seasonal park ranger in Grand Teton National Park. Since then, Rob has served in a number of positions. He has been Assistant Director of the National Park Service, chief of staff for Wyoming Senator Malcolm Wallop, staff director for the U.S. Senate Energy and Natural Resource Committee—a committee on which I currently sit. He has been chief of staff for Wyoming Governor Jim Geringer, and manager of U.S. Government Relations for the General Electric Company.

Rob currently serves as the president of the Upper Green River Conservancy. It is the Nation's first cooperative conservation bank. Rob cofounded the Upper Green River Conservancy. It protects core sage grouse habitat in the ecologically rich and energy rich Upper Green River watershed in Southwest Wyoming.

He built an innovative partnership of ranchers, conservation groups, energy companies, investors, and other stakeholders. Rob is also the founding member of the board of the Grand Teton National Park Foundation, a group of people absolutely working together, committed to the Grand Teton National Park. It promotes the park's cultural, historic, and natural resources.

Rob also served on the boards of many organizations dedicated to conserving wildlife and enhancing our national parks.

Rob's nomination passed the Environmental and Public Works Committee by unanimous vote, and a near-unanimous reported vote in the Committee of Energy and Natural Resources.

Rob Wallace is an outstanding choice for this position of Assistant Secretary for Fish, Wildlife and Parks. He is the right person for the job, and I am so pleased the Senate has now confirmed his nomination.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Florida.
Here is what they hope to do. If they ever get into a conflict, they will use these groups to attack people. Why do they use those groups? No. 1, because Iran doesn’t have the ability to station troops all over the region. No. 2, it gives them deniability. They can say: We didn’t attack you. It was the Houthis or Shia militia. It allows them some level of deniability while still inflicting pain.

If you want to know what else Iran has done using that strategy, it has maimed or killed hundreds of American service men and women in Iraq. They didn’t buy all those IEDs that were blowing up on Amazon; they didn’t buy them on eBay. They were built and supplied by the Iranians. That is who did it. There is no dispute about that.

President Obama signed this Iran deal. Iran began to get more money into their economy and education system. Iran took the money they were making from the Iran deal. The Iran deal now allows them to engage in commerce that they weren’t allowed to. They took that extra money, and they used it to sponsor terrorism—to sponsor Hezbollah in Lebanon.

Today Hezbollah not only has more missiles than they had 10 or 15 years ago, but their missiles are better than they were before. They could now, theoretically, overwhelm Israel’s defenses with barrages of attacks. They have guidance systems on those missiles now. In fact, they have gotten so much assistance from Iran, they don’t even need to ship these missiles anymore. They can make them themselves.

What about the Houthis? The Houthi’s are a group that already exist, but they were only able to make the gains they made in Yemen with Iran’s money. They read in newspapers every day about these missiles and drones used by the Houthis to attack Saudi Arabia. It doesn’t get a lot of coverage, but where do you think they bought these things from? Do you think they made them? We didn’t sell them to them. Those are Iranian missiles. All of it is provided by this additional money they got their hands on.

They also conduct cyber attacks. Hezbollah, but 3 or 4 times worse than the Iran deal. Yes, it dealt with uranium enrichment and supervision, but it did nothing with the missile system. To have a nuclear threat, you have to have a bomb. And they said in the Iran deal they would have a bomb. They have a bomb, and the second thing you have to do is deliver it. You have to launch it on something to reach your target.

The deal with Iran did nothing on the missiles. It gave them more money, and they used some of that money to build missiles that now have longer ranges. Where Iran, 5 or 10 years ago, had a more limited range of places to strike, they can virtually strike any country in the Middle East and every base in the region. That is where they were putting this money.

The Trump administration came in and said: Let me get this straight. We already gave them a lot more money. They use that money to build better missiles, to sponsor terrorism, to conduct cyber attacks, and the only thing is they can’t enrich uranium for a period of time until the deal goes away. Iran because what they were banking on is that in 10 years, we would be focused on something else. The world would forget, and all of a sudden they would say they had made a lot of progress.

The deal was a fraud. It did nothing to make Iran less dangerous. The only thing the deal did is slow down their enrichment capability, but at no time did a deal in place. Iran was arming and training and equipping all these groups in the region and conducting cyber attacks and building these missiles unabated. That is what was going on. Now they have the money.

By the way, today Iran is generating a lot less revenue than they were when the deal was in place. We are at a point now where even Hezbollah is out there saying they have had to cut back. They have budget cuts. They are putting out leaflets and things they posted publicly inside of Lebanon asking people to donate to Hezbollah because Iran can’t donate as much as they used to. They are feeling the fiscal constraints. That is not a bad thing. Likewise, with some of these Shia militias and others, it has constrained Iran’s ability to operate.

Iran has decided the only way to reverse this is to force us back to some negotiation at some point to either: A. intimidate us back into the deal or B. force us to the negotiating table to get something like it. How can they do that?

How can Iran position itself with some strength in order to get into that kind of negotiation? They can’t sanction us economically. The only thing they can do is these terrorist attacks. The easiest attacks that started to connect. That is what they are in the pattern of doing.

Do you realize, last week, over a period of 7 days, every single day there was a Shia militia attack against a U.S. installation? Luckily, nobody was killed, but that was happening. That is what they were trying and are trying to do.

They were trying to position themselves and accumulate some strength so they can get into future negotiations from a position of strength. The only way they think they can do that is by threatening to attack us and, more interestingly, to attack us with some level of deniability. You have this tanker out there in the middle of the Gulf, which is a huge ocean, and suddenly some mines blow up, and you have journalists and politicians saying, how do we know it was Iran? Was it Iran? Was it the Iranians? Was it the Germans? It wasn’t the French. It wasn’t Luxembourg. There is only one organization in that part of the world with the capability to do what happened—Iran. Everybody knows it.

The only reason some countries don’t admit it is because then they would have to do something about it. If you are a European country and you want the Iran deal to come back in place and you want to save it, you can’t say you knew Iran put those mines on those ships. If you say that, you have to pull out of the deal. That is why they wouldn’t acknowledge it.

We have them on video. I heard people ask how we know those were Iran. This is ridiculous. The way the mines look identical to the ones Iran makes. So they did that. That was their plan, OK? Their plan was to attack us using other forces but to have some level of deniability. "It was not us."

They also know that there are divisions in American politics and that the President is unpopular in many countries. A lot of people around the world and in the United States would love nothing more than to say: “Yes, how do we know it was Iran?” for different reasons. That is what they were banking on, but then they shot down an unmanned U.S. vehicle, and they admitted it because that would have been difficult to cover. That is what really kicked off a lot of this argument that we are now hearing.

I want everybody to remember, if you go back 3 or 4 weeks, that there were people in the building and people on television—I saw them—commentators and others—who were basically implying that this was all not true, that there was no threat emanating from Iran, that it wasn’t doing anything unusual. Now they are admitting that Iran is doing something unusual and we are going back to sanctions. That is what really kicked off a lot of this argument that we are now hearing.

I want everybody to remember, if you go back 3 or 4 weeks, that there were people in the building and people on television—I saw them—commentators and others—who were basically implying that this was all not true, that there was no threat emanating from Iran, that it wasn’t doing anything unusual. Now they are admitting that Iran is doing something unusual and we are going back to sanctions. That is what really kicked off a lot of this argument that we are now hearing.

I want everybody to remember, if you go back 3 or 4 weeks, that there were people in the building and people on television—I saw them—commentators and others—who were basically implying that this was all not true, that there was no threat emanating from Iran, that it wasn’t doing anything unusual. Now they are admitting that Iran is doing something unusual and we are going back to sanctions. That is what really kicked off a lot of this argument that we are now hearing.

I want everybody to remember, if you go back 3 or 4 weeks, that there were people in the building and people on television—I saw them—commentators and others—who were basically implying that this was all not true, that there was no threat emanating from Iran, that it wasn’t doing anything unusual. Now they are admitting that Iran is doing something unusual and we are going back to sanctions. That is what really kicked off a lot of this argument that we are now hearing.
now and longer. To somehow act as if Iran is more belligerent today than it was 6 months ago or 6 years ago is just not true. It is just that the threats have become more imminent directly against us.

When they look at this amendment, the amendment is basically designed to say that the President cannot enter into a war unless Congress approves it, which is an interesting dynamic.

No. 1, when you hear people saying you, do you appeal to them from Congress, what they are talking about is the War Powers Resolution. In the aftermath of Vietnam and that era, Congress said, from now on, we are not getting into any more of these undeclared wars. If a President is going to commit service men and women for an extended period of time, it has to come through Congress.

No President—no administration—has ever accepted that resolution as being in the Constitution. From that point on, every single administration—Democrat and Republican—has taken the position that this is an unconstitutional infringement on the power of the Commander in Chief. That has been the official position of every administration, Republican and Democrat, since that passed.

Nonetheless, on various occasions, Presidents have come to Congress for authority, which I think is a smart thing to do, especially for an extended engagement, because we are stronger and our policies are more effective when Congress and the American people are behind you. That is why President George W. Bush sought the authorization for Afghanistan and why he sought it for Iraq. It was the right thing to do, and it made sense. Yet no President has ever admitted that it is constitutional, and I share that view.

For a moment, let’s assume that it were. Well, that resolution lays out three things that happen. If the President is going to commit service men and women, he is going to do that. The President cannot and would not respond—he has a right to respond—he has an obligation.

Think of the reverse. If the Iranians were to attack a facility in Iraq and murder 100 Americans who would be working at the Embassy or if they were to kill 200 soldiers, the first questions that every one of the President’s critics would be asking on TV would be: Why didn’t we have enough forces in the region to protect them? Why didn’t we have a plan to save them? There would be congressional hearings, and there would be Members of Congress who would scream at the administration: Why didn’t you have people there to save them?

In anticipating that this could happen, our military leaders, in their looking at the threats and understanding the environment, asked the administration to send additional forces so they may be in a position of having enough people and assets to respond in case of an attack.

I will go further than that. Imagine this is given verifiable information that an attack is imminent by Iran or one of its proxies and that the only way to save American lives is to wipe out the place from which it is going to launch the attack. Even if you acted first, that is self-defense. You are getting ahead of preventing an attack, not to mention the fact that the best way to respond to an attack is to prevent it from happening in the first place, and having a posture in the region is one of the best ways to do that is the only thing that has been done here.

This amendment is just not necessary because, in assuming they are arguing that the War Powers Resolution is what it is we are trying to deal with, Congress’s power and role are in all of this, in the very text of that resolution, it makes clear that a President has a right to introduce military forces and to use military force to defend Americans, to defend America, and to defend our Armed Forces.

So why do we need language that says that a second time? Some would say: Well, it is redundant, and it is already the law. Why not just vote for it again?

That is the final and, perhaps, the most important point in all of this—that the timing couldn’t really be more important. It is not necessary, but the redundancy here is actually damaging, and here is why.

I think sometimes we make a terrible mistake in American politics. We ascribe our attributes to those of the people that we care about less. When we hear that the President of Iran said something, we think Iran’s President and his system is like ours. They are not. The President of Iran doesn’t have one-tenth the power of our President, meaning there is a Supreme Leader, and everything goes to the Supreme Leader, a cleric. That is where the power really resides.

No. 2, we make a terrible mistake of believing that they truly understand us, our systems, and our debates when we shouldn’t. The Ayatollah, the President of Iran, is not a world traveler nor a constitutional expert nor a consumer of a varied amount of news and information from around the world nor a nuanced person who understands that this President, for example, is never going to become law.

Here is what they do believe, and I encourage all Members here to go out and inform themselves as to this. As a Senator, one has the opportunity to do that. I do believe the President cannot respond. They believe that this President cannot and would not respond. They believe that there is a threshold—that there are x numbers of Americans they can kill and that there are certain types of attacks they can get away with without getting a response back. That is what they believe. Why do they believe it?

No. 1, it is that our President has talked on various occasions about withdrawing all Americans from the region. So they begin by believing, by and large, that we don’t even want to be there.

No. 2, they believe it because they look at our domestic politics, and they say: I have heard the debates, and I watched 5 minutes of CNN or some other network the other night, and I heard people on there who were from Congress or wherever who told the President he can’t do this and can’t do that. There is no support in America for responding to that. That is where the constraint in what he is able to do.

Why is that a problem?

It is because that is where you miscalculate. That is where what they think would trigger a response and what will actually trigger a response are two very different things.

If this thing were to pass—and I know there are still a couple of people who are thinking about voting for it—this would not be reported as an amendment that had passed on a bill but that was never going to become law because it was never going to get signed with that in there. That is not
how it would be reported. In fact, if there were a close vote on it, as I anticipate there will be, the way it would be reported would be as “even a handful of Republicans and virtually every Democrat voted to send the President a message that we don’t want you using our Armed Forces in wars against Iran.” That is how it would be reported. That is how they would read it. It would only reinforce this belief among some in that regime that they can go further than they actually can.

I don’t mean to say this to argue that there are Members of this body here who are deliberately putting the men and women of our Armed Forces in danger. I am telling them I don’t know if they have thought through that part of it. What we do here and how it is perceived in other parts of the world, especially in a reclusive organization such as the regime in Iran, are often two very different things.

The danger with this amendment is that it confirms to several hard-liners in that regime that the President is constrained, that America’s President will not be able to respond, and that they will be able to get away with more than they actually will get away with.

In some ways, ironically, I believe that even a big vote on this—but certainly, the passage of it—increases the chance of war. I say that because, if they miscalculate and they read this into this act of law to mean that we will never attack at a higher level without taking a retaliatory response, they are going to do it. Then they are going to be wrong, and then the retaliation will come. Then it is on. Then we can’t predict what will happen next.

What happens next is terrifying to even contemplate because what happens next could be a Hezbollah strike against Israel and Israel’s responding 10 times stronger. It could be Hezbollah’s attempt to abduct, kill, murder American diplomats or personnel inside of Lebanon; it could be Shia militias throughout Iraq and Syria attacking U.S. personnel; it could be increased Houthi attacks not just into Saudi Arabia but potentially even hitting civilian populations and Saudi Arabia’s responding back. What could come next is a spiraling series of events that could lead to a dangerous regional war. That is not an exaggeration. This is not an exaggeration to believe that a miscalculation on the part of Iran and what it can get away with would trigger that.

This is an unnecessary amendment because, if you accept the War Powers Resolution as valid under our Constitution—I do not—it already reads that the President has a right to respond in self-defense. The administration has made it very clear that this is the only way it intends to use it. It has made it abundantly clear. In fact, the posture we have in the region—the number of ships and the number of people—we are not postured for an invasion or an all-out war. We are postured for defensive operations and retaliatory strikes to an attack, and that is what the administration says it intends to do.

What it intends to do is to continue forward, strangling the sources of financing that the Iranian regime is using to sponsor terrorism and its ballistic missile program and having enough force in the region to protect our men and women who serve us if they were to come under attack. The President is allowed to do that in the Constitution and in the War Powers Resolution.

All this amendment does is create a dangerous opportunity to be misread and to cause something, and that will trigger a response. Then we will have a war. For those who are considering still voting for this because they want to reassert Congress’s role, this is the wrong time and place in which to do it.

I will close with this. I don’t agree with all of the President’s foreign policy views. I can tell you, for example, that I do believe that openly talking about getting out of the Middle East as soon as possible and some of this thinking that America is constrained and that we really don’t have the dedication or the commitment to see this through if we are attacked. Yet, in fairness, this President is far less likely to go into a war or to start one than was his predecessor—or his two predecessors, actually. He showed great restraint the other day.

It strikes me that not only is this unnecessary from a policy perspective, it is also unnecessary from a personality perspective. This is not a President who is looking to start wars. This is a President who is looking to get out of the ones we are already in. Again, I just don’t know why we would run the risk of putting something out there that could be misconstrued and lead to an attack when we have a President who has no intention of starting a war, when we have a military posture in the region that would not support an offensive military operation or anything to warm Pakistan or Iraq who like, and when we have this danger of miscalculation.

The amendment has been filed, and there will be a vote on it tomorrow. I just hope that the handful of people still thinking about it will consider all of these points. I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICIAL. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICIAL (Mr. PERSUAD). Without objection, it is so ordered.

APPOINTMENTS AUTHORITY

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that notwithstanding the upcoming adjournment of the Senate, the President of the Senate, the President pro tempore, and the majority and minority leaders be authorized to make appointments to Commissions, Committees, Boards, and Authorities, or Interparliamentary Conferences authorized by law, by concurrent action of the two houses, or by order of the Senate.

The PRESIDING OFFICIAL. Without objection, it is so ordered.

EXTENDING THE PROGRAM OF BLOCK GRANTS TO STATES FOR TEMPORARY ASSISTANCE FOR NEEDY FAMILIES AND RELATED PROGRAMS, THROUGH SEPTEMBER 30, 2019

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of H.R. 2940.

The PRESIDING OFFICIAL. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The bill clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 2940) to extend the program of block grants to States for temporary assistance for needy families and related programs through September 30, 2019.

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the bill be considered read a third time.

The PRESIDING OFFICIAL. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The bill was ordered to a third reading and was read the third time.

Mr. McCONNELL. I know of no further debate on the bill.

The PRESIDING OFFICIAL. Is there further debate?

Hearing none, the bill having been read the third time, the question is, Shall the bill pass?

The bill (H.R. 2940) was passed.

Mr. McCONNELL. I ask unanimous consent that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICIAL. Without objection, it is so ordered.

PROVIDING FOR A 2-WEEK EXTENSION OF THE MEDICAID COMMUNITY MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES DEMONSTRATION PROGRAM

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of S. 2047, submitted today.

The PRESIDING OFFICIAL. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The bill clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 2047) to provide for a 2-week extension of the Medicaid community mental health services demonstration program, and for other purposes.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the bill be considered read a third time.

The PRESIDING OFFICIAL. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The bill was ordered to a third reading and was read the third time.

Mr. McCONNELL. I know of no further debate on the bill.

The PRESIDING OFFICIAL. Is there further debate?

Hearing none, the bill having been read the third time, the question is, Shall the bill pass?

The bill (S. 2047) was passed.

Mr. McCONNELL. I ask unanimous consent that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICIAL. Without objection, it is so ordered.
The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The bill (S. 2047) was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, was read the third time, and passed, as follows: S. 2047

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

SECTION 1. EXTENSION OF THE MEDICAID COMMUNITY MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES DEMONSTRATION PROGRAM.

Section 223(d)(3) of the Protecting Access to Medicare Act of 2014 (42 U.S.C. 1396a note) is amended by striking “June 30, 2019” and inserting “June 27, 2019.”

SEC. 2. MEDICAID IMPROVEMENT FUND.

Section 1941(b)(1) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1396w-1(b)(1)) is amended by striking “$6,000,000” and inserting “$1,000,000.”

RECOGNIZING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE STONEWALL UPRISING

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of S. 270, submitted earlier today. The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The bill clerk reads as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 270) recognizing the 50th anniversary of the Stonewall uprising.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. MCCONNELL. I know of no further debate on the measure.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. If there is no further debate, the question is on agreeing to the resolution.

The resolution (S. Res. 270) was agreed to.

Mr. MCCONNELL. I ask unanimous consent that the preamble be agreed to and that the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The preamble was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. If there is no further debate, the question is on agreeing to the resolution.

The resolution (S. Res. 270) was agreed to.

Mr. MCCONNELL. I ask unanimous consent that the preamble be agreed to and that the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolution (S. Res. 271) was agreed to.

COLUMBIA RIVER IN-LIEU AND TREATY FISHING ACCESS SITES IMPROVEMENT ACT

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 38, S. 50.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The bill clerk reads as follows:

A bill (S. 50) to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to assess sanitation and safety conditions at Bureau of Indian Affairs facilities that were constructed to provide affected Columbia River Treaty tribes access to traditional fishing grounds and expend funds on construction of facilities and structures to improve those conditions, and for other purposes.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. MCCONNELL. I ask unanimous consent that the Hoeven amendment at the desk be agreed to and that the bill, as amended, be considered read a third time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The amendment (No. 904) was agreed to, as follows:

(Purpose: To amend the authorization amount)

On page 3, line 23, strike “such sums as are necessary” and insert “$11,000,000 for the period of fiscal years 2020 through 2025.”

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

Mr. MCCONNELL. I know of no further debate on the bill.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. If there is no further debate, the bill having been read the third time, the question is, Shall the bill pass?

The bill (S. 50), as amended, was passed as follows:

S. 50

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 “Columbia River In-Lieu and Treaty Fishing Access Sites Improvement Act.”

SEC. 2. SANITATION AND SAFETY CONDITIONS AT CERTAIN BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS FACILITIES.

(a) ASSESSMENT OF CONDITIONS.—The Secretary of the Interior, acting through the Bureau of Indian Affairs, in consultation with the affected Columbia River Treaty tribes, may assess current sanitation and safety conditions on lands held by the United States for the benefit of the affected Columbia River Treaty tribes, including all permanent Federal structures and improvements on those lands, that were set aside to provide affected Columbia River Treaty tribes access to traditional fishing grounds:

(1) in accordance with the Act of March 2, 1945 (59 Stat. 10, chapter 9) (commonly known as the “River and Harbor Act of 1945”); or

(2) in accordance with title IV of Public Law 100–581 (102 Stat. 2944).

(b) EXCLUSIVE AUTHORIZATION; CONTRACTS.—The Secretary of the Interior, acting through the Bureau of Indian Affairs—

(1) subject to paragraph (2)(B), shall be the only Federal agency authorized to carry out the activities described in this section; and

(2) may delegate the authority to carry out activities described in paragraphs (1) and (2) of subsection (d)—

(A) through one or more contracts entered into with an Indian Tribe or Tribal organization under the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act (25 U.S.C. 5301 et seq.); or

(B) to include other Federal agencies that have relevant expertise.

(c) DEFINITION OF AFFECTED COLUMBIA RIVER TREATY TRIBES.—In this section, the term “affected Columbia River Treaty tribes” means the Confederated Tribes of Umatilla Indian Reservation, the Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs Reservation of Oregon, and the Confederated Tribes and Bands of the Yakama Nation.

(d) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There are authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary of the Interior $11,000,000 for the period of fiscal years 2020 through 2025, to remain available until expended—

(1) for improvements to existing structures and infrastructure to improve sanitation and safety conditions assessed under subsection (a); and

(2) to—

(A) improve access to electricity, sewer, and water infrastructure, where feasible, to reflect needs for sanitary and safe use of facilities referred to in subsection (a).

SEC. 3. STUDY OF ASSESSMENT AND IMPROVEMENT ACTIVITIES.

The Comptroller General of the United States, in consultation with the Committee on Indian Affairs of the Senate, shall conduct a study to evaluate whether the sanitation and safety conditions on lands held by the United States for the benefit of the affected Columbia River Treaty tribes (as defined in section 2(c)) have improved as a result of the activities authorized in section 2; and

(2) prepare and submit to the Committee on Indian Affairs of the Senate and the Committee on Natural Resources of the House of Representatives a report containing the results of that study.

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.

INDIAN COMMUNITY ECONOMIC ENHANCEMENT ACT OF 2019

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 63, S. 212.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The bill clerk reads as follows:

A bill (S. 212) to amend the Native American Business Development, Trade, Tourism, and Travel Promotion, and Tourism Act of 2000, the Buy Indian Act, and the Native American Programs...
Act of 1974 to provide industry and economic development opportunities to Indian communities.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill, which had been reported from the Committee on Indian Affairs.

Mr. MCCONNELL. I ask unanimous consent that the Hoeven amendment at the desk be agreed to and the bill, as amended, be considered read a third time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The amendment (No. 905) was agreed to, as follows:

(Purpose: To improve the Indian Economic Development Feasibility Study)

On page 12, line 16, insert “the extent to which the programs and services overlap or are duplicative,” after “development.”

The bill (S. 212), as amended, was passed as follows:

S. 212

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 “Indian Community Economic Enhancement Act of 2019”.

SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

Congress finds that—

(1)(A) to bring industry and economic development to Indian communities, Indian Tribes must overcome a number of barriers, including—

(i) geographical location;

(ii) lack of infrastructure or capacity;

(iii) lack of sufficient collateral and capital; and

(iv) regulatory bureaucracy relating to—

(I) development; and

(II) access to services provided by the Federal Government;

(B) the barriers described in subparagraph (A) often add to the cost of doing business in Indian communities;

(2) Indian Tribes—

(A) enact laws and exercise sovereign governmental powers;

(B) determine policy for the benefit of Tribal members; and

(C) produce goods and services for consumers;

(3) the Federal Government has—

(A) an important government-to-government relationship with Indian Tribes; and

(B) a role in facilitating healthy and sustainable Tribal economies;

(4) the input of Indian Tribes in developing Federal policy and programs leads to more meaningful and effective measures to assist Indian Tribes and Indian entrepreneurs in building Tribal economies;

(5)(A) many components of Tribal infrastructure need significant repair or replacement; and

(B) Tribal entities need to be able to compete for projects in Indian communities—

(i) may not be available; or

(ii) may come at a higher cost than such access in other legal entities;

(6)(A) Federal capital improvement programs, such as those that facilitate tax-exempt bond financing and loan guarantees, are tools that help improve or replace crumbling infrastructure;

(B) lack of parity in treatment of an Indian Tribe and a government under Federal tax and certain other regulatory laws impedes, in part, the ability of Indian Tribes to raise capital through issuance of tax exempt debt, equity, or other forms of investment, and benefit from other investment incentives accorded to State and local governmental entities; and

(C) as a result of the disparity in treatment of Indian Tribes described in subparagraph (B), investors may avoid financing, or demand a premium to finance, projects in Indian communities, making the projects more costly or inaccessible;

(7) there are a number of Federal loan guarantee programs available to facilitate financing of business, energy, economic, housing, and community development projects in Indian communities, and those programs may support public-private partnerships for infrastructure development, but improvements and support are needed for those programs specific to Indian communities to facilitate more effectively private financing for infrastructure and other urgent development needs; and

(B)(A) most real property held by Indian Tribes is trust or restricted land that essentially cannot be sold, and

(B) while creative solutions, such as lease- or hold mortgages, have been developed in response to the problem identified in subparagraph (A), some solutions remain subject to review and approval by the Bureau of Indian Affairs, adding additional costs and delay to Tribal projects.


(a) FINDINGS; PURPOSES.—Section 2 of the Native American Business Development, Trade Promotion, and Tourism Act of 2000 (25 U.S.C. 4301) is amended by adding at the end the following:

(1) APPLICABILITY TO INDIAN-OWNED BUSINESSES.—The findings and purposes in subsections (a) and (b) shall apply to any Indian-owned business governed—

(I) by Tribal laws regulating trade or commerce on Indian lands; or


(b) DEFINITIONS.—Section 3 of the Native American Business Development, Trade Promotion, and Tourism Act of 2000 (25 U.S.C. 4302) is amended—

(1) by redesignating paragraphs (1) through (6) and paragraphs (7) through (9), as paragraphs (2) through (7) and paragraphs (8) through (11); respectively;

(2) by inserting before paragraph (2) (as redesignated by paragraph (1)) the following:

"(1) DIRECTOR.—The term ‘Director’ means the incumbent Director of the Native American Business Development appointed pursuant to section 4(a)(2);";

and

(3) by inserting after paragraph (7) (as redesignated by paragraph (1)) the following:

"(8) OFFICE.—The term ‘Office’ means the Office of Native American Business Development established by section 4(a)(1).";

(c) DUTIES OF DIRECTOR.—Section 4 of the Native American Business Development, Trade Promotion, and Tourism Act of 2000 (25 U.S.C. 4303) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)—

(i) by inserting "Office of the Secretary," after "Secretary, the Interior, and the Secretary of the Treasury shall coordinate;";

(ii) by striking "(1) to develop initiatives that—

(A) encourage, promote, and provide education regarding investments in Indian communities through—

(1) to identify regulatory, legal, and other barriers to trading in securities; and

(2) to consult with Indian Tribes and with the Securities and Exchange Commission to study, and collaborate to establish, regulatory changes necessary to qualify an Indian Tribe as an accredited investor for the purposes of sections 230.500 through 230.508 of title 17, Code of Federal Regulations (successor regulations), consistent with the goals of promoting capital formation and ensuring qualifying Indian Tribes have the ability to withstand investment losses, on a basis comparable to other legal entities that qualify as accredited investors who are not natural persons; and

(3) (B) examine and develop alternatives that would qualify as collateral for financing in Indian communities; and

(C) provide entrepreneur and other training relating to economic development through tribally controlled colleges and universities and other Indian organizations with expertise in providing such training;";

and

(2) to consult with Indian Tribes and with the Securities and Exchange Commission to study, and collaborate to establish, regulatory changes necessary to qualify an Indian Tribe as an accredited investor for the purposes of sections 230.500 through 230.508 of title 17, Code of Federal Regulations (successor regulations), consistent with the goals of promoting capital formation and ensuring qualifying Indian Tribes have the ability to withstand investment losses, on a basis comparable to other legal entities that qualify as accredited investors who are not natural persons; and

(3) to identify regulatory, legal, or other barriers to increasing Tribal economic development, including qualifying or approving collateral structures,
measurements of economic strength, and contributions of Indian economies in Indian communities through the Authority established under section 4 of the Indian Tribal Reform and Business Development Act of 2000 (25 U.S.C. 4301 note);

(4) to ensure consultation with Indian Tribes regarding increasing investment in Indian Tribes and the development of the report required in paragraph (5); and

(5) not less than once every 2 years, to provide a report to Congress regarding—

(A) the benefits to Indian communities resulting from such initiatives and recommendations for promoting sustained growth of the Tribal economies;

(B) the former and collaboration regarding the necessary changes referenced in paragraph (2) and the impact of allowing Indian Tribes to qualify as an accredited investor; and

(C) the identified regulatory, legal, and other barriers referenced in paragraph (3).

(b) WAIVER.—For assistance provided pursuant to section 108 of the Community Development Banking and Financial Institutions Act of 1994 (12 U.S.C. 4707) to benefit Native Community Development Financial Institutions, as defined by the Secretary of the Treasury, section 108(e) of such Act shall not apply.

(c) INDIAN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT FEASIBILITY STUDY.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Government Accountability Office shall conduct a study and, not later than 18 months after the date of enactment of this subsection, submit to the Committee on Indian Affairs of the Senate and the Committee on Natural Resources of the House of Representatives a report on the findings of the study and recommendations.

(2) CONTENTS.—The study shall include an assessment of each of the following:

(A) the Secretary shall assess current Federal capitalization and related programs and services that are available to assist Indian communities with business and economic development, including manufacturing, physical infrastructure (such as telecommunications and broadband), community development, and facilities construction for such purposes.

(B) the study shall assess the current use and demand by Indian Tribes, individuals, businesses, and communities related to economic development, the extent to which such programs and services overlap or are duplicative, and the extent that similar programs have been used to assist non-Indian communities compared to the extent used for Indian communities.

(C) FINANCING ASSISTANCE.—The study shall assess and quantify the extent of assistance provided to non-Indian borrowers and to Indian (both Tribal and individual) borrowers for purposes such as temporary or permanent assistance as a percentage of need for Indian borrowers and for non-Indian borrowers, assistance to Indian borrowers and to non-Indian borrowers as a percentage of total applicants, and such assistance to Indian borrowers as compared to such assistance to Indian Tribes (through the loan programs, the loan guarantee programs of Federal agencies, and bond guarantee programs of the—

(i) Department of the Interior;

(ii) Department of Agriculture;

(iii) Department of Housing and Urban Development;

(iv) Department of Energy;

(v) Small Business Administration; and

(vi) Developmental Finance Institution Program of the Department of the Treasury.

(D) TRIBAL INVESTMENT INCENTIVE.—The study shall assess various alternative incentives that could be provided to enable and encourage Tribal governments to invest in an Indian community development investment fund or bank.


(1) in section 9—

(A) in each of paragraphs (1), (4), and (8), by striking ‘‘Tribal’’ and inserting ‘‘Tribe’’; and

(B) in paragraph (6), by striking ‘‘The term ‘Indian Tribe’ has the meaning given that term under section 108(f) of the Indian Tribe Development Act of 1994’’ and inserting ‘‘Tribe’’;

(C) by striking ‘‘tribe’’ each place the term appears in paragraphs (2) and the impact of allowing Indian Tribes to qualify as an accredited investor; and

(D) in each of paragraphs (1), (4), and (8), by striking ‘‘tribe’’ and inserting ‘‘Tribe’’;

(2) by striking ‘‘tribe’’ each place the term appears in section 1480.403 of title 48, Code of Federal Regulations (or successor regulations).

(f) REPORT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this section, and not less frequently than once every 2 years thereafter, each of the Secretaries shall submit to the Committee on Indian Affairs of the Senate and the Committee on Natural Resources of the House of Representatives a report describing, during the period covered by the report, the implementation of this section by each of the respective Secretaries.

(2) CONTENTS.—Each report under this subsection shall include, for each fiscal year during the period covered by the report—

(A) the names of each agency under the respective jurisdiction of each of the Secretaries to which this section has been applied, and efforts made by additional agencies; and the Secretaries to which this section has been applied, and efforts made by additional agencies; and federal, state, and local agencies and other stakeholders regarding methods to facilitate compliance with—

(B) the Indian Labor or an Indian industry product ineligible to receive assistance under section 1480.403 of title 48, Code of Federal Regulations (or successor regulations).

(B) the Secretary of Health and Human Services.

(c) IMPLEMENTATION.—In carrying out this section, the Secretaries shall—

(1) conduct outreach to Indian industrial entities;

(2) provide training;

(3) promulgate regulations in accordance with this section and with the regulations described in section 831(f) of title 48, Code of Federal Regulations (or successor regulations), to harmonize the procurement procedures of the Department of the Interior and the Department of Health and Human Services, to the maximum extent practicable;

(4) require regional offices of the Bureau of Indian Affairs and the Indian Health Service to aggregate data regarding compliance with this section;

(5) require procurement management reviews by their respective Departments to include a review of the implementation of this section; and

(6) consult with Indian Tribes, Indian industrial entities, and other stakeholders regarding methods to facilitate compliance with—

(A) this section; and

(B) other small business or procurement goals;

(d) REPORT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this section, and not less frequently than once every 2 years thereafter, each of the Secretaries shall submit to the Committee on Indian Affairs of the Senate and the Committee on Natural Resources of the House of Representatives a report describing, during the period covered by the report, the implementation of this section by each of the respective Secretaries.

(2) CONTENTS.—Each report under this subsection shall include, for each fiscal year during the period covered by the report—

(A) a description of the percentage increase or decrease in total dollar value and number of purchases and awards made within each agency region, as compared to the previous 2 years;

(B) a summary of the types of purchases made, and contracts awarded, including any relevant modifications, extensions, or renewals awarded to, Indian economic enterprises, expressed by agency region;

(C) a description of the percentage increase or decrease in total dollar value and number of purchases and awards made within each agency region, as compared to the previous 2 years;

(D) a description of the methods used by applicable contracting officers and employers, and contract market participation, including any relevant modifications, extensions, or renewals awarded to, Indian economic enterprises, expressed by agency region;

(E) a summary of all deviations granted under section 1480.403 of title 48, Code of Federal Regulations (or successor regulations), including a description of—

(i) the types of alternative procurement methods used, including any Indian owned business that had not been awarded contracts awarded under other procurement goals; and

(ii) the dollar value of any awards made pursuant to those deviations.

(F) a summary of the total number and value of all purchases of, and contracts awarded for, supplies, services, and
construction (including the percentage increase or decrease, as compared to the preceding fiscal year) from—

"(1) Indian economic enterprises; and
"(2) non-Indian economic enterprises;"

"(H) any administrative, procedural, legal, or other barriers to achieving the purposes of this section, together with recommendations for legislative or administrative actions to address those barriers; and
"(I) for each agency region—

"(i) the total amount spent on purchases made from, and contracts awarded to, Indian economic enterprises; and
"(ii) a comparison of the amount described in clause (i) to the total amount that the agency region would likely have spent on the same purchases made from a non-Indian economic enterprise or contracts awarded to a non-Indian economic enterprise.

"(e) GOALS.—Each agency shall establish an annual minimum percentage goal for procurement in compliance with this section.

SEC. 5. NATIVE AMERICAN PROGRAMS ACT OF 1974.

(a) FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FOR NATIVE AMERICAN PROJECTS.—Section 803 of the Native American Programs Act of 1974 (42 U.S.C. 2991b) is amended—

(1) by redesignating subsections (b) through (d) as subsections (c) through (e), respectively; and

(2) by inserting after subsection (a) the following:

"(b) ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT.—

"(1) IN GENERAL.—The Commissioner may give priority to any application described in subsection (a), the Commissioner shall—

"(A) the development of a Tribal code or court system for purposes of economic development, including commercial codes, training for court personnel, regulation pursuant to section 5 of the Act of August 15, 1876 (19 Stat. 200, chapter 289; 25 U.S.C. 261), and the development of nonprofit subsidiaries or other tribal business structures:

"(B) the development of a community development financial institution, including training and administrative expenses; or

"(C) the development of a Tribal or inter-Tribal plan for community and economic development and infrastructure.

(b) TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AND TRAINING.—Section 804 of the Native American Programs Act of 1974 (42 U.S.C. 2991c) is amended—

(1) in the matter preceding paragraph (1), by striking "The Commissioner" and inserting the following:

"(a) IN GENERAL.—The Commissioner": and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

"(b) PRIORITY.—In providing assistance under subsection (a), the Commissioner shall give priority to any application described in section 803(b)(2)."

(c) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—Section 816 of the Native American Programs Act of 1974 (42 U.S.C. 2991d) is amended—

(1) by striking "803(d)" each place it appears and inserting "803(e)"; and

(2) by striking "tribe" each place the term appears and inserting "Tribe;"

(2) by striking "tribe" each place the term appears and inserting "Tribe;"

(3) by striking the semicolon at the end of section 803(d) and replacing it with the period at the end of that section.

"(d) CONFORMING AND TECHNICAL AMENDMENTS.—The Native American Programs Act of 1974 (42 U.S.C. 2991 et seq.) is amended—

(1) by striking "tribe" each place the term appears and inserting "Tribe;"

"(2) by striking "tribe" each place the term appears and inserting "Tribe;"

"(3) by striking the semicolon at the end of section 803(d) and replacing it with the period at the end of that section.

"(4) by inserting after subsection (a) the following:

"(b) ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT.—

"(1) IN GENERAL.—The Commissioner may give priority to any application described in subsection (a), the Commissioner shall—

"(A) the development of a Tribal code or court system for purposes of economic development, including commercial codes, training for court personnel, regulation pursuant to section 5 of the Act of August 15, 1876 (19 Stat. 200, chapter 289; 25 U.S.C. 261), and the development of nonprofit subsidiaries or other tribal business structures:

"(B) the development of a community development financial institution, including training and administrative expenses; or

"(C) the development of a Tribal or inter-Tribal plan for community and economic development and infrastructure.

"(b) TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AND TRAINING.—Section 804 of the Native American Programs Act of 1974 (42 U.S.C. 2991c) is amended—

"(1) by redesignating subsections (b) through (d) as subsections (c) through (e), respectively; and

"(2) by inserting after subsection (a) the following:

"(b) ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT.—

"(1) IN GENERAL.—The Commissioner may give priority to any application described in subsection (a), the Commissioner shall—

"(A) the development of a Tribal code or court system for purposes of economic development, including commercial codes, training for court personnel, regulation pursuant to section 5 of the Act of August 15, 1876 (19 Stat. 200, chapter 289; 25 U.S.C. 261), and the development of nonprofit subsidiaries or other tribal business structures:

"(B) the development of a community development financial institution, including training and administrative expenses; or

"(C) the development of a Tribal or inter-Tribal plan for community and economic development and infrastructure.

"(b) TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AND TRAINING.—Section 804 of the Native American Programs Act of 1974 (42 U.S.C. 2991c) is amended—

"(1) by redesignating subsections (b) through (d) as subsections (c) through (e), respectively; and

"(2) by inserting after subsection (a) the following:

"(b) ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT.—

"(1) IN GENERAL.—The Commissioner may give priority to any application described in subsection (a), the Commissioner shall—

"(A) the development of a Tribal code or court system for purposes of economic development, including commercial codes, training for court personnel, regulation pursuant to section 5 of the Act of August 15, 1876 (19 Stat. 200, chapter 289; 25 U.S.C. 261), and the development of nonprofit subsidiaries or other tribal business structures:

"(B) the development of a community development financial institution, including training and administrative expenses; or

"(C) the development of a Tribal or inter-Tribal plan for community and economic development and infrastructure.

Providing for the Conveyance of Certain Property to the Tanana Tribal Council Located in Tanana, Alaska, and to the Bristol Bay Area Health Corporation Located in Dillingham, Alaska.

The bill clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 832) to nullify the Supplemental Treaty Between the United States of America and the Confederated Tribes and Bands of Indians of Middle Oregon, concluded on November 15, 1865.

Providing for the Conveyance of Certain Property to the Tanana Tribal Council Located in Tanana, Alaska, and to the Bristol Bay Area Health Corporation Located in Dillingham, Alaska.

The bill clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 224) to provide for the conveyance of certain property to the Tanana Tribal Council located in Tanana, Alaska, and to the Bristol Bay Area Health Corporation located in Dillingham, Alaska, and for other purposes.

Progress for Indian Tribes Act.

The bill clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 209) to amend the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act to provide further self-governance by Indian Tribes, and for other purposes.

Esther Martinez Native American Languages Programs Reauthorization Act.

The bill clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 256) to amend the Native American Programs Act of 1974 to provide flexibility and reauthorization to ensure the survival and continuing vitality of Native American languages.

Native American Business Incubators Program Act.

The bill clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 294) to establish a business incubators program within the Department of the Interior to promote economic development in Indian reservation communities.

Tribal HUD-VASH Act of 2019.

The bill clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 295) to provide for rental assistance for homeless or at-risk Indian veterans, and for other purposes.

Spokane Tribe of Indians of the Spokane Reservation Equitable Compensation Act.

The bill clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 216) to provide for equitable compensation to the Spokane Tribe of Indians of the Spokane Reservation for the use of tribal land for the production of hydropower by the Grand Coulee Dam, and for other purposes.

Klamath Tribe Judgment Fund Repeal Act.

The bill clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 46) to repeal the Klamath Tribe Judgment Fund Act.

Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe Reservation Restoration Act.

The bill clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 199) to provide for the transfer of certain Federal land in the State of Minnesota for the benefit of the Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bills, en bloc.

Mr. MCCONNELL. I ask unanimous consent that the bills, en bloc, be considered read a third time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The bills were ordered to be engrossed for a third reading and were read the third time, en bloc.

Mr. MCCONNELL. I know of no further debate on the bills, en bloc.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there further debate?

Mr. MCCONNELL. The bills having been read the third time, the question is, Shall the bills pass, en bloc?

The bills (S. 832, S. 224, S. 209, S. 256, S. 294, S. 257, S. 216, S. 46, S. 199) were passed, en bloc, as follows:

S. 832

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

SECTION 1. NULLIFICATION OF TREATY.

The Supplemental Treaty Between the United States of America and the Confederated Tribes and Bands of Indians of Middle Oregon, concluded on November 15, 1865, and entered into pursuant to the Senate resolution of ratification dated March 2, 1867 (14 Stat. 751), shall have no force or effect.

S. 224

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

SECTION 1. CONVEYANCE OF PROPERTY TO THE TANANA TRIBAL COUNCIL.

(a) CONVEYANCE OF PROPERTY.—

(1) In General.—As soon as practicable, but not later than 180 days, after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Health and Human Services (referred to in
this Act as the “Secretary’) shall convey to the Tanana Tribal Council located in Tanana, Alaska (referred to in this section as the “Council’), all right, title, and interest of the United States in and to the property described in subsection (b) for use in connection with health and social services programs.

(2) EFFECT ON ANY QUITCLAIM DEED.—The conveyance by the Secretary of title by warranty deed under this subsection shall, on the effective date of the conveyance, supersede and render of no further effect any quitclaim deed to the property described in subsection (b) executed by the Secretary and the Council.

(3) CONDITIONS.—The conveyance of the property under this section—

(a) shall be made by warranty deed; and

(b) shall not—

(i) require any consideration from the Council for the property;

(ii) impose any obligation, term, or condition on the Council; or

(iii) allow for any reversionary interest of the United States in the property.

(4) PROPERTY DESCRIBED.—The property, including all land, improvements, and appurtenances described in subsection (b) and any property, including all land, improvements, and appurtenances described in this subsection is the property conveyed under this Subdivision, creating tract 1, a subdivision of Lot 2 of U.S. Survey No. 2015, located in Section 36, Township 13 South, Range 56 West, Seward Meridian, Bristol Bay Recording District, Dillingham, Alaska, according to Plat No. 2015-8, recorded on May 28, 2015, in the Bristol Bay Recording District, Dillingham, Alaska, containing 1,547 acres.

(5) ENVIRONMENTAL LIABILITY.—

(A) In General.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the Corporation shall not be liable for any soil, surface water, groundwater, or other contamination resulting from the disposal, release, or presence of any environmental contamination on any portion of the property described in subsection (b) on or before the date on which the property is conveyed to the Corporation.

(B) Environmental contamination.—An environmental contamination described in subparagraph (A) includes any oil or petroleum products, hazardous substances, hazardous materials, hazardous waste, pollutants, toxic substances, solid waste, or any other environmental contamination or hazard as defined in any Federal or State of Alaska law.

(2) EASEMENT.—The Secretary shall be accorded any easement or access to the property conveyed under this section as may be reasonably necessary to satisfy any retained obligation or liability of the Secretary.

(3) NOTICE OF HAZARDOUS SUBSTANCE ACTIVITY AND LIABILITY.—In carrying out this section, the Secretary shall comply with subparagraphs (A) and (B) of section 120(h)(3) of the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980 (42 U.S.C. 9620(h)(3)).

SEC. 2. CONVEYANCE OF PROPERTY TO THE BRISTOL BAY AREA HEALTH CORPORATION.

(a) CONVEYANCE OF PROPERTY.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—As soon as practicable, but not later than 180 days, after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall convey to the Bristol Bay Area Health Corporation located in Dillingham, Alaska (referred to in this section as the “Corporation’), all right, title, and interest of the United States in and to the property described in subsection (b) for use in connection with health and social services programs.

(2) EFFECT ON ANY QUITCLAIM DEED.—The conveyance by the Secretary of title by warranty deed under this subsection shall, on the effective date of the conveyance, supersede and render of no further effect any quitclaim deed to the property described in subsection (b) executed by the Secretary and the Corporation.

(3) CONDITIONS.—The conveyance of the property under this section—

(a) shall be made by warranty deed; and

(b) shall not—

(i) require any consideration from the Corporation for the property;

(ii) impose any obligation, term, or condition on the Corporation; or

(iii) allow for any reversionary interest of the United States in the property.

(b) PROPERTY DESCRIBED.—The property, including all land, improvements, and appurtenances described in this subsection is the property conveyed under this Subdivision, creating tract 1, a subdivision of Lot 12, in the village of Tanana, Alaska, within surveyed Township 4N, Range 22W, Fairbanks Meridian, Alaska, containing 11.25 acres.

(c) ENVIRONMENTAL LIABILITY.—

(1) LIABILITY.—

(A) In General.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the Corporation shall not be liable for any soil, surface water, groundwater, or other contamination resulting from the disposal, release, or presence of any environmental contamination on any portion of the property described in this subsection (b) on or before the date on which the property is conveyed to the Corporation.

(B) ENVIRONMENTAL CONTAMINATION.—An environmental contamination described in subparagraph (A) includes any oil or petroleum products, hazardous substances, hazardous materials, hazardous waste, pollutants, toxic substances, solid waste, or any other environmental contamination or hazard as defined in any Federal or State of Alaska law.

(2) EASEMENT.—The Secretary shall be accorded any easement or access to the property conveyed under this section as may be reasonably necessary to satisfy any retained obligation or liability of the Secretary.

(3) NOTICE OF HAZARDOUS SUBSTANCE ACTIVITY AND LIABILITY.—In carrying out this section, the Secretary shall comply with subparagraphs (A) and (B) of section 120(h)(3) of the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980 (42 U.S.C. 9620(h)(3)).

S. 209

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; TABLE OF CONTENTS.

(a) SHORT TITLE.—This Act may be cited as the “Practical Reforms and Other Goals To Reinforce the Effectiveness of Self-Governance and Self-Determination for Indian Tribes Act of 2019” or the “PROGRESS for Indian Tribes Act.”

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

SEC. 1. SHORT title; table of contents.

TITLE I—TRIBAL SELF-GOVERNANCE

Sec. 101. Tribal self-governance.

TITLE II—INDIAN SELF-DETERMINATION

Sec. 201. Definitions; reporting and audit requirements; application of provisions.


Sec. 203. Administrative provisions.

Sec. 204. Contracting for funding and indirect costs.

Sec. 205. Contract or grant specifications.

TITLE I—TRIBAL SELF-GOVERNANCE

SEC. 101. TRIBAL SELF-GOVERNANCE.

(a) Scope of authority.—Nothing in this Act, or the amendments made by this Act, shall be construed—

(1) to modify, limit, expand, or otherwise affect—

(A) the authority of the Secretary of the Interior, as provided for under the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act (as in effect on the day before the date of enactment of this Act), regarding—

(i) the inclusion of any non-BIA program (as defined in section 105 of the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act) in a self-determination contract or funding agreement under section 405(c) of such Act (as so in effect); or

(ii) the implementation of any contract or agreement described in clause (i) that is in effect on the day described in subparagraph (A) or (B) of section 405(b); or

(B) the meaning, application, or effect of any Tribal water rights settlement, including the performance required of a party thereto or any payment or funding obligation thereunder;

(C) the authority, jurisdiction, or responsibility of a State to manage, control, or regulate fish and wildlife under State law (including regulations) on land or water in the State, including Federal public land;

(D) except for the authority provided to the Council as described in subparagraph (A), the applicability or effect of any Federal law related to the protection or management of fish or wildlife; or

(E) any treaty-righted right or other right of any Indian Tribe as recognized by any other means, including treaties or agreements with the United States, Executive orders, statutes, regulations, or case law; or

(2) to authorize any provision of a contract or agreement that is not consistent with the terms of a Tribal water rights settlement.

(b) Definitions.—Sec. 401 of the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act (25 U.S.C. 3581) is amended to read as follows:

"SEC. 401. DEFINITIONS.

"In this title:

"(1) COMPACT.—The term 'compact' means a self-governance compact entered into under section 404.

"(2) CONSTRUCTION PROGRAM; CONSTRUCTION PROJECT.—The term ‘construction program’ or ‘construction project’ means a Tribal undertaking relating to the administration, planning, environmental determination, design, construction, repair, improvement, or expansion of roads, bridges, buildings, structures, systems, or other facilities for purposes of housing, law enforcement, detention, sanitation, water supply, education, administration, community, health, irrigation, agriculture, conservation, control, transportation, or port facilities, or for other Tribal purposes.

"(3) DEPARTMENT.—The term 'Department' means the Department of the Interior.

"(4) FUNDING AGREEMENT.—The term 'funding agreement' means a funding agreement entered into under section 403.

"(5) GROSS MISMANAGEMENT.—The term ‘gross mismanagement’ means a significant violation, shown by a preponderance of the evidence, of a compact, funding agreement, or statutory or regulatory requirement applicable to Federal funds for a program administered by an Indian Tribe under a compact or funding agreement.

"(6) INHERENT FEDERAL FUNCTION.—The term ‘inherent Federal function’ means a Federal function that may not legally be delegated to an Indian Tribe.

"(7) NON-BIA FUNDING.—The term ‘non-BIA program’ means all or a portion of a program, function, service, activity that is administered by any bureau, service, office, or component of the Department of the Interior other than—

"(A) the Bureau of Indian Affairs;
"(B) the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Indian Affairs; or
"(C) the Office of the Special Trustee for American Indians.

(3) Joint participation—The term 'program' means any program, function, service, or activity (or portion thereof) within the Department that is included in a funding agreement.

(4) Withdrawal from a Tribal organization—The term 'Secretary' means the Secretary of the Interior.

(5) Participation in self-governance—The term 'Secretary' means the Secretary of the Interior.


(7) Tribal water rights settlement—The term 'water right of the Indian Tribe' means any settlement, compact, or other agreement entered into by, on behalf of, or for the benefit of, an Indian Tribe that includes—

(A) support any program within the Bureau of Indian Affairs, the Office of the Special Trustee for American Indians, or the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Indian Affairs;

(B) are not required by the Secretary for the performance of an inherent Federal function.

(8) Tribal water rights settlement—The term 'Tribal share' means the portion of all funds and resources of an Indian Tribe that—

(A) includes an Indian Tribe and the United States as parties; and

(B) quantifies or otherwise defines any water right of the Indian Tribe.

(c) Establishment.—Section 402 of the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act (25 U.S.C. 5363) is amended to read as follows:

SEC. 402. TRIBAL SELF-GOVERNANCE PROGRAM.

(a) Establishment.—The Secretary shall establish and carry out a program within the Department known as the Tribal Self-Governance Program.

(b) Selection of Participating Indian Tribes.—

(1) In general.—

(B) Eligibility.—The Secretary, acting through the Director of the Office of Self-Governance, may select not more than 50 new Tribal organizations per year from those tribes eligible under subsection (c) to participate in self-governance.

(2) Joint participation.—On the request of each Indian Tribe, the Secretary may enter into a compact or agreement with any other eligible Indian Tribes to treat as a single Indian Tribe for the purpose of participating in self-governance.

(3) Joint participation as organization.—Two or more Indian Tribes that are not otherwise eligible under subsection (c) may be treated as a single Indian Tribe for the purpose of participating in self-governance as a Tribal organization if—

(A) each Indian Tribe so requests; and

(B) the Tribal organization itself, or at least one of the Indian Tribes participating in the Tribal organization, is eligible under subsection (c).

(4) Withdrawal from a Tribal organization.—

(A) In general.—An Indian Tribe that withdraws from participation in a Tribal organization shall be entitled to participate in self-governance if the Indian Tribe is eligible under subsection (c).

(B) Effect of withdrawal.—If an Indian Tribe withdraws from participation in a Tribal organization, the Indian Tribe shall be entitled to its Tribal share of funds and resources as of the date that the Indian Tribe is entitled to carry out under the compact and funding agreement of the Indian Tribe.

(c) Eligibility.—To be eligible to participate in self-governance, an Indian Tribe shall—

(1) successfully complete the planning phase described in subsection (d);

(2) request participation in self-governance by resolution or other official action by the Tribal governing body; and

(3) demonstrate, for the 3 fiscal years preceding the date on which the Indian Tribe requests participation, financial stability and accountability as evidenced by the Indian Tribe having no uncorrected significant and material audit exceptions in the required annual audit of its self-determination or self-governance agreements with any Federal agency.

(d) Planning phase.—

(1) In general.—An Indian Tribe seeking to begin participation in self-governance shall complete a planning phase as provided in this subsection.

(2) Activities.—The planning phase shall include—

(A) to conduct the satisfaction of the Indian Tribe; and

(B) to negotiate the terms of participation with the Indian Tribe or Tribal organization in self-governance, as set forth in a compact and a funding agreement.

(2) Receipt of Grant not Required.—Receipt of a grant under paragraph (1) shall not be a requirement of participation in self-governance.

(e) Grants.—

(1) In general.—Subject to the availability of appropriations, an Indian Tribe or Tribal organization that meets the requirements of paragraphs (2) and (3) of subsection (c) shall be eligible for grants—

(A) to plan for participation in self-governance; and

(B) to negotiate the terms of participation with the Indian Tribe or Tribal organization in self-governance, as set forth in a compact and a funding agreement.

(2) Receipt of Grant not Required.—Receipt of a grant under paragraph (1) shall not be a requirement of participation in self-governance.

(f) Funding agreements.—Section 403 of the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act (25 U.S.C. 5363) is amended—

(1) in the matter preceding subparagraph (a) by striking the following and inserting the following:

"(aa) the earlier of—

(AA) 1 year after the date of submission of the request; and

(BB) the date on which the funding agreement expires; or

(bb) such date as may be mutually agreed upon by the Secretary, the withdrawing Indian Tribe, and the Tribal organization that signed the compact and funding agreement on behalf of the withdrawing Indian Tribe or Tribal organization.

(ii) EFFECTIVE DATE.—

(A) In general.—A withdrawal under clause (i) shall become effective on the date that is specified in the Indian Tribe resolution and mutually agreed upon by the Secretary, the withdrawing Indian Tribe, and the Tribal organization that signed the compact and funding agreement on behalf of the withdrawing Indian Tribe or Tribal organization.

(B) No specified date.—In the absence of a date specified in the resolution, the withdrawal shall become effective on—

(aa) the earlier of—

(AA) 1 year after the date of submission of the request; and

(BB) the date on which the funding agreement expires; or

(bb) such date as may be mutually agreed upon by the Secretary, the withdrawing Indian Tribe, and the Tribal organization that signed the compact and funding agreement on behalf of the withdrawing Indian Tribe or Tribal organization.

(E) Distribution of funds.—If an Indian Tribe or Tribal organization eligible to enter into a self-determination contract or compact or funding agreement fully or partially withdraws from a participating Tribal organization, the withdrawing Indian Tribe—

(1) may elect to enter into a self-determination contract or compact, in which case—

(i) the withdrawing Indian Tribe or Tribal organization may reallocate to its Tribal share of unexpended funds and resources supporting the programs that the Indian Tribe will be carrying out under its own self-determination contract or compact and funding agreement (calculated on the same basis as the funds were initially allocated to the funding agreement of the Tribal organization) and

(ii) the funds referred to in clause (1) shall be withdrawn by the Secretary from the funding agreement of the Tribal organization and transferred to the withdrawing Indian Tribe, on the condition that sections 102 and 105(i), as appropriate, shall apply to the withdrawing Indian Tribe; or

(2) subsection (b); and

(ii) internal Tribal government planning, training, and organizational preparation.

(G) Grants.—

(1) In general.—Subject to the availability of appropriations, an Indian Tribe or Tribal organization that meets the requirements of paragraphs (2) and (3) of subsection (c) shall be eligible for grants—

(A) to plan for participation in self-governance; and

(B) to negotiate the terms of participation with the Indian Tribe or Tribal organization in self-governance, as set forth in a compact and a funding agreement.

(2) Receipt of Grant not Required.—Receipt of a grant under paragraph (1) shall not be a requirement of participation in self-governance.

(2) Receipt of Grant not Required.—Receipt of a grant under paragraph (1) shall not be a requirement of participation in self-governance.

(H) Authorization.—The Secretary shall, on the request of any Indian Tribe or Tribal organization, negotiate and enter into a self-determination agreement with the governing body of the Indian Tribe or the Tribal organization in a manner consistent with—

(i) the trust responsibility of the Federal Government, treaty obligations, and the government-to-government relationship between Indian Tribes and the United States; and

(ii) subparagraph (b), (c), and (d) of section 606(b) of the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act (25 U.S.C. 5371).

2. Amending section 402—Section 402 of the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act (25 U.S.C. 5363) is amended—

(1) in the matter preceding subparagraph (A) by striking the following and inserting the following:

"(aa) the earlier of—

(AA) 1 year after the date of submission of the request; and

(BB) the date on which the funding agreement expires; or

(bb) such date as may be mutually agreed upon by the Secretary, the withdrawing Indian Tribe, and the Tribal organization that signed the compact and funding agreement on behalf of the withdrawing Indian Tribe or Tribal organization.

(ii) EFFECTIVE DATE.—

(A) In general.—A withdrawal under clause (i) shall become effective on the date that is specified in the Indian Tribe resolution and mutually agreed upon by the Secretary, the withdrawing Indian Tribe, and the Tribal organization that signed the compact and funding agreement on behalf of the withdrawing Indian Tribe or Tribal organization.

(B) No specified date.—In the absence of a date specified in the resolution, the withdrawal shall become effective on—

(aa) the earlier of—

(AA) 1 year after the date of submission of the request; and

(BB) the date on which the funding agreement expires; or

(bb) such date as may be mutually agreed upon by the Secretary, the withdrawing Indian Tribe, and the Tribal organization that signed the compact and funding agreement on behalf of the withdrawing Indian Tribe or Tribal organization.

(E) Distribution of funds.—If an Indian Tribe or Tribal organization eligible to enter into a self-determination contract or compact or funding agreement fully or partially withdraws from a participating Tribal organization, the withdrawing Indian Tribe—

(1) may elect to enter into a self-determination contract or compact, in which case—

(i) the withdrawing Indian Tribe or Tribal organization may reallocate to its Tribal share of unexpended funds and resources supporting the programs that the Indian Tribe will be carrying out under its own self-determination contract or compact and funding agreement (calculated on the same basis as the funds were initially allocated to the funding agreement of the Tribal organization) and

(ii) the funds referred to in clause (1) shall be withdrawn by the Secretary from the funding agreement of the Tribal organization and transferred to the withdrawing Indian Tribe, on the condition that sections 102 and 105(i), as appropriate, shall apply to the withdrawing Indian Tribe; or

(2) subsection (b); and

(ii) internal Tribal government planning, training, and organizational preparation.

(G) Grants.—

(1) In general.—Subject to the availability of appropriations, an Indian Tribe or Tribal organization that meets the requirements of paragraphs (2) and (3) of subsection (c) shall be eligible for grants—

(A) to plan for participation in self-governance; and

(B) to negotiate the terms of participation with the Indian Tribe or Tribal organization in self-governance, as set forth in a compact and a funding agreement.

(2) Receipt of Grant not Required.—Receipt of a grant under paragraph (1) shall not be a requirement of participation in self-governance.

(H) Authorization.—The Secretary shall, on the request of any Indian Tribe or Tribal organization, negotiate and enter into a self-determination agreement with the governing body of the Indian Tribe or the Tribal organization in a manner consistent with—

(i) the trust responsibility of the Federal Government, treaty obligations, and the government-to-government relationship between Indian Tribes and the United States; and

(ii) subparagraph (b), (c), and (d) of section 606(b) of the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act (25 U.S.C. 5371)."
(I) in clause (i), as redesignated by clause (ii), by striking the semicolon at the end and inserting ‘‘; and’’; and

(II) in clause (ii), as so redesignated, by striking the semicolon and inserting ‘‘; and’’;

(v) by redesigning subparagraph (C) as subparagraph (B);

(vi) in subparagraph (B), as redesignated by clause (v), by striking the semicolon and inserting ‘‘; and’’; and

(vii) by adding at the end the following:

‘‘(C) any other program, service, function, or activity (or portion thereof) that is provided through the Bureau of Indian Affairs, the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Indian Affairs, or the Office of the Trustee for American Indians with respect to which Indian Tribes or Indians are primary or significant beneficiaries;’’;

(B) in paragraph (4), in the matter preceding clause (i), by

(1) by striking ‘‘section 405(c)’’ and inserting ‘‘section 412(c)’’;

(2) by inserting ‘‘(B) is provided for elementary and secondary schools under the formula developed under section 1127 of the Education Amendments of 1978 (25 U.S.C. 1801 et seq.); or’’;

(3) by striking ‘‘(B) in paragraph (2)—’’ and inserting ‘‘(B) in paragraph (2)—’’;

(B) by striking ‘‘(A) any provision of law, including section 405(c), a joint agreement between the Secretary and the Indian Tribe, negotiate with the Secretary for the purposes of calculating the amount of funding that is to be provided to an Indian Tribe under this title, unless such agreement to—’’ and inserting ‘‘(A) any provision of law, including section 405(c), a joint agreement between the Secretary and the Indian Tribe, negotiate with the Secretary for the purposes of calculating the amount of funding that is to be provided to an Indian Tribe under this title, unless such agreement to—’’;

(B) by inserting ‘‘(B) NO AGREEMENT.—In the absence of a funding agreement or by the nature of any noncontingent program, service, function, or activity contained in a funding agreement—’’;

‘‘(A) a funding agreement shall remain in full force and effect until a subsequent funding agreement is executed, with funding paid annually for each fiscal year the agreement is in effect; and

(B) the term of the subsequent funding agreement shall be retroactive to the end of the term of the preceding funding agreement for the purposes of calculating the amount of funding to which the Indian Tribe is entitled. ’’

(c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The effective date of a funding agreement under this title shall be the earlier of—

(1) the earlier of—

(i) the earlier of—

(1) to retain its negotiated compact (in whole or in part) to the extent that the provisions of the compact are not directly contrary to any express provision of this title; or

(2) to negotiate a new compact in a manner consistent with this title.

§ 405. GENERAL PROVISIONS.

(a) APPLICABILITY.—An Indian Tribe and the Secretary shall include in any compact or funding agreement provisions that reflect the requirements of this title.

(b) CONFLICTS OF INTEREST.—An Indian Tribe participating in self-governance shall ensure that internal measures are in place to address, pursuant to Tribal law and procedures, conflicts of interest in the administration of programs.

(c) AUDITS.—

(1) SINGLE AGENCY AUDIT ACT.—Chapter 75 of title 31, United States Code, shall apply to a funding agreement under this title.

(2) COST PRINCIPLES.—An Indian Tribe shall apply cost principles under the applicable Office of Management and Budget circular, except as modified by—

(A) any provision of law, including section 405(c), a joint agreement between the Secretary and the Indian Tribe, negotiate with the Secretary for the purposes of calculating the amount of funding that is to be provided to an Indian Tribe under this title, unless such agreement to—’’;

(B) any exemptions to applicable Office of Management and Budget circulars subsequently granted by the Office of Management and Budget.

(d) FEDERAL CLAIMS.—Any claim by the Federal Government against an Indian Tribe relating to funds received under a funding agreement based on any audit under this subsection shall be subject to section 106(f).

(4) REDISTRIBUTION AND CONSOLIDATION.—Except as provided in section 407, an Indian Tribe may redesign or consolidate programs, or restructure funds for a compact or funding agreement in any manner that the Indian Tribe determines to be in the best interest of the Indian community being served—

(1) so long as the redesign or consolidation does not have the effect of denying eligibility for services to population groups otherwise eligible to be served under applicable Federal law; and

(2) except that, with respect to the reallocation, consolidation, and restructuring of programs described in subsection (b)(2) or (c) of section 403, a joint agreement between the Secretary and the Indian Tribe shall be required.

(5) RETROCESSION.—

(a) IN GENERAL.—An Indian Tribe may fully or partially retrocede to the Secretary any program under a compact or funding agreement;

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—

(A) AGREEMENT.—Unless an Indian Tribe resinds a request for retrocession under paragraph (1), the retrocession shall become effective on the date specified by the parties in the compact or funding agreement;

(B) NO AGREEMENT.—In the absence of a specification of an effective date in the compact or funding agreement, the retrocession shall become effective on—

(i) the earlier of—

(1) 1 year after the date on which the request is submitted; and

(2) the date as may be mutually agreed upon by the Secretary and the Indian Tribe.

(1) NODUPLICATION.—A funding agreement shall provide that, for the period for which the funding is provided to an Indian Tribe under this title, the Indian Tribe—
"(1) shall not be entitled to contract with the Secretary for funds under section 102, except that the Indian Tribe shall be eligible for new programs on the same basis as other Indian Tribes; and

"(2) shall be responsible for the administration of programs in accordance with the compact or funding agreement.

"(d) Reassumption.—(1) IN GENERAL.—Unless an Indian Tribe specifies otherwise in the compact or funding agreement, an Indian Tribe shall not be considered to be Federal records for purposes of chapter 5 of title 5, United States Code.

"(2) RECORDKEEPING SYSTEM.—An Indian Tribe shall—

``(A) maintain a recordkeeping system; and

``(B) on a notice period of not less than 30 days, any Indian Tribe shall have reasonable access to the records to enable the Department to meet the requirements of sections 3101 through 3106 of title 44, United States Code.

"SEC. 406. PROVISIONS RELATING TO THE SECRETARY.

"(a) TRUST EVALUATIONS.—A funding agreement shall include a provision to monitor the performance of trust functions by the Indian Tribe through the annual trust evaluation.

"(b) REASSUMPTION.—

``(1) IN GENERAL.—A compact or funding agreement shall include provisions for the Secretary to reassume a program and associated funding if there is a specific finding relating to that program of—

``(i) imminent jeopardy to a trust asset, a natural resource, or public health and safety that—

``(II) the program that is the subject of the appeal was brought under this section, the Secretary shall—

"(h) DECISION MAKER.—A decision that constitutes final agency action and relates to the operation of Indian Tribes and Tribal organizations under this title reduce the administrative or other responsibilities of the Secretary with respect to the operation of Indian programs and result in savings that have not otherwise been included in the amount of Tribal shares and other funds determined under section 404(c), such savings shall be made available to that Indian Tribe.

"(i) TRUST RESPONSIBILITY.—The Secretary may not waive or diminish in any way the trust responsibility of the United States with respect to Indian Tribes and individual Indians that exists under treaties, Executive orders, other laws, or court decisions.

"(j) DECISION MAKER.—A decision that constitutes final agency action and relates to the operation of Indian programs and conducted under subsection (c)(6)(A)(iii) may be made by—

\(c\) INABILITY TO AGREE ON COMPACT OR FUNDING AGREEMENT.

"(1) IN GENERAL.—If the Secretary and a participating Indian Tribe are unable to agree, in whole or in part, on the terms of a compact or funding agreement (including funding levels), the Indian Tribe may submit a final offer to the Secretary.

"(2) DETERMINATION.—Not more than 60 days after receipt of a final offer by one or more of the officials designated pursuant to paragraph (4), the Secretary shall review and make a determination with respect to the final offer. The 60-day period may be extended for up to 30 days for circumstances beyond the control of the Secretary, upon written request by the Secretary to the Indian Tribe.

"(3) EXTENSIONS.—The deadline described in paragraph (2) may be extended for any length of time, as agreed upon by both the Indian Tribe and the Secretary.

"(4) DESIGNATED OFFICIALS.—

``(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall designate one or more appropriate officials in the Department to receive a copy of the final offer described in paragraph (1).

``(B) NO DESIGNATION.—If no official is designated, the Director of the Office of the Executive Secretariat and Regulatory Affairs shall be the designated official.

"(5) NO TIMELY DETERMINATION.—If the Secretary fails to make a determination with respect to a final offer within the period specified in paragraph (2), including any extension agreed to under paragraph (3), the Secretary shall be deemed to have agreed to the offer, except that with respect to any compact or funding agreement provision concerning programs entered under section 403, the Secretary shall be deemed to have rejected the offer with respect to such provision and the terms of clause (ii) through (iv) of paragraphs (4)(A) shall apply.

"(6) REJECTION OF FINAL OFFER.—

``(A) IN GENERAL.—If the Secretary rejects a final offer (or one or more provisions or funding levels in a final offer), the Secretary shall—

``(i) provide timely written notification to the Indian Tribe that contains a specific finding that clearly demonstrates, or that is supported by a controlling legal authority, that—

``(II) the program is subject to the discretion of the Secretary under section 402(c);

``(III) the Indian Tribe is not eligible to participate in self-governance under section 402(c);

``(IV) the funding agreement would violate a Federal statute or treaty;

``(VI) with respect to a program or portion of a program included in a final offer pursuant to section 403(b)(2), the program or the portion of the program is not otherwise available to Indian Tribes or Indians under section 102(a)(1)(A); and

``(2) an administrative law judge.

"(e) GOOD FAITH.—In the negotiation of compacts and funding agreements, the Secretary shall act in good faith to maximize implementation of the self-governance policy.

"(f) POLICY.—The Secretary shall carry out the policy that programs carried out for the benefit of Indian Tribes and Tribal organizations under this title reduce the administrative or other responsibilities of the Secretary with respect to the operation of Indian programs and result in savings that have not otherwise been included in the amount of Tribal shares and other funds determined under section 404(c), such savings shall be made available to the Indian Tribe.

"(g) DECISION.—In the event that the Secretary makes a finding of imminent jeopardy to a trust asset, a natural resource, or public health and safety that arises out of a failure by the Indian Tribe to protect or manage a program in a manner that would not result in significant danger or risk to the public health, safety, or trust resources;

\(c\) provide technical assistance to overcome the objections stated in the notification required by clause (i);

\(i\) provide the Indian Tribe with the option of entering into or having available any future programs or funding levels included in the final offer (or one or more provisions or funding agreements entered into for programs under section 403(c)), the Secretary shall make such savings available to the Indian Tribes or Tribal organizations for the provision of additional services to program beneficiaries in a manner equitable to directly served, contracted, and compacted programs.

"(2) DISCRETIONARY PROGRAMS OF SPECIAL SIGNIFICANCE.—For any savings generated as a result of the assumption of a program by the Indian Tribe under section 403(c), such savings shall be made available to that Indian Tribe.

"(i) TRUST RESPONSIBILITY.—The Secretary may not waive or diminish in any way the trust responsibility of the United States with respect to Indian Tribes and individual Indians that exists under treaties, Executive orders, other laws, or court decisions.

"(j) DECISION MAKER.—A decision that constitutes final agency action and relates to the operation of Indian programs and conducted under subsection (c)(6)(A)(iii) may be made by—

\(c\) INABILITY TO AGREE ON COMPACT OR FUNDING AGREEMENT.

"(1) IN GENERAL.—If the Secretary and a participating Indian Tribe are unable to agree, in whole or in part, on the terms of a compact or funding agreement (including funding levels), the Indian Tribe may submit a final offer to the Secretary.

"(2) DETERMINATION.—Not more than 60 days after receipt of a final offer by one or more of the officials designated pursuant to paragraph (4), the Secretary shall review and make a determination with respect to the final offer. The 60-day period may be extended for up to 30 days for circumstances beyond the control of the Secretary, upon written request by the Secretary to the Indian Tribe.

"(3) EXTENSIONS.—The deadline described in paragraph (2) may be extended for any length of time, as agreed upon by both the Indian Tribe and the Secretary.

"(4) DESIGNATED OFFICIALS.—

``(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall designate one or more appropriate officials in the Department to receive a copy of the final offer described in paragraph (1).

``(B) NO DESIGNATION.—If no official is designated, the Director of the Office of the Executive Secretariat and Regulatory Affairs shall be the designated official.

"(5) NO TIMELY DETERMINATION.—If the Secretary fails to make a determination with respect to a final offer within the period specified in paragraph (2), including any extension agreed to under paragraph (3), the Secretary shall be deemed to have agreed to the offer, except that with respect to any compact or funding agreement provision concerning programs entered under section 403, the Secretary shall be deemed to have rejected the offer with respect to such provision and the terms of clause (ii) through (iv) of paragraphs (4)(A) shall apply.

"(6) REJECTION OF FINAL OFFER.—

``(A) IN GENERAL.—If the Secretary rejects a final offer (or one or more provisions or funding levels in a final offer), the Secretary shall—

``(i) provide timely written notification to the Indian Tribe that contains a specific finding that clearly demonstrates, or that is supported by a controlling legal authority, that—

``(II) the program is subject to the discretion of the Secretary under section 402(c);

``(III) the Indian Tribe is not eligible to participate in self-governance under section 402(c);

``(IV) the funding agreement would violate a Federal statute or treaty;

``(VI) with respect to a program or portion of a program included in a final offer pursuant to section 403(b)(2), the program or the portion of the program is not otherwise available to Indian Tribes or Indians under section 102(a)(1)(A); and

"(ii) provide the Indian Tribe with the option of entering into or having available any future programs or funding levels included in the final offer (or one or more provisions or funding agreements entered into for programs under section 403(c)), the Secretary shall make such savings available to the Indian Tribes or Tribal organizations for the provision of additional services to program beneficiaries in a manner equitable to directly served, contracted, and compacted programs.
out any construction project included in a compact or funding agreement under this title.

(b) TRIBAL OPTION TO CARRY OUT CERTAIN FEDERAL ENVIRONMENTAL ACTIVITIES.—In carrying out a construction project under this title, an Indian Tribe may, subject to the agreement of the Secretary, elect to assume certain Federal environmental regulations and responsibilities over projects that are inherent Federal functions.

(c) LAW.—Notwithstanding subsection (b), nothing in this section authorizes the Secretary to include in any compact or funding agreement duties of the Secretary under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.), the National Environmental Policy Act of 1978 (42 U.S.C. 4331 et seq.), or the National Historic Preservation Act of 1976 (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.), or any other applicable Federal law.

(d) CODES AND STANDARDS.—In carrying out a construction project under this title, an Indian Tribe shall:

(1) adhere to applicable Federal, State, local, and Tribal building codes, architectural and engineering standards, and applicable Federal guidelines regarding design, space, and operational standards, appropriate for the particular project; and

(2) use only architects and engineers—

(A) who—

(i) are licensed to practice in the State in which the facility will be built; and

(ii) they are qualified to perform the work required by the specific construction involved; and

(B) certify that—

(i) they are qualified to perform the work required by the specific construction involved; and

(ii) upon completion of design, the plans and specifications meet or exceed the applicable construction and safety codes.

(e) TRIBAL ACCOUNTABILITY.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—In carrying out a construction project under this title, an Indian Tribe shall assume responsibility for the successful completion of the construction project and of a facility that is usable for the purpose for which the Indian Tribe received funding.

(2) REQUIREMENTS.—For each construction project carried out by an Indian Tribe under this title, the Indian Tribe and the Secretary shall negotiate a provision to be included in the funding agreement that identifies—

(A) the approximate start and completion dates for the project, which may extend over a period of one or more years;

(B) a general description of the project, including the scope of work, references to design criteria, and other terms and conditions;

(C) the responsibilities of the Indian Tribe and the Secretary for the project; and

(D) how project-related environmental considerations will be addressed;

(E) the amount of funds provided for the project;

(F) the obligations of the Indian Tribe to comply with the codes referenced in subsection (d)(1) and applicable Federal laws and regulations; and

(G) the agreement of the parties over who shall bear any additional costs necessary to meet changes in scope, or errors or omissions in design and construction; and

(H) the agreement of the Secretary to issue a certificate of occupancy, if requested by the Indian Tribe, on review and verification by the Secretary, to the satisfaction of the Secretary, that the Indian Tribe has secured upon completion the required certifications and inspections, including those concerning design, life safety, and fire code compliance by qualified, licensed, and independent architects and engineers.

(D) FUNDING.—(1) IN GENERAL.—Funding appropriated for construction projects carried out under this title shall be included in funding agreements as annual or advance payments at the option of the Indian Tribe.

(2) ADVANCE PAYMENTS.—The Secretary shall provide any funds that are specifically or functionally related to the provision by the Secretary of services and benefits to the Indian Tribe and shall make such payments to the Indian Tribe in accordance with any approved funding agreement.

(E) TECHNICAL.—In this section reduces programs, services, or funds of, or provided to, another Indian Tribe.

(F) TIMING.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Subject to subsections (e) and (g), the Secretary shall provide funds to the Indian Tribe under a funding agreement for programs in an amount that is equal to the amount the Indian Tribe would have been entitled to receive under contracts and grants under this Act (including amounts for direct program or contract support costs and, in addition, any funds that are specifically or functionally related to the provision by the Secretary of services and benefits to the Indian Tribe and its members) without regard to the organizational level within the Department at which the programs are carried out.

(2) SAVINGS CLAUSE.—Nothing in this section reduces programs, services, or funds of, or provided to, another Indian Tribe.

(G) LIMITATIONS ON AUTHORITY OF THE SECRETARY.—The Secretary shall not—

(1) fail to transfer an Indian Tribe its fair share of any central, headquarters, regional, area, or service unit office or other funds due under this title for programs eligible under the preceding paragraph (1) or (2) of section 406; except as required by law;

(2) withhold any portion of such funds for transfer over a period of years; or

(3) reduce the amount of funds required under this title—

(A) to make funding available for self-governance monitoring or administration by the Secretary;

(B) in subsequent years, except as necessary as a result of—

(i) a reduction in appropriations from the previous fiscal year for the program to be included in the funding agreement; or

(ii) a congressional directive in legislation or an accompanying report;

(iii) a Tribal authorization;

(iv) a change in the amount of pass-through funds subject to the terms of the funding agreement; or

(v) completion of an activity under a program for which the funding is provided.

(C) to pay for Federal functions, including—

(i) Federal pay costs;

(ii) Federal employment retirement benefits;

(iii) automated data processing;

(iv) technical assistance; and

(v) monitoring of activities under this title.

(D) to pay for costs of Federal personnel displaced by self-determination contracts.
under this Act or self-governance under this title.

‘‘(h) FEDERAL RESOURCES.—If an Indian Tribe elects to carry out a compact or funding agreement using the Federal personnel, Federal supplies (including supplies available from Federal warehouse facilities), Federal supply sources (including lodging, air travel, and other means of transportation, including the use of interagency motor pool vehicles), or other Federal resources (including supplies, services, and resources to the Indian Tribe under this title.’’

‘‘(j) INTEREST OR OTHER INCOME.—

‘‘(1) IN GENERAL.—An Indian Tribe may retain interest or income earned on any funds paid under a compact or funding agreement to carry out governmental purposes.

‘‘(2) NO EFFECT ON OTHER AMOUNTS.—The retention of interest or income under paragraph (1) shall not increase the amount of funds transferred under the funding agreement, the Secretary shall approve or deny the requested waiver in writing to the Indian Tribe.

‘‘(k) CARRYOVER OF FUNDS.—

‘‘(1) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding any provision of an appropriations Act, all funds paid to an Indian Tribe in accordance with a compact or funding agreement shall remain available until expended.

‘‘(2) EFFECT OF CARRYOVER.—If an Indian Tribe elects to carry over funding from one year to the next, the carryover shall not diminish the amount of funds the Indian Tribe is entitled to receive under a compact or funding agreement in that fiscal year or any subsequent fiscal year.

‘‘(l) LIMITATION OF COSTS.—

‘‘(1) IN GENERAL.—An Indian Tribe shall not be obligated to continue performance that requires an expenditure of funds in excess of the amount of funds transferred under a compact or funding agreement.

‘‘(2) NOTICE OF INSUFFICIENCY.—If at any time the Indian Tribe has reason to believe that the total amount provided for a specific activity will be insufficient to carry out the activity, the Secretary shall provide reasonable notice of such insufficiency to the Secretary.

‘‘(3) EXPENSES IN PERFORMANCE.—If, after notice under paragraph (2), the Secretary does not increase the amount of funds transferred under the funding agreement, the Indian Tribe may suspend performance or funding agreement, or any portion thereof, until such time as additional funds are transferred.

‘‘(4) Effect of Carryover.—Nothing in this section reduces any programs, services, or funds of, or provided to, another Indian Tribe.

‘‘(m) DISTRIBUTION OF FUNDS.—The Office of Self-Governance shall be responsible for distribution of all Bureau of Indian Affairs funds provided under this title unless otherwise agreed by the parties to an applicable funding agreement.

‘‘(n) APPLICABILITY.—Notwithstanding any other provision of this section, section 101(a) of the PROGRESS for Indian Tribes Act applies to subsections (a) through (m).’’

SEC. 409. FACILITATION.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Except as otherwise provided in section 101(b) of the PROGRESS for Indian Tribes Act, the Secretary shall interpret each Federal law and regulation in a manner that facilitates and does not hinder the implementation of programs in funding agreements; and

(b) REGULATION WAIVER.—

‘‘(1) REQUEST.—An Indian Tribe may submit to the Secretary a written request for a waiver of applicability of a Federal regulation, including—

(A) an identification of the specific text in the regulation sought to be waived; and

(B) the basis for the request.

‘‘(2) DETERMINATION BY THE SECRETARY.—Not later than 120 days after receipt by the Secretary and the designated officials under paragraph (4) of a request under paragraph (1), the Secretary shall approve or deny the request.

‘‘(3) EXTENSIONS.—The deadline described in paragraph (2) may be extended for any length of time, as agreed upon by both the Indian Tribe and the Secretary.

‘‘(4) AGREEMENT.—The Secretary shall designate one or more appropriate officials in the Department to receive a copy of the waiver request described in paragraph (1).

‘‘(5) GROUNDS FOR DENIAL.—The Secretary may deny a request under paragraph (1) upon a specific finding by the Secretary that the identified text is not applicable, or may not be waived because such a waiver is prohibited by Federal law.

‘‘(6) FAILURE TO MAKE DETERMINATION.—If the Secretary fails to make a determination with respect to a waiver request within the period specified in paragraph (2) (including any extension agreed to under paragraph (3)), the Secretary shall be deemed to have agreed to the request, except that for a waiver request relating to programs eligible under section 402(b) or section 403(c), the Secretary shall be deemed to have denied the request.

‘‘(7) FINALITY.—A decision of the Secretary under this section shall be final for the Department.

SEC. 410. DISCRETIONARY APPLICATION OF OTHER SECTIONS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Except as otherwise provided in section 101 of the PROGRESS for Indian Tribes Act, at the option of a participating Indian Tribe, the Secretary shall determine, in consultation with Indian Tribes, whether programs administered by the Department, other than those provided by the Bureau of Indian Affairs, the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Indian Affairs, or the Office of the Special Trustee for American Indians, without regard to the Department's authority or office or agency concerned.

(b) CARRYOVER.—If an Indian Tribe elects to carry over funding from one year to the next, the carryover shall not diminish the amount of funds the Indian Tribe is entitled to receive under a compact or funding agreement in that fiscal year or any subsequent fiscal year.

(c) REPORT ON NON-BIA PROGRAMS.—

‘‘(1) IN GENERAL.—In order to optimize opportunities for including non-BIA programs in agreements with the Department, all programs participating in self-governance under this title shall be submitted to Congress, be evaluated, be made available to include in funding agreements, and be negotiated when appropriate.

‘‘(2) EFFECT.—Each incorporated provision under subsection (a) shall—

‘‘(A) be effective immediately; and

‘‘(B) control the negotiation and resulting compact or funding agreement, the incorporation shall—

‘‘(1) be effective immediately; and

‘‘(2) control the negotiation and resulting compact or funding agreement, the incorporation shall—

‘‘(3) before being submitted to Congress, be distributed to the Indian Tribe for comment with a comment period of not less than 30 days;

‘‘(4) include the separate views and comments of each Indian Tribe or Tribal organization; and

‘‘(5) include a list of—

‘‘(A) all such programs that the Secretary determines, in consultation with Indian Tribes, are eligible for negotiation to be included in a funding agreement at the request of a participating Indian Tribe; and

‘‘(B) all such programs which Indian Tribes have formally requested to include in a funding agreement under section 403(c) due to the special geographic, historical, or cultural significance of the program to the Indian Tribe, indicating whether each request was granted or denied, and stating the grounds for any denial;

‘‘(6) REPORT ON NON-BIA PROGRAMS.—

‘‘(1) IN GENERAL.—In order to optimize opportunities for including non-BIA programs in agreements with the Department, all programs participating in self-governance under this title shall be submitted to Congress, be evaluated, be made available to include in funding agreements, and be negotiated when appropriate.

‘‘(2) EFFECT.—If the Secretary fails to make a determination with respect to a waiver request within the period specified in paragraph (2) (including any extension agreed to under paragraph (3)), the Secretary shall be deemed to have agreed to the request, except that for a waiver request relating to programs eligible under section 402(b) or section 403(c), the Secretary shall be deemed to have denied the request.

‘‘(3) FINALITY.—A decision of the Secretary under this section shall be final for the Department.

SEC. 411. ANNUAL BUDGET LIST.

The Secretary shall list, in the annual budget request submitted to Congress under section 403, United States Code, any funds proposed to be included in funding agreements authorized under this title.
eligible for contracting in the original list published in the Federal Register in 1995, except for programs specifically determined not to be contractible as a matter of law.

“(d) interpretive circulars.—Not later than January 1, 2020, the Secretary shall, in consultation with Indian Tribes, develop a funding formula to determine the proportion of Federal funds controlled by the Secretary to be allocated to Tribal self-governance and the Office of the Special Trustee for inclusion in the compacts. SEC. 301. REGULATIONS.

“(a) IN GENERAL.—

“(1) PROMULGATION.—Not later than 90 days after the date of enactment of the PROGRESS for Indian Tribes Act, the Secretary shall promulgate regulations under section 403(c) of this title. The regulations promulgated by the Secretary pursuant to Federal law, subject to the condition that, except as provided in section 106(a)(3), no contract entered into under title I (or grant of cooperative agreement used under section 9) shall be—

“(1) considered to be a procurement contract; or

“(2) except as provided in section 107(a)(1), subject to any Federal procurement law (including any conflicting regulations).”

“(d) EFFECT.—

“(1) REFRAIL.—The Secretary may repeal any regulation that is inconsistent with this Act.

“(2) CONFLICTING PROVISIONS.—Subject to section 101(a) of the PROGRESS for Indian Tribal Funds Act, the Secretary, with respect to programs described under section 403(c), this title shall supersede any conflicting provision of law (including any conflicting regulations).

“(3) EFFECTIVENESS WITHOUT REGARD TO REGULATIONS.—The lack of promulgated regulations on an issue shall not limit the effect or implementation of this title.

SEC. 414. EFFECT OF CIRCULARS, POLICIES, MANUALS, GUIDANCE, AND RULES.

“Unless expressly agreed to by a participating Indian Tribe in a compact or funding agreement, the participating Indian Tribe shall not be subject to any agency circular, policy, manual, guidance, or rule adopted by the Department, except for—

“(1) the eligibility provisions of section 105(g); and

“(2) regulations promulgated pursuant to section 415.

SEC. 415. APPEALS.

“As excepted in section 406(d), in any administrative action, appeal, or civil action, judicial review of any decision made by the Secretary under this title, the Secretary shall have the burden of proof of demonstrating by a preponderance of the evidence—

“(1) the validity of the grounds for the decision; and

“(2) the consistency of the decision with the requirements and policies of this title.

SEC. 416. APPLICATION OF OTHER PROVISIONS.


SEC. 417. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

“Subsection (a) of section 4 of the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act (25 U.S.C. 5304) is amended by striking subsection (j) and inserting the following:

“(j) ‘self-determination contract’ means a contract entered into under title I (or a grant or cooperative agreement used under section 9) between a Tribal organization and the appropriate Secretary for the planning, conduct, and administration of programs or services that are otherwise provided to Indian Tribal organizations and Indian Tribal governments and that is submitted to the Secretary under section 106(a)(3); and

“(k) ‘Indian Tribe’ means—

“(1) a Tribal organization;

“(2) any entity that is eligible for funding under section 406; or

“(3) any Indian Tribal organization that entered into a contract, or grant of cooperative agreement, with the Secretary prior to January 1, 1995, under the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act (25 U.S.C. 5301 et seq.).

SEC. 102. CONTRACTS BY SECRETARY OF THE IN-

“TITLE II—INDIAN SELF-DETERMINATION

“SEC. 201. DEFINITIONS, REPORTING AND AUDIT REQUIREMENTS; APPLICATION OF PROVISIONS.

“(a) DEFINITIONS.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—

“(A) the purposes specified in section 3; and

“(B) the PROGRESS for Indian Tribes Act.

“(g) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Subject to section 101(a) of the PROGRESS for Indian Tribal Funds Act, each provision of this Act and each provision of a contract or funding agreement shall be liberally construed for the benefit of the Indian Tribe participating in self-determination, and any ambiguity shall be resolved in favor of the Indian Tribe.

SEC. 203. ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS.

“Subsection (b) of section 4 of the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act (25 U.S.C. 5324) is amended—

“(1) in subsection (b), in the first sentence, by striking ‘pursuant to’ and all that follows through ‘of this Act’ and inserting ‘pursuant to sections 102 and 103’; and

“(2) by adding at the end the following:

“(q) TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE FOR INDIAN TRIBES.—In considering proposals for, and in the course of, a contract under this title and compacts under titles IV and V of this Act, the Secretary shall—

“(1) the inclusion in self-determination contracts and funding agreements of—

“(A) applicable programs, services, functions, and activities (or portions thereof); and

“(B) funds associated with those programs, services, functions, and activities;

“(2) the implementation of self-determination contracts and funding agreements; and

“(3) the achievement of Tribal health objectives.

“(q)(1) TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE FOR INTERNAL CONTROLS.—In considering proposals for, and in the course of, a contract under this title and compacts under titles IV and V of this Act, the Secretary shall—

“(1) the Indian Tribe lacks adequate internal controls necessary to manage the contracted program or programs, the Secretary shall, as soon as practicable, provide the necessary technical assistance to assist the Indian Tribe in developing adequate internal controls. As part of that technical assistance, the Secretary and the Tribe shall develop a plan for assessing the subsequent effectiveness of such technical assistance. The inability of the Secretary to provide technical assistance or lack of a plan under this subsection shall not result in the re- assumption of an existing agreement, contract, or compact, or declaration or rejection of a new agreement, contract, or compact.

“(2) the Secretary shall prepare a report to be included in the final report required for the reports under sections 412(b)(2)(A) and 514(b)(2)(A). The Secretary shall include in this report, in the aggregate, a description of the extent to which the Secretary is inad- equate, the technical assistance provided, and a description of Secretarial actions.
Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-
tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Native American Busi-
ness Incubators Program Act”.

SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

Congress finds that—

(1) entrepreneurs face specific challenges when trans-
forming ideas into profitable business enterprises;

(2) entrepreneurs that want to provide products and ser-
VICES in reservation communities face an additional set of chal-
Lenges that require special knowledge;

(3) a business incubator is an organization that assists entrepre-
neurs in navigating obstacles that prevent innovative ideas from becom-
ing viable businesses by providing services that include—

(A) workspace and facilities resources;

(B) access to capital, business education, and counseling;

(C) networking opportunities; and

(D) mentorship opportunities; and

(4) the Indian Self-Determination and Edu-
cation Assistance Act (25 U.S.C. 5304) is intended to help estab-
Lish and expand opportunities for Native American enter-
preneurial communities to be served by the business incu-
Bators.

SEC. 3. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(A) “business incubator” means an organization that—

(i) provides physical workspace and facili-
ties to Native businesses and Native entre-
preneurs to collaborate and conduct busi-
ness on a local, regional, national, and inter-
national level; and

(ii) will commit to serving 1 or more res-
ervation communities;

(B) be able to provide the physical work-
space, equipment, and connectivity nec-
essary for Native businesses and Native en-
trepreneurs to collaborate and conduct busi-
ness on a local, regional, national, and inter-
national level; and

(C) in the case of an entity described in clause (ii) through (iv) of subparagraph (A), have been operational for not less than 1 year before receiving a grant under the pro-
gram;

(2) joint project—

(A) in general.—Two or more entities may submit a joint application for a project that combines the resources and expertise of those entities at a physical location dedicated to assisting Native businesses and Native entre-
preneurs under the program.

(B) contents.—A joint application sub-
mitted under subparagraph (A) shall—

(i) contain a certification that each partic-
ipant of the joint project is one of the eligi-
ble entities described in paragraph (1)(A); and

(ii) demonstrate that together the partici-
pants meet the requirements of subparagraphs (B) and (C) of paragraph (1).

(C) application and selection process.—

(1) application requirements.—Each eligi-
ble applicant desiring a grant under the program shall submit to the Sec-
retary an application at such time, in such manner, and contain-
ing such information as the Secretary may require, including—

(A) a certification of the applicant that—

(i) is an eligible applicant;

(ii) will designate an executive director or program manager, if such director or man-
ager has not been designated, to manage the business incubator; and

(iii) agrees—

(I) to a site evaluation by the Secretary as part of the final selection process; and

(II) to an annual programmatic and finan-
cial examination for the duration of the grant; and

(iv) to the maximum extent practicable, to remedy any problems identified pursuant to the site evaluation under subclause (I) or an examination under subclause (II);

(v) to provide a description of the 1 or more reserva-
tion communities to be served by the busi-
ness incubator; and

S. 294

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Rep-
resentatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,
(C) Non-Federal contributions for renewals.—An eligible applicant that receives a grant renewal under subparagraph (A) shall provide non-Federal contributions in an amount equal to not less than 25 percent of the total amount of the grant.

(5) No duplicative grants.—An eligible applicant shall not be awarded a grant under this program if the grant is duplicative of existing Federal funding from another source.

(e) Program requirements.—

(1) Use of funds.—An eligible applicant receiving a grant under the program may use grant amounts—

(A) to provide physical workspace and facilities for Native businesses and Native entrepreneurs participating in the business incubator;

(B) to establish partnerships with other institutions and entities to provide comprehensive business incubation services to Native businesses and Native entrepreneurs participating in the business incubator;

(C) for any other uses typically associated with business incubators that the Secretary determines to be appropriate and consistent with the purposes of the program.

(2) Minimum requirements.—An eligible applicant receiving a grant under the program shall—

(A) offer culturally tailored incubation services to Native businesses and Native entrepreneurs;

(B) use a competitive process for selecting Native businesses and Native entrepreneurs to participate in the business incubator;

(C) provide physical facilities and services to Native businesses and Native entrepreneurs that permit Native businesses and Native entrepreneurs to conduct business and collaborate with other Native businesses and Native entrepreneurs;

(D) provide entrepreneurship and business skills training and education to Native businesses and Native entrepreneurs including—

(i) financial education, including training and counseling in—

(I) applying for and securing business credit and investment capital;

(II) preparing and presenting financial statements; and

(III) managing cash flow and other financial operations of a business;

(ii) management education, including training and counseling in—

(I) identifying and segmenting domestic and international market opportunities;

(II) preparing and executing marketing plans;

(III) locating contract opportunities;

(IV) negotiating contracts; and

(V) using varying public relations and advertising techniques;

(E) provide direct mentorship or assistance finding mentors in the industry in which the Native business or Native entrepreneur operates or intends to operate; and

(F) provide access to networks of potential investors, professionals in the same or similar fields, and other business owners with similar businesses.

(3) Technology.—An eligible applicant shall leverage technology to the maximum extent practicable to provide Native businesses and Native entrepreneurs with access to the connectivity tools needed to compete and thrive in 21st-century markets.

(f) Oversight.—

(1) Annual evaluations.—Not later than 1 year after the date on which the Secretary awards a grant to an eligible applicant under the program, and annually thereafter for the duration of the grant, the Secretary shall
conduct an evaluation of, and prepare a report on, the eligible applicant, which shall—
(A) describe the performance of the eligible applicant; and
(B) include in determining the ongoing eligibility of the eligible applicant.

(2) ANNUAL REPORT.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after the Secretary awards a grant to an eligible applicant under the program, and annually thereafter for the duration of the grant, each eligible applicant receiving funds under the program shall submit to the Secretary a report describing the services the eligible applicant provided under the program during the preceding year.

(B) REPORT CONTENT.—The report described in subparagraph (A) shall include—

(i) a detailed breakdown of the Native businesses and Native entrepreneurs receiving services from the business incubator, including, for the year covered by the report—

(I) the number of Native businesses and Native entrepreneurs participating in or receiving services from the business incubator and the types of services provided to those Native businesses and Native entrepreneurs;

(II) the number of Native businesses and Native entrepreneurs established and jobs created or maintained; and

(III) the performance of Native businesses and Native entrepreneurs while participating in the business incubator and after graduation or departure from the business incubator; and

(ii) any other information the Secretary may require to evaluate the performance of a business incubator to ensure appropriate implementation of the program.

(C) TO THE MAXIMUM EXTENT PRACTICABLE.—To the maximum extent practicable, the Secretary shall not require an eligible applicant to report under subparagraph (A) information provided to the Secretary by the eligible applicant under other programs.

(D) COORDINATION.—The Secretary shall coordinate with the heads of other Federal agencies to ensure that, to the maximum extent practicable, the report content and form under subparagraphs (A) and (B) are consistent with other reporting requirements for Federal programs that provide business and entrepreneurial assistance.

(3) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 2 years after the date on which the Secretary first awards funding under the program, and biennially thereafter, the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Indian Affairs of the Senate and the Committee on Natural Resources of the House of Representatives a report on the performance and effectiveness of the program.

(B) CONTENTS.—Each report submitted under subparagraph (A) shall—

(i) account for each program year; and

(ii) include with respect to each business incubator receiving grant funds under the program—

(I) the number of Native businesses and Native entrepreneurs that received business incubation services; and

(II) the number of businesses established with the assistance of the business incubator;

(III) the number of jobs established or maintained by Native businesses and Native entrepreneurs receiving business incubation services, including a description of where the jobs are located with respect to reservation communities;

(IV) to the maximum extent practicable, the amount of capital investment and loan financing provided by Native businesses and Native entrepreneurs receiving business incubation services; and

(V) an evaluation of the overall performance of the business incubator.

SEC. 5. REGULATIONS.

Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall promulgate regulations to implement the program.

SEC. 6. SCHOOLS TO BUSINESS INCUBATOR PIPELINE.

The Secretary shall facilitate the establishment of relationships between eligible applicants receiving funds through the program and educational institutions serving Native American communities, including tribal colleges and universities.

SEC. 7. AGENCY PARTNERSHIPS.

The Secretary shall coordinate with the Secretary of Commerce, the Secretary of the Treasury, and the Administrator of the Small Business Administration to ensure, to the maximum extent practicable, that business incubators receiving grant funds under the program have the information and materials needed to provide Native businesses and Native entrepreneurs with the information and assistance necessary to apply for business and entrepreneurial development programs administered by the Department of Agriculture, the Department of Commerce, the Department of the Treasury, and the Small Business Administration.

SEC. 8. AUTHORIZATIONS OF APPROPRIATIONS.

There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out the program $5,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2020 through 2024.

S. 257

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 ‘‘Tribal HUD-VASH Act of 2019’’.

SEC. 2. RENTAL ASSISTANCE FOR HOMELESS OR AT-RISK INDIAN VETERANS.

Section 801(19) of the United States Housing Act of 1937 (42 U.S.C. 1437f(o)(19)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

(‘‘D) INDIAN VETERANS HOUSING RENTAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM.—

(I) DEFINITIONS.—In this subparagraph:

(I) VETERAN.—The term ‘‘Indian veteran’’ means an Indian veteran who—

(aa) homeless or at risk of homelessness; and

(bb) living—

(AA) on or near a reservation; or

(BB) in or near any other Indian area.


(III) INDIAN; INDIAN AREA.—The terms ‘‘Indian’’ and ‘‘Indian area’’ have the meanings given those terms in section 4 of the Native American Housing Assistance and Self-Determination Act of 1996 (25 U.S.C. 411).

(IV) INDIAN VETERAN.—The term ‘‘Indian veterans’’ means an Indian who is a veteran.

(V) PROGRAM.—The term ‘‘Program’’ means the Tribal HUD–VASH program carried out under clause (i).

(VI) TRIBAL ORGANIZATION.—The term ‘‘tribal organization’’ has the meaning given the term in section 4 of the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act (25 U.S.C. 3306).

(VII) POINT OF SERVICES.—The Secretary shall use not less than 5 percent of the amounts made available for rental assistance under this paragraph to carry out a demonstration, beginning not later than 2 years after the enactment of this program, to be known as the ‘‘Tribal HUD–VASH program’’, in conjunction with the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, by awarding grants for the benefit of eligible Indian veterans.

(VIII) MODEL.—

(I) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in subclause (III), the Secretary shall model the Program on the rental assistance and supported housing program authorized under subparagraph (A) and applicable modifications, including its con- junction with the Secretary of Veterans Af-

(II) EXCEPTIONS.—

(aa) SECRETARY OF HOUSING AND URBAN DE-

velopment.—After consultation with Indian tribes, eligible recipients, and any other appropriate tribal organizations, the Secretary may make necessary and appropriate modi- fications to facilitate the use of the Program by eligible recipients to serve eligible Indian veterans.

(bb) SECRETARY OF VETERANS AFFAIRS.—

After consultation with Indian tribes, eligible recipients, and any other appropriate tribal organizations, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs may make necessary and appropriate modifications to facilitate the use of the Program by eligible recipients to serve eligible Indian veterans.

(IX) ELIGIBLE RECIPIENTS.—The Secretary shall make amounts for rental assistance and associated administrative costs under this Program available in the form of grants to eligible recipients.

(X) FUNDING CRITERIA.—The Secretary shall award grants under the Program based on—

(I) need;

(II) administrative capacity; and

(III) any other funding criteria estab- lished by the Secretary in a notice published in the Federal Register after consulting with the Secretary of Veterans Affairs.

(XI) ADMINISTRATION.—The Indian Housing and Community Development Act of 1990 (25 U.S.C. 401 et seq.), except that recipients shall—

(I) submit to the Secretary, in a manner prescribed by the Secretary, reports on the utilization of rental assistance provided under the Program; and

(II) provide to the Secretary information specified by the Secretary to assess the effec-

tiveness of the Program in serving eligible Indian veterans.

(XII) CONSULTATION.—

(A) GRANT RECIPIENTS; TRIBAL ORGANIZATIONS.—The Secretary, in coordination with the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, shall consult with eligible recipients and any appropriate tribal organizations that receive grants under the Program to ensure the effective delivery of rental assistance and supportive services to eligible Indian veterans under the Program.

(B) INDIAN HEALTH SERVICE.—The Director of the Indian Health Service shall provide any assistance requested by the Secretary or the Secretary of Veterans Affairs in carrying out the Program.

(XIII) WAIVER.—

(I) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in subclause (II), the Secretary may waive or specify alternative requirements for any provision of law (including regulations) that the Secretary administers in connection with the use of rental assistance made available under the Program if the Secretary finds that the waiver or alternative requirement is necessary for the effective delivery and ad- ministration of rental assistance under the Program to eligible Indian veterans.

(II) EXCEPTION.—The Secretary may not waive or specify alternative requirements for any provision of law (including regulations) relating to labor standards or the environment.
(ix) **RENEWAL GRANTS.**—The Secretary may—

(I) set aside, from amounts made available for tenant-based rental assistance under this subchapter without regard to the amounts used for new grants under clause (ii), such amounts as may be necessary to award renewal grants to eligible recipients that received grants under the Program in a previous year; and

(II) specify criteria that an eligible recipient must satisfy to receive a renewal grant under section 13(e)(1), including providing data on how the eligible recipient used the amounts of any grant previously received under the Program.

(a) Reporting.

(I) **IN GENERAL.**—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of the Tribal HUD-VASH Act of 2019, and every 5 years thereafter, the Secretary, in coordination with the Secretary of Veterans Affairs and the Director of the Indian Health Service, shall—

(aa) conduct a review of the implementation of the Program, including any factors that may have limited its success; and

(bb) submit a report describing the results of item (aa) to—

(AA) the Committee on Indian Affairs, the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs, the Committee on Veterans’ Affairs, and the Subcommittee on Appropriations of the Senate; and

(BB) the Committee on Indian, Insular and Alaska Native Affairs of the Committee on Natural Resources, the Committee on Financial Services, the Committee on Veterans’ Affairs, and the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives.

(b) **ANALYSIS OF HOUSING STOCK LIMITATION.**—The Secretary shall include in the initial report submitted under clause (I) a description of—

(aa) any Agency regulations governing the use of formula current assisted stock (as defined in section 1000.314 of title 24, Code of Federal Regulations (or any successor regulation)) within the Program.

(bb) the number of recipients of grants under the Program that have reported the regulations described in item (aa) as a barrier to implementation of the Program; and

(cc) proposed alternative legislation or regulations developed by the Secretary in consultation with the Elected Officials of grantee jurisdictions under the Program to allow the use of formula current assisted stock within the Program.

S. 216

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 “Spokane Tribe of Indians of the Spokane Reservation Equitable Compensation Act”.

SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

Congress finds that—

(1) from 1927 to 1931, at the direction of Congress, the Corps of Engineers investigatated the Columbia River and its tributaries to determine sites at which power could be developed at low cost;

(2) under section 10(e) of the Federal Power Act (16 U.S.C. 803(e)), when licenses are issued involving tribal land within an Indian reservation, the Corps of Engineers shall be fixed for the use of the land, subject to the approval of the Indian tribe having jurisdiction over the land;

(3) the Spokane Tribe of Indians of the Spokane Reservation, a tribe recognized by the United States, has been a beneficiary of such investigations and studies; and

(4) during the years 1951 and 1952, the Columbia Basin Commission, an agency of the State of Washington, received a preliminary permit from the Federal Power Commission for water power production on the upper Columbia River, including the proposed Grand Coulee site.

SEC. 3. PURPOSE.

The purpose of this Act is to provide for and equitable compensation to the Spokane Tribe for the use of the land of the Spokane Tribe for the generation of hydropower by the Grand Coulee Dam.

SEC. 4. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) **ADMINISTRATOR.**—The term “Administrator” means the Administrator of the Bonneville Power Administration or the head of any successor agency, corporation, or entity that markets power produced at Grand Coulee Dam

(2) **COLVILLE SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT.**—The term “Colville Settlement Agreement” means the Settlement Agreement entered into between the United States and the Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation on March 1, 1964, under the Indian Claims Commission Act (60 Stat. 965; 25 U.S.C. 701 et seq.), Congress ratified the Colville Settlement Agreement, which required—

(A) for past use of the Colville Tribes, a payment of $53,000,000; and

(B) for continued use of the land of the Colville Tribes, annual payments of $15,250,000, adjusted annually based on revenues from the sale of electric power from the Grand Coulee Dam project and transmission of that power by the Bonneville Power Administration.

(3) **SPokane BUSINESS COUNCIL.**—The term “Spokane Tribe” means the Spokane Tribe of Indians of the Spokane Reservation, Washington.

SEC. 5. PAYMENTS BY ADMINISTRATOR.

(a) **INITIAL PAYMENT.**—On March 1, 2022, the Administrator shall pay to the Spokane Tribe an amount equal to 25 percent of the Computed Annual Payment for fiscal year 2022.

(b) **SUBSEQUENT PAYMENTS.**—

(I) **IN GENERAL.**—Not later than March 1, 2023, and March 1 of each year thereafter through March 1, 2029, the Administrator shall pay the Spokane Tribe an amount equal to 25 percent of the Computed Annual Payment for the preceding fiscal year.

(II) **AMOUNT TO BE PAID.**—Not later than March 1, 2022, the Secretary shall determine the amount to be paid to the Spokane Tribe for the preceding fiscal year.

(3) **TREATMENT AFTER AMOUNTS ARE PAID.**

(a) **USE OF PAYMENTS.**—Payments made to the Spokane Business Council or Spokane Tribe under section 5 may be used or invested by the Spokane Business Council in

SEC. 6. TREATMENT AFTER AMOUNTS ARE PAID.
the same manner and for the same purposes as other Spokane Tribe governmental amounts.

(b) No Trust Responsibility of the Secretary.—The Administrator shall have any trust responsibility for the investment, supervision, administration, or expenditure of any amounts after the date on which the funds are paid to the Spokane Business Council or Spokane Tribe under section 5.

(c) Treatment of Funds for Certain Purposes.—The Secretary, or the Administrator as required under section 5 of the Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe of Michigan Distribution of Judgment Funds Act (100 Stat. 677).

(d) Pro Rata to All Other Amounts.—Upon calculation, the amounts shall—

(1) be distributed pro rata to all other interest payments made under section 5; and

(2) be subject to an annual tribal government audit.

SEC. 7. REIMBURSEMENT CREDIT.

(a) In General.—The Administrator shall deduct from the interest payable to the Secretary of the Treasury from net proceeds (as defined in section 13 of the Federal Columbia River Transmission System Act (18 U.S.C. 885b))

(1) in fiscal year 2030, $2,700,000; and

(2) in each subsequent fiscal year in which the Administrator makes a payment under section 5, $2,700,000.

(b) Crediting.—

(I) In General.—Except as provided in paragraphs (2) and (3), each deduction made under this section for the fiscal year shall be—

(A) a credit to the interest payments otherwise payable by the Administrator to the Secretary of the Treasury during the fiscal year in which the deduction is made; and

(B) allocated pro rata to all other interest payments on debt associated with the generation function of the Federal Columbia River Power System that are due during the fiscal year.

(2) Deduction Greater Than Amount of Interest.—If, in an applicable fiscal year under paragraph (1), the deduction is greater than the amount of interest due on debt associated with the generation function of the fiscal year, the amount of the deduction that exceeds the interest due on debt associated with the generation function shall be allocated pro rata to all other interest payments due during the fiscal year.

(c) Credit.—To the extent that a deduction exceeds the total amount of interest described in paragraphs (1) and (2), the deduction shall be applied as a credit against any other payments that the Administrator makes to the Secretary of the Treasury.

SEC. 8. EXTINGUISHMENT OF CLAIMS.

On the date that payment under section 5(a) is made to the Spokane Tribe, all monetary claims that the Spokane Tribe has or may have against the United States to a fair share of the annual hydropower revenues generated by the Grand Coulee Dam project for the past and continued use of land of the Spokane Tribe for the production of hydropower by the Grand Coulee Dam shall be extinguished.

SEC. 9. ADMINISTRATION.

Nothing in this Act establishes any precedent or is binding on the Senate of the Northwest Power Administration, Western Area Power Administration, or Southeastern Power Administration.
The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

NATIONAL POST-TRAUMATIC STRESS AWARENESS MONTH AND NATIONAL POST-TRAUMATIC STRESS AWARENESS DAY

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Judiciary Committee be discharged from further consideration and the Senate now proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 220.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The bill clerk reads as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 220) designating the month of June 2019 as “National Post-Traumatic Stress Awareness Month” and June 27, 2019, as “National Post-Traumatic Stress Awareness Day.”

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolution (S. Res. 220) was agreed to.

The day, July 8, and that following the pro forma session, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 220.

ORDERS FOR FRIDAY, JUNE 28 THROUGH MONDAY, JULY 8, 2019

Mr. MCCONNELL. Now Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it recess until 5 a.m., Friday, June 28; further, that following the prayer and pledge, the Senate resume consideration of the Udall amendment No. 883 under the previous order; further, that following disposition of the Udall amendment, 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: Tuesday, July 2, at 4:45 p.m.; Friday, July 5, at 11:45 a.m.

I further ask unanimous consent that when the Senate adjourns on Friday, July 5, it next convene at 3 p.m., Monday, July 8, and that following the prayer and pledge, the morning hour be deemed expired, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day, morning business be closed, and the Senate proceed to executive session and resume consideration of the Bress nomination; finally, that notwithstanding the provisions of rule XXII, the cloture motions filed during this session on S. Res. 220 ripen at 5:30 p.m., Monday, July 8.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

RECESS UNTIL 5 A.M. TOMORROW

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, if there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask unanimous consent that it stand in recess under the previous order.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 7:30 p.m., recessed until Friday, June 28, 2019, at 5 a.m.

CONFIRMATIONS

Executive nominations confirmed by the Senate June 27, 2019:

PRIVACY AND CIVIL LIBERTIES OVERSIGHT BOARD

ADITYA BAMEAL, of Virginia, to be a Member of the Privacy and Civil Liberties Oversight Board for the remainder of the term expiring January 29, 2023.

TRAVIS LEBLANC, of Maryland, to be a Member of the Privacy and Civil Liberties Oversight Board for a term expiring January 29, 2022.

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

VERONICA DABBLE, of Virginia, to be an Assistant Secretary of Defense.

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

LANCE SENATOR, of New York, to be Director of the Advanced Research Projects Agency-Energy.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE


DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY

Advisory Council on Historic Preservation


DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY

Christopher Scoleri, of New York, to be Director of the National Reconnaissance Office.

IN THE NAVY

The following named Officer for Appointment in the United States Navy Reserve to the Grade indicated under Title 10, U.S.C., Section 12203:

To be rear admiral (lower half)

BRAK ADM. (LH) GENES F. PRICE

The following named Officer for Appointment in the United States Navy Reserve to the Grade indicated under Title 10, U.S.C., Section 12203:

To be rear admiral (lower half)

BRAK ADM. (LH) SHAWN E. DUAR

BRAK ADM. (LH) JOHN R. MUSTIN

BRAK ADM. (LH) JOHN A. SCHEMMER

The following named Officer for Appointment in the United States Navy Reserve to the Grade indicated under Title 10, U.S.C., Section 12203:

To be rear admiral (lower half)

BRAK ADM. (LH) ALAN J. BEYIS

The following named Officer for Appointment in the United States Navy Reserve to the Grade indicated under Title 10, U.S.C., Section 12203:

To be rear admiral (lower half)

BRAK ADM. (LH) TROY M. MCCOLLAND

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 661:

To be lieutenant general

MAJ. GEN. CHARLES A. FLYNN

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 661:

To be vice admiral

BRAK ADM RICKY L. WILLIAMSON

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 661:

To be a brigadier general

COL. ARTHUR P. WUNDER

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 661:

To be a brigadier general

COL. WILLIAM G. GREEN, JR.
NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON MAY 13, 2019.

ARMY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH CHRISTIAN M. BLACKMAN AND ENDING WITH ABIGAIL M. YABLONSKY, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON MAY 13, 2019.

NAVY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH BRIAN J. HILLS, JR. AND ENDING WITH SYLVANIE W. WONG, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON MAY 13, 2019.

NAVY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH VIRGINIA S. BLACKMORE AND ENDING WITH MIAMI J. ZHOU, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON MAY 13, 2019.

NAVY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH WILLIAM L. RUBIN D. ACOSTA AND ENDING WITH LUIKE A. ZARROCKI, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON MAY 13, 2019.

NAVY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH DAVID L. BELL, JR. AND ENDING WITH HAROLD B. SALTZ, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON MAY 13, 2019.

NAVY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH MICHAEL R. BUTLER AND ENDING WITH OMAR E. TORIAS, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON MAY 13, 2019.


NAVY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH JEREMY T. CASELLA AND ENDING WITH JOSEPH M. ZACK, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON MAY 13, 2019.
Zahumensky, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on May 13, 2019.

Navy nominations beginning with Scott A. Higgins and ending with Peihua Ku, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on May 13, 2019.

Navy nominations beginning with Nathaniel A. Bailey and ending with Leonard N. Walker IV, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on May 13, 2019.

Navy nominations beginning with David K. Boylan and ending with Ned L. Swanston, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on May 13, 2019.

Navy nominations beginning with Conofrio P. Margioni and ending with Kurt D. Williams, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on May 13, 2019.

Navy nominations beginning with Andrew M. Cook and ending with Deniz M. Piskin, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on May 13, 2019.

Navy nomination of Christina M. Allee, to be captain.

Navy nomination of David A. Schubkegel, to be captain.

Navy nomination of Jon B. Voigtlander, to be captain.

Navy nominations beginning with Rebecca R. Johnson and ending with Robert S. Thoms, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on May 13, 2019.

Navy nominations beginning with Matthew A. Buch and ending with Troy J. Sherrill, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on May 13, 2019.

Navy nomination of Merger D. Chappell, to be captain.

Navy nomination of Ryan D. Scully, to be lieutenant commander.

Navy nomination of Brandon T. Bridges, to be lieutenant commander.

Navy nomination of Mark S. Javate, to be lieutenant commander.

Navy nomination of Chandler W. Jones, to be lieutenant commander.

Navy nomination of Justin R. Taylor, to be lieutenant commander.

Navy nominations beginning with Rebekah R. MacKinnon and ending with George S. Zintak, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on May 23, 2019.

Navy nominations beginning with Albert E. Arkan and ending with George S. Zintak, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on May 23, 2019.

Navy nominations beginning with Becky L. Bujaki and ending with Nicholas T. Walker, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on May 23, 2019.

Navy nominations beginning with Robert W. Boase and ending with Walter J. Zaff III, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on May 23, 2019.

Navy nominations beginning with Andrew M. Cook and ending with Deniz M. Piskin, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on May 23, 2019.

Navy nominations beginning with Andrew M. Cook and ending with Deniz M. Piskin, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on May 23, 2019.

Navy nominations beginning with Anthony J. Smola, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on May 23, 2019.

Navy nominations beginning with Hannah L. Bealon and ending with Billy W. Young, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on May 23, 2019.

Navy nominations beginning with Bhikili L. Adamovich and ending with Chelsea L. Zwicker, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on May 23, 2019.

Navy nominations beginning with John I. Aktinson and ending with Georgios S. Zintak, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on May 23, 2019.

Navy nominations beginning with John I. Aktinson and ending with Georgios S. Zintak, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on May 23, 2019.

Navy nominations beginning with Matthew A. Buch and ending with Troy J. Sherrill, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on June 5, 2019.
RECOGNIZING ELLEN CRAIN OF BUTTE
HON. GREG GIANFORTE
OF MONTANA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, June 27, 2019

Mr. GIANFORTE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Ellen Crain of Butte for her 29 years of service as the Director of the Butte-Silver Bow Public Archives and for transforming the public archives into a renowned source of research and community pride.

Ellen, a native of Butte, began her work as director of the archives in 1990. She immediately set out to acquire additional collections of historical documents, maps, books, and articles. Outgrowing their current location, the old Butte Fire Station No. 1, Ellen led an expansion project in 2007. Butte-Silver Bow voters overwhelmingly supported her efforts and passed a $7.5 million bond for the archives.

The project included the renovation of the historic fire department station that had been home to the archives since 1981, and an expansion of two archival vaults and a community meeting space.

Under Ellen’s leadership, the Butte-Silver Bow Public Archives has become a recognized source for research. Approximately 5,000 academic and family historians visit each year from all over the world. The community room is a busy place with bi-weekly brown bag lunches attracting large audiences and well-known speakers. Outreach efforts include workshops on preserving family archives and connecting with various ethnic populations in the community.

“Butte has had such a historic impact” said Ellen. “Much of the copper that electrified the country came from Butte. Hand-in-hand with that is the historic contributions to organized labor from a diverse ethnic population. It is such an honor for me and my staff to represent Butte. We are always uncovering new ways to look at old stories.”

Madam Speaker, for her leadership and dedication to preserving Montana’s historic impact on the country and the world, I recognize Ellen Crain for her spirit of Montana.

IN HONOR OF NATIONAL SUNGLASSES DAY
HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS
OF TEXAS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, June 27, 2019

Mr. BURGESS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize National Sunglasses Day and the importance of eye protection in the summer and throughout the year.

Unprotected exposure to UV rays may lead to serious vision problems including short-term issues such as sensitivity to light, trouble seeing, sunburn of the eyes or eyelids, irritated eyes, and red or swollen eyes—in addition to serious long-term issues. Thankfully, this damage can be prevented. Manufacturers and suppliers in Texas and around the country that provide sunglasses with UVA/UVB protective lenses are helping to equip Americans to protect their eyes.

In the case of eye care, prevention through protection is critical. As a physician, I commend the Vision Council for its work to educate Americans on the importance of healthy vision. On National Sunglasses Day, we are reminded that everyone can take easy steps to protect our eyes.

INTERNATIONAL MOTOR SPORTS ASSOCIATION (IMSA)
HON. MICHAEL WALTZ
OF FLORIDA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, June 27, 2019

Mr. WALTZ. Madam Speaker, since the 1940s, Daytona Beach has been the premiere destination for auto racing. Fifty years ago, Bill France, Sr. and John and Peggy Bishop laid a foundation that today supports one of the most prominent auto racing organizations in the world—the International Motor Sports Association. What began as a sanctioning body for a Formula Ford and Formula Vee race at Pocono Raceway has grown to become an international powerhouse specializing in world-class sports car competition.

This year, IMSA, based in Daytona Beach, turns 50. It comes from humble beginnings. The IMSA started as a race with fewer than 300 attendees has expanded by leaps and bounds over the last 50 years now boasts some of the largest attendance numbers in its history.

Here in my district, we understand the excitement and the benefits of our racing. IMSA has been an important piece of our community, debuting its Grand-Am road racing circuit in 2000 at Daytona.

This year, the IMSA will lead seven motorsports platforms and deliver live coverage to racing fans all over the world. It’s an honor to recognize the IMSA and their contributions to our district and the racing community. I’d like to congratulate them on 50 years worth being proud of. Here’s to many more.

IN SUPPORT OF THE SHERRILL AMENDMENT NO. 191 TO H.R. 3055
HON. MIKIE SHERRILL
OF NEW JERSEY
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, June 27, 2019

Ms. SHERRILL. Madam Speaker, today I rise in support of the en bloc amendment, and to thank the Interior and Environment Appropriations Subcommittee Chairwoman McCollum, for including the Sherrill Amendment No. 191 in the en bloc package.

My amendment ensures that the EPA will continue to provide adequate funding, $8 million for the Children’s Environmental Health and Disease Prevention Research Centers. The Children’s Centers have made profound contributions to our scientific understanding of how exposures to chemicals and pollutants uniquely impact children and pregnant women. Researchers working in the Children’s Centers study how environmental exposures are linked to adverse health outcomes such as poor birth outcomes, behavioral and learning deficits, respiratory issues, and childhood cancers.

All children deserve a healthy environment where they can grow and thrive. It is imperative that we support the research necessary to understand how our environment impacts children and families’ health and wellbeing.

I am concerned that the grants that currently fund thirteen Children’s Centers are set to expire in July and that no announcement has been made to indicate renewed funding. To ensure that these valuable programs can continue, I am offering an amendment and asking the House of Representative to vote in strong support of the Children’s Centers and their important work.

I thank Interior and Environment Appropriations Subcommittee Chairwoman McCollum and Ranking Member Joyce for their leadership in adopting this important provision.

COMMERCE, JUSTICE, SCIENCE, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2020
SPEECH OF
HON. WILLIAM R. KEATING
OF MASSACHUSETTS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Monday, June 24, 2019

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 3055) making appropriations for the Departments of Commerce and Justice, Science, and Related Agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2020, and for other purposes:

Mr. KEATING. Mr. Chair, as many of bridges across the nation are reaching the end of their useful lives, it is important for the Department to prioritize funding for the design of new structures needed to replace these out of date and outdated bridges. This is most critical for bridges that constitute essential components of evacuation routes, such as our two Cape Cod bridges. When these structures are owned by the United States Government, we have both a legal and a moral responsibility to ensure that they are adequate to the demands put upon them.

In my district, nearly 250,000 of my constituents live on the peninsula of Cape Cod and the Islands of Martha’s Vineyard and Nantucket. In the event of an emergency, these citizens’ only available evacuation route is

- This “bullet” symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.
over the Cape Cod Canal bridges. The Canal bridges were completed in 1955 and 1938. They were constructed for the age of the Model T, and not the age of the SUV.

The Canal bridges are now insufficient for the needs of the Cape and Islands community. The lanes on the bridges are too narrow, and do not meet the federal highway standards. They lack a breakdown lane that could be used for additional road space in an emergency. With the Canal bridges in their current state on a busy summer weekend, the traffic can back up for miles. During an evacuation scenario, this congestion would be far worse and pose a real risk to public safety.

The Cape Cod Canal bridges have reached the end of their useful lives, and modern replacements for them will be needed within the next several years. Replacement bridges must be designed soon so that the United States Government can live up to its responsibility to provide transit for Cape Cod residents and visitors over the Cape Cod Canal—especially in the event of an emergency.

The Canal bridges, and projects like them across the nation, need funding to support them through the costly design phase. Without designs in hand, it is impossible for transportation planners to precisely estimate the scope of work and costs of replacing this aging infrastructure so they can move forward towards construction. My amendment to my amendment is so important not only for our community, but communities like ours around the country.

HONORING JOHN JOSEPH MANFREDA
HON. MIKE THOMPSON
OF CALIFORNIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, June 27, 2019

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to remember John Joseph Manfreda for his lifelong belief in and staunch commitment to exceptional public service.

Born in Washington, DC, Mr. Manfreda received his undergraduate degree in business finance and economics from the University of Maryland. He earned his law degree from the American University School of Law in 1970 and earned a master's degree in tax law from Georgetown University Law Center in 1974. Mr. Manfreda began his almost 50-year career in public service at the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms (ATF) Counsel Office and its Internal Revenue Service predecessor. From 1999 to 2003, he served as Chief Counsel for ATF. Mr. Manfreda was integral to the founding of the Alcohol and Tobacco Tax and Trade Bureau (TTB). He served TTB as the Deputy Administrator before being appointed to the Administrator of the Bureau in 2005.

Mr. Manfreda was widely respected for his knowledge, fairness, and honesty by his colleagues and those he worked with in the industry he regulated. He helped write many alcohol laws when he served as Counsel for ATF and retained the information about those laws. He was a fair man and was always willing to listen. Mr. Manfreda was an honorable man, and his character was valued honestly and demonstrated that value. Mr. Manfreda was recognized for his important work with the Meritorious and Distinguished Presidential Rank Awards and the Lifetime Achievement Award from the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms.

Madam Speaker, John Joseph Manfreda was a dedicated public servant who held the sincere belief in the good of public service. He inspired his coworkers and was a friend and mentor to all who knew him and a devoted family man to his wife, children, and grandchildren. It is therefore fitting and proper that we remember the life and honor the service of John Joseph Manfreda here today.

RECOGNIZING THE 75TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE USCGC “MACKINAW” IN CHEBOYGAN, MICHIGAN
HON. JACK BERGMAN
OF MICHIGAN
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, June 27, 2019

Mr. BERGMAN. Madam Speaker, it is my honor to recognize the 75th anniversary of the United States Coast Guard Cutter Mackinaw, based out of Cheboyan, Michigan.

The original Icebreaker Mackinaw (WAGB-83) was constructed during World War II to facilitate winter shipping over the Great Lakes and maintain year-round water-time production of steel. Cheboyan served as her home port as she played this critical role. After more than 62 years of outstanding service facilitating commerce in support of the economy and security of the entire nation, the original Mackinaw was decommissioned in 2006 and replaced with the USCGC Mackinaw (WLB-30). Performing the same critical icebreaking role as her namesake, the Mackinaw also serves year-round as an Aids to Navigation ship and conducts law enforcement, search and rescue, and environmental emergency response missions. Its unique design makes it exceptionally maneuverable and capable of breaking smooth ice up to 42 inches thick. Since the first ship was launched 75 years ago, the impact of the Mackinaw on economy and security of Michigan and the entire country cannot be overstated.

The anniversary celebration for the Mackinaw will take place as a part of the 8th Annual Michigan Waterways festival, a 4-day community celebration of the Michigan Inland Waterway and Northern Michigan, running from June 27th to the 30th.

Madam Speaker, the celebration of the 8th Annual Waterways Festival is the perfect opportunity for us to appreciate the history and service of the USCGC Mackinaw and her crew. Michiganders can take immense pride in knowing that the First District is home to such an important vessel. On behalf of my constituents, I wish the Mackinaw, her crew, and the city of Cheboyan all the best in their future endeavors.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION
HON. JACKIE WALORSKI
OF INDIANA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, June 27, 2019

Mrs. WALORSKI. Madam Speaker, on Wednesday June 26, 2019, I wasn’t able to vote due to a family emergency.
roots—but for Alexander Hamilton’s contribution to our military, creation of our banking system and assistance in drafting the Constitution—our country would not be as strong today as it is. From American Revolution Haitian gens de couleur libre (free men of color) fighting troopers to the revolt leader Denmark Vessey to Gen Powell’s shock and awe doctrine, the Caribbean emphasis on revolutionary and righteous principles enforced through martial force.

The Caribbean is a melting pot of different races, cultures, ethnicities, and languages; it is the southern reflection of the American experience. Caribbean Americans like all who come to this country desire to make themselves and this country better.

DEPUTY SHERIFF MATTHEW MORENO
HON. KEN BUCK
OF COLORADO
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, June 27, 2019

Mr. BUCK. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the dedication and sacrifice of a fallen Deputy Sheriff, Matthew Moreno.

A resident of Trinidad, Colorado, Matthew proudly served his community as a full-time Deputy Sheriff in Las Animas County. He also worked part-time as an Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) for the Trinidad Ambulance District. In Matthew’s free time, he volunteered as a firefighter—quickly rising to the rank of Fire Captain.

On December 12, 2018, Matthew was struck by an impaired driver while responding to a domestic disturbance call. Tragically, he did not survive the accident.

Our nation owes a debt of gratitude to our police, fire fighters, and first responders, especially our fallen heroes. Matthew’s commitment to serving others exceeded expectations, and his willingness to put his life on the line to protect others will never be forgotten. On behalf of the Fourth Congressional District of Colorado, I extend my deepest gratitude for Matthew’s service and deepest condolences to his family, friends, and the entire community that undoubtedly feels his loss.

Madam Speaker, it is an honor to recognize the life of Deputy Sheriff Matthew Moreno for his commitment to family, community, and the United States of America.

RECOGNIZING THE CUMBERLAND CONTAINER CORPORATION’S 50TH ANNIVERSARY
HON. JOHN W. ROSE
OF TENNESSEE
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, June 27, 2019

Mr. JOHN W. ROSE of Tennessee. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Cumberland Container Corporation in honor of its 50th anniversary.

A time-honored mainstay of Putnam County, Cumberland Container Corporation was granted its corporate charter by the State of Tennessee on October 21, 1968. Nine months later, this company planted its roots in a 6,000-square-foot building in Monterey, Tennessee. At its commencement, this company served the area by providing manufacturing containers and packaging materials to local businesses with nothing more than four pieces of used equipment and six employees.

Cumberland Container Corporation was dedicated to its belief in efficiently supplying local companies. Although times proved to be tough at the beginning, this company persevered and demonstrated the brilliance of this concept through consistent customer growth over the last five decades.

Fast forward to this year, Cumberland Container Corporation is currently operating in a 280,000-square-foot building on over 18 acres of land. By current count, Cumberland Container Corporation now employs 85 associates and owns a vast assortment of machinery for its production and logistical needs.

To my House colleagues here today, I hope that you will join me in recognizing the Cumberland Container Corporation for their long-standing service to the community. It is the hardworking nature of this company and its employees that truly represent exactly what it means to be a Tennessean.

CELEBRATING THE CAREER OF DR. EDWARD J. LUKOMSKI AT PATHWAYS, INC.
HON. TOM REED
OF NEW YORK
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, June 27, 2019

Mr. REED. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the service of Dr. Edward J. Lukomski to Pathways, Inc. and congratulate him on his retirement.

For the last sixteen years, Dr. Ed Lukomski has served as the President and Chief Executive Officer of Pathways, Inc. which provides services to two thousand people in fifteen counties. Pathways, Inc. is a not-for-profit human service organization offering in-home, community, and foster care services to youth with serious emotional disturbances, intellectual and developmental disabilities, and chronic medical conditions. Under Ed’s leadership, Pathways has grown exponentially, not only in services and programs offered, but also geographically in their area of service coverage. Ed’s dedication and hard work has ensured the expansion of opportunities for youths in need of aid, and for that we must commend him.

To recognize his outstanding service, Pathways will be dedicating their Broad Street facility in Horseheads, New York, in his honor. The newly renamed “Lukomski Center” will stand as a fitting tribute to Ed’s legacy as Pathways continues his work to expand services to youths in need.

As Ed moves forward with the next chapter of his life, we applaud his tireless efforts to help youth in our community, and we wish him all the best in his retirement.

Given the above, I ask that this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations and join me to celebrate Ed Lukomski and his extraordinary career.

COLONEL SETH KRMRRICH RELINQUISHES COMMAND OF THE FORT IRWIN GARRISON
HON. PAUL COOK
OF CALIFORNIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, June 27, 2019

Mr. COOK. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the contributions of U.S. Army Colonel Seth Krmrrich, who will relinquish command of the Fort Irwin Garrison on June 27, 2019. Colonel Krmrrich is leaving for his next duty assignment as the Chief of Staff, Special Operations Command Central (SOWCENT) at MacDill Air Force Base in Tampa, Florida.

Since Colonel Krmrrich assumed command of the Fort Irwin Garrison, I have been impressed by his hard work on behalf of the Army. During his command, Colonel Krmrrich oversaw the completion of Weed Army Community Hospital, a $211 million improvement designed to bring medical facilities at the garrison into the 21st century. In addition to the successful completion of the hospital, Colonel Krmrrich has worked closely with my staff and I on several proposed projects to further improve Fort Irwin and better support the Army’s critical training mission. While these projects were not completed during his tenure, his hard work has laid the foundation for their future success.

In addition to thanking Colonel Krmrrich for his service at Fort Irwin, I would also like to recognize his outstanding military career. Colonel Krmrrich is a combat veteran with numerous deployments to both Iraq and Afghanistan, including participating in the initial invasion of Afghanistan in 2001 as a member of the 5th Special Forces Group (Airborne). His service on the battlefield is complimented by his impressive educational background, where he was most recently a senior Military Fellow at Stanford University. While I wish him the best at SOWCENT, I will miss the passion, energy, and determination that he brought to the Fort Irwin Garrison.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION
HON. MAC THORNBERRY
OF TEXAS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, June 27, 2019

Mr. THORNBERRY. Madam Speaker, on Tuesday, June 25, 2019, I was unable to be in Washington and missed roll call votes No. 403 “Ordering the Previous Question on H. Res. 460—The combined rule providing for consideration of the bill H.R. 2722—Securing America’s Federal Elections Act and the bill H.R. 3351—Financial Services and General Government Appropriations Act, 2020,” No. 404 “Adoption of H. Res. 460—The combined rule providing for consideration of the bill H.R. 2722—Securing America’s Federal Elections Act and of the bill H.R. 3351—Financial Services and General Government Appropriations Act, 2020,” No. 405 “Banks (R–IN)—Amendment No. 251—Reduces the proposed amount available in Division E, Other than amounts made available to the Department of Defense by 14 percent,” and No. 406 “Jayapal (D–WA)—Amendment No. 268—Reallocates $1,000,000...
to fund transitional housing and homelessness services.” Had I been present, I would have voted “NO, NO, YES, NO” on these bills, respectively.

IN HONOR OF W.S. EVERETT
HON. BRETT GUTHRIE
OF KENTUCKY
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, June 27, 2019

Mr. GUTHRIE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and service of Wilson Spencer “W.S.” Everett of Glasgow, Kentucky. Mr. Everett was a proud patriot throughout his life, serving in the Kentucky National Guard and the United States Army during the Korean War.

For the last 30 years, Mr. Everett dedicated his time to honor the legacies of his fellow soldiers, whether through his involvement with the Glasgow chapter of the Disabled American Veterans, or his regular participation with the Chapter 20 Color Guard. Mr. Everett also designed two memorials in my district: the Hiseville Veterans Memorial and the Glasgow-Barren County Veterans Wall of Honor. His dedication to this endeavor was so great that even in his final days, Mr. Everett went to the Wall of Honor to place the final veteran's title.

Today, I join with Mr. Everett’s family in remembering the legacy that he left behind. He is truly an American patriot that strived to live his faith in honor of each fold of the flag and I am grateful for his service not only to the country, but also to his community.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION
HON. JACQUIE WALORSKI
OF INDIANA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, June 27, 2019

Ms. WALORSKI. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor James “Jim” Scordo for over three decades of service to the North Country as Executive Director of Credo Community Center for the Treatment of Addictions.

Jim Scordo has shepherded the community center through good and bad times since 1988 when he helped the center recover from a devastating fire. Jim sought help from his community and graciously raised over $175,000 dollars to rebuild. When the community center opened its substance abuse outpatient clinic, he was named its first Executive Director. Since then, countless North Country residents have found help overcoming addiction and there are many families in Jefferson County and beyond that are grateful to Jim, his staff, and volunteers for their loved one’s health and wellbeing.

The hands on, local efforts of Credo Community Center and similar centers throughout the country is crucial in the broader fight against the opioid epidemic. Communities need dedicated leadership to ensure that those services remain consistently available for those who need them most. On behalf of New York’s 21st Congressional District, I want to thank Jim for his leadership and service to the North Country and wish him the best in the next chapter.

HONORING THE SESQUICENTENNIAL OF THE SISTERS OF SAINT FRANCIS OF TIFFIN
HON. JIM JORDAN
OF OHIO
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, June 27, 2019

Mr. JORDAN. Madam Speaker, I am honored to commend to the House the outstanding work of the Sisters of Saint Francis of Tiffin, Ohio, who are marking 150 years of selfless service to others.

The Tiffin Franciscans were founded by Father Joseph L. Bihn and Mrs. Elizabeth Schaefer (Sister Mary Francis) in the wake of the Civil War to care for the needs of orphans and the elderly. The work of the sisters continues to be rooted in the words of Matthew’s Gospel: “Whatever you did to one of the least of these My brethren, you did to Me.”

Throughout the years, the sisters have devoted themselves to the Franciscan values of caring for the poor and for all of God’s creation. Dedicated to spreading the message of the Gospel, they have served countless people through their evangelization, education, child care, foster care, and other vital ministries designed to meet the needs of the Tiffin community and far beyond.

Madam Speaker, the Sisters of Saint Francis are marking their sesquicentennial with events and commemorations throughout the year. On behalf of the people of Ohio’s Fourth Congressional District, I am pleased to join in the accolades to them as they celebrate this milestone. They have my best wishes and my thanks for their tireless service to others.

IN HONOR OF THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF MT. PLEASANT BAPTIST CHURCH
HON. EMANUEL CLEAVER
OF MISSOURI
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, June 27, 2019

Mr. CLEAVER. Madam Speaker, it is my honor to rise today to celebrate Mt. Pleasant Baptist Church’s 100th Anniversary and recognize it for its numerous contributions to the greater Kansas City area. I am truly honored to have this house of worship and pillar of faith in my Congressional District.

Mt. Pleasant Baptist Church is in Kansas City’s historic 18th and Vine District, a neighborhood critical to the life and development of the African American community. In the 1920s, 18th and Vine began to grow, becoming a creative hub of African American culture and shaping the future of Kansas City for the better. Founded in 1919, Mt. Pleasant Baptist Church was crucial to this cultural renaissance. Churches throughout this period were centers of community and support. They provided members hope and encouragement in the face of seemingly hopeless challenges like inequality, discrimination, and segregation. For a century, Mt. Pleasant Baptist Church has been a vehicle for social justice and change within Kansas City’s African American community.

Today, churches continue to be a keeper of cultural tradition, a center of storytelling, and the core of African American community. As writer Shauntae Brown White wrote, “Story-telling that connects is an act of resonance that fulfills the second tenant of Afrocentric discourse, creating harmony in the midst of chaos.” For the past 100 years, the congregation of Mt. Pleasant Baptist Church has produced some of the brightest leaders, innovators, thinkers, and artists in Missouri’s Fifth Congressional District.

Today, Mt. Pleasant Baptist Church serves as a spiritual anchor within the Kansas City community. The church transforms the lives of its members for the better, unites people of all ages and supports them as they seek to live according to the teachings of Jesus Christ. For the past thirty-three years, Pastor L. Henderson Bell has led the church to be a house of hope for those facing adversity in the community. Mt. Pleasant Baptist Church not only is a center of spiritual development but a hub of service in its community, embodying James 2:17’s assertion that, “Faith by itself, if it has no works, is dead.”

The church serves the poor and marginalized members of the community by reaching out to them and providing educational opportunities, Bible study classes, health and spiritual counseling, and programs for music and dance.

Mt. Pleasant Baptist has been and continues to be an advocate for the underserved and a champion of the faithful in Kansas City. Its century worth of contributions to the soul of Missouri’s Fifth Congressional District are worthy of praise and recognition. Madam Speaker, please join me in celebrating and honoring Pastor L. Henderson Bell and the congregation of Mt. Pleasant Baptist Church, both past and present, for achieving this milestone.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 150TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE SISTERS OF SAINT FRANCIS OF TIFFIN
HON. ELISE M. STEFANIK
OF NEW YORK
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, June 27, 2019

Ms. STEFANIK. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor James “Jim” Scordo for over three decades of service to the North Country as Executive Director of Credo Community Center for the Treatment of Addictions.

The Tiffin Franciscans were founded by Father Joseph L. Bihn and Mrs. Elizabeth Schaefer (Sister Mary Francis) in the wake of the Civil War to care for the needs of orphans and the elderly. The work of the sisters continues to be rooted in the words of Matthew’s Gospel: “Whatever you did to one of the least of these My brethren, you did to Me.”

Throughout the years, the sisters have devoted themselves to the Franciscan values of...
The National Historic Landmark system was created in 1935 to recognize structures that are of outstanding historical significance, icons of ideas that shaped the nation, and pristine examples of design or construction. There is no other landmark more deserving of this designation than the Grand Hotel. First opened in 1877, the hotel was created to serve as a retreat for vacationers looking to enjoy summer on Lake Huron. Over the next 132 years, the Grand Hotel would grow to become not only a beloved part of Michigan, but a prominent feature in popular culture and premier destination for visitors from around the world. Its unique design has been widely acclaimed, and its world’s-largest 660-foot porch has been enjoyed by everyone from John F. Kennedy and Gerald Ford to Thomas Edison and Mark Twain. The National Park Service designated the hotel as a National Historic Landmark in 1989, citing its historic architecture and representation of the American dream of a “summer place.” Today, its role as a summer place remains stronger than ever for thousands of guests and visitors every year.

Madam Speaker, the celebration of the Grand Hotel’s 30th anniversary as a National Historic Landmark is the perfect opportunity for us to appreciate its unique history, cultural impact, and significance to Mackinac Island, Michigan, and the United States. Michiganders can take immense pride in knowing that the First District is home to such an important landmark. On behalf of my constituents, I wish the Grand Hotel all the best in its future endeavors.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE TRADITION OF THE DOOR COUNTY DAIRY BREAKFAST

HON. MIKE GALLAGHER
OF WISCONSIN
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, June 27, 2019

Mr. GALLAGHER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the tradition of the Door County Dairy Breakfast, held in Sturgeon Bay, Wisconsin. The Dairy Breakfast is an iconic Door County tradition that provides the community an opportunity to learn about the significant role the dairy industry plays in Wisconsin’s economy. Community members meet dairy farmers, learn about the dairy industry, and enjoy delicious Door County coffee and pancakes. I am grateful to the Sevastopol Future Farmers of America Alumni Association for organizing the 38th Annual Dairy Breakfast in Door County. Their work to recruit sponsors and volunteers is integral to the success of this terrific event. Throughout the year, the Sevastopol FFA Alumni Association provides educational opportunities to the community to increase awareness of Wisconsin’s dairy industry and the products produced by area dairy farmers. All proceeds from the Door County Dairy Breakfast go toward scholarships for current FFA high school seniors.

Madam Speaker, I urge all members of this body to join me in commending the efforts of the Door County Dairy Breakfast to educate the community through this time-honored tradition. Thank you to the Sevastopol FFA Alumni Association and the countless sponsors and volunteers for their continued support of Wisconsin’s dairy industry.

100TH ANNIVERSARY OF ST. STEPHEN’S COMMUNITY HOUSE

HON. JOYCE BEATTY
OF OHIO
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, June 27, 2019

Mrs. BEATTY. Madam Speaker, I rise today in celebration of the 100th Anniversary of St. Stephen’s Community House. Located in the heart of my district, St. Stephen’s Community House is a sanctuary of education, development, and faith serving the Linden Community for 100 years. Today, under the leadership of CEO, Marilyn Mehaffie; LaTisha Addo, Director of Family Services; and Kristin Giger, Director of Youth Services, St. Stephen’s provides services for residents of all ages, ranging from infant mortality initiatives and early childcare programs to vital family and senior services including sustainability efforts and eliminating food deserts.

Even after a century, St. Stephen’s Community House’s mission of dedicated service to the families of the Linden community continues to thrive, and for that the entire Third Congressional District of Ohio is forever grateful.

INTRODUCTION OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA BOARD OF ZONING ADJUSTMENT HOME RULE ACT

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON
OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, June 27, 2019

Ms. NORTON. Madam Speaker, today, I introduce the District of Columbia Board of Zoning Adjustment Home Rule Act. This bill would give the District of Columbia the authority to appoint all members of the D.C. Board of Zoning Adjustment (Board), except when the Board is performing functions regarding an application by a foreign mission with respect to a chancery. The Board has special exceptions, or variances, to the regulations issued by the D.C. Zoning Commission (Commission). This bill does not alter the authority of the Board.

Like every other jurisdiction in the United States, the District should be free to set its own local land-use policies. As the District continues to contend with rapid population growth and economic development, it is more important than ever that the members of the Board are accountable to District residents and local elected officials.

Under current law, in general, the Board consists of a representative each from the National Capital Planning Commission (NCPC) and the Commission, each of whom may be a federal official, and three mayoral appointees, subject to D.C. Council approval. The Board has no authority over federal property. Under current law, when the Board is performing functions regarding an application by a foreign mission with respect to the location, expansion or replacement of a chancery, the Board consists of the Executive Director of NCPC; the Director of the National Park Service, the Secretary of Defense, the Secretary of the Interior or the Administrator of General Services, as designated by the President; and the three mayoral appointees. This bill does not change this composition.

This is an important step to recognize and increase home rule for the District, and I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

IN RECOGNITION OF MS. SADIE NELSON

HON. JENNIFER WEXTON
OF VIRGINIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, June 27, 2019

Ms. WEXTON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Ms. Sadie Pike Nelson from Virginia’s 10th Congressional District for her 70th birthday on June 24, 2019. Ms. Nelson is an active member within the 10th Congressional District which includes her accomplishments within the Frederick County School system, United Methodist Women, and Winchester Lions Club.

I commend Ms. Nelson on her lifetime pursuit of community activism. After moving to Winchester, VA in 1980, Ms. Nelson became a teacher with the special education program at the Robert E. Aylor Middle School, where she taught for 25 years. She then became the Assistant Principal for Admiral Richard E. Byrd Middle School for seven years before retiring with 32 years in education all together. Ms. Nelson was the first African American Administrator in the history of Frederick County Public Schools.

Ms. Nelson joined the John Mann United Methodist Church in 1985. She is presently the Administrative Chairman of the church council, President of the United Methodist Women, and President of the Usher Board. She has also served as the Spiritual Growth Coordinator for the Winchester District of United Methodist Women for a total of five years. Outside of the church, Ms. Nelson was the first African American to be invited to join the Winchester Lioness Club where she served as president in 2005, 2006, 2011, 2018, and 2019. Through this organization she strives to make a difference in women’s lives with philanthropies that include ownership of a two-year woman’s college and five programs that provide higher educational assistance through scholarships and loans for women to continue their education.

Ms. Nelson is also the proud mother of one daughter, proud grandmother of four granddaughters, and proud great-grandmother of a set of twin great-granddaughters and four great-grandsons.

Madam Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in recognizing and applauding Ms. Sadie Pike Nelson on her accomplishments and wish her the best for her 70th birthday celebration.

RECOGNIZING STAFF SERGEANT STANLEY NANCE

HON. BEN MCADAMS
OF UTAH
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, June 27, 2019

Mr. McADAMS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Staff Sergeant Stanley Nance.
In May 1944, 1,100 U.S. military men joined ranks to form what would be called “the Ghost Army.”

Composed largely of artists, this unit had unusual orders: not to avoid detection by enemy forces, but to actively attract attention through an ingenious optical illusion.

One of the gidweed Staff Sergeant Stanley Nance, signal Company Special of the 23rd Headquarters Special Troops.

The Ghost Army’s tactics were to impersonate other Allied units, using inflatable tanks and jeeps made of sticks and burlap, to make the enemy believe that large factions of soldiers were on Omaha Beach and surrounding areas, after D-Day.

Massive speakers were mounted to the back of military vehicles, blasting the ambient noises of a much larger unit. They sounded like they were coming from the battlefield, but in fact had been recorded months before in Fort Knox, Kentucky.

Kept a secret until 1985, the story of the Ghost Army and those in its ranks serves as a heroic tale of young Americans' bold actions to defend freedom.

Decades later, Staff Sergeant Nance's great-granddaughter, Madeline Christianson, told his story through a history project, which recently won the National History Competition. Her project is an amazing re-creation of a story of skill, courage and triumph unique in the annals of history.

As we prepare to celebrate Independence Day 2019, we honor two extraordinary generations of Utahns—the soldier who helped defeat tyranny during World War II, and his great-granddaughter who is keeping the story of heroism alive.

HONORING SPECIAL AGENT MICHAEL WILLIAMS ON HIS RETIREMENT

HON. GARY J. PALMER
OF ALABAMA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 27, 2019

Mr. PALMER. Madam Speaker, I rise in honor of Special Agent Michael Williams for his 32 years of dedicated service to Alabama as a member of the United States Secret Service. He concludes his distinguished career as the Special Agent in Charge of the U.S. Secret Service Birmingham Field Office, where he has had executive oversight over operations in Alabama and Mississippi.

Special Agent Williams is a native of Birmingham and a graduate of the University of Alabama at Birmingham. He joined the Secret Service in 1985 and over the span of his career has been recognized for investigative excellence, including receiving the Outstanding Law Enforcement Officer of the Year Award. In 1996, he was assigned to the Presidential Protective Division in Washington, D.C. where he protected President William J. Clinton and President George W. Bush. He was promoted to a Supervisory Special Agent assigned to the Protective Intelligence Division in 2001.

Special Agent Williams was able to come home in 2003, when he was promoted to Assistant Special Agent in Charge of the Birmingham Field Office.

He returned to Washington, D.C. in 2005 where he served as the Assistant Special Agent in Charge of the Presidential Protective Division. In October 2008, he was promoted to the Special Agent in Charge of the Columbia, South Carolina Field Office.

In January 2013, he once again found his way to D.C. when he was promoted into the Senior Executive Service where he served as the Special Agent in Charge of the Protective Intelligence and Assessment Division. In this capacity, he had executive oversight for protective intelligence, threat assessments and the Secret Service behavioral analysis program. In 2015, he was promoted to the position of Deputy Assistant Director in the Secret Service Office of Protective Operations. He ensured that the President, the First Lady and all protected persons, places and events received the highest level of security based on threats and vulnerabilities.

Throughout his career, Special Agent Williams has also served the community volunteering for a number of organizations, including the Big Brother program, Boys/Girls Club and Crime Stoppers of Metro Alabama. He is a member of Kappa Alpha Phi fraternity and received UAB’s Outstanding Alumni Award. He is married to Angela Bryant-Williams and they have a son, Bryant Michael Williams.

I am grateful to Special Agent Williams for his 32 years of service to this country and wish him well in retirement.

IN RECOGNITION OF JOHN WEEKS

HON. BRETT GUTHRIE
OF KENTUCKY
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 27, 2019

Mr. GUTHRIE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the service of longtime Kentuckian Mr. John Weeks and to wish him well in his retirement.

For over 40 years, John has provided legal counsel in the commonwealth of Kentucky be it to the Courier Journal daily newspaper, WHAS TV and radio, Standard Gravure, Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Kentucky, and—since 1992—Delta Dental of Kentucky. In 2000, he became Vice President and General Counsel. He has been responsible for legal affairs and legal compliance including insurance regulation, HIPAA, employment law, federal requirements, and government relations for the company at both the state and federal level.

Prior to his successful legal career, John served this great country in the United States Navy submarine and intelligence branches. And continued to help other veterans—serving on the board of the Kentucky chapter of USA Cares, a veterans support organization.

I was able to work directly with John from time to time and enjoyed getting to know him and his family well. I’m sure he is looking forward to spending more time with his wife, Lynda, and their children and grandchildren. I would like to formally congratulate John on his retirement and wish him luck in this next chapter.

IN RECOGNITION OF COLONEL DOUGLAS B. GUTTORMSEN

HON. VICKY HARTZLER
OF MISSOURI
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 27, 2019

Mrs. HARTZLER. Madam Speaker, it has come to my attention that Colonel Douglas B. Guttormsen is retiring as the U.S. Army Corps
of Engineers Kansas City District Commander. He has diligently served in this role for three years.

After earning degrees from The U.S. Military Academy at West Point, the University of Missouri at Rolla, the National Defense University and the U.S. Army Command and General Staff College, Colonel Guttormsen went on to lead engineering battalions across the United States and around the world. In addition to these assignments, he served in combat operations in Iraq and the Republic of Korea.

As Commander of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Kansas City District, Colonel Guttormsen oversaw many military and civil works projects throughout the District. From overseeing construction projects at the region’s many military installations to ensuring our levees and dams are structurally sound, Colonel Guttormsen ably led an office with diverse mandates and responsibilities. Although his resume boasts many accomplishments, Colonel Guttormsen’s work to maintain the superiority of the Emergency Operations Center, which plays a vital role in responding to natural disasters whenever and wherever they may occur, is most impressive.

Madam Speaker, Colonel Guttormsen is a true professional and has exhibited remarkable leadership during his time as the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Kansas City District Commander. I trust my fellow members of the House will join me in wishing him well in the days to come.

KEEP MAIL SAFE ACT

HON. GRACE MENG
OF NEW YORK
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 27, 2019

Ms. MENG. Madam Speaker, I rise to bring attention the growing mail theft crime in the United States that is known as mail fishing. Mail fishing is the process in which thieves “fish” mail out of blue collection boxes. Specifically, criminals use a contraption as simple as a string connected to a sticky substance to “fish” out envelopes from these mailboxes, then open the letters to steal people’s personal information such as bank, credit card, and Social Security numbers. Tragically, this has resulted in many incidents of identity theft and bank fraud.

In the last year alone, there were 3,000 incidents of mail fishing in New York City. These criminals also engage in check washing to retrieve the name of the payee and/or the amount. Many of my constituents became victims of bank fraud, some losing thousands of dollars, as a result of having their mail fished. That is why, in 2017, I made the push to have the United States Postal Service retrofit all standard mail collection boxes in Queens, NY. Currently, 77 percent of these mailboxes in Queens have been retrofitted. As a result, mail fishing crimes have significantly decreased in Queens. However, as only some mail collection boxes are retrofitted, mail fishing crime shifts to regions without this security feature.

Madam Speaker, it is unacceptable that our constituents cannot safely leave their mail in the United States Postal Service mail collection boxes.

This is why I am introducing the “Keep Mail Safe Act”. This bill would require the Postmaster General to conduct a study on retrofitting all standard mail collection boxes in the United States with narrow mail slots. Retrofitting all mail boxes would deter and prevent incidents of mail fishing, ensure the security of our constituents’ mail, and restore their trust in utilizing the United States Postal Service.

As mail fishing incidents are on the rise, our diligence in protecting our constituent’s mail is more important than ever. I urge my colleagues to support this legislation and join me in the fight against mail fishing.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MAC THORNERRY
OF TEXAS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 27, 2019

Mr. THORNERRY. Madam Speaker, on Tuesday, June 25, 2019, I was unable to be in Washington and missed roll call votes No. 411 “King, Steve” Amendment No. 3—Strikes the section 126 of the underlying bill which prohibits the use of funds from the Department of the Treasury’s Forfeiture Fund to plan, design, construct or carry out a project to construct a southern Border Wall or barrier along the southern border of the US.” No. 412 “Norton (D-DC) Amendment No. 4—Prohibits funds made available by this Act from being used to relocate the National Institute of Food and Agriculture or the Economic Research Service outside the National Capital Region,” No. 413 “Republican Motion to Recommit on H.R. 3401,” No. 414 “Amendment of H.R. 3401—Emergency Supplemental Appropriations for Humanitarian Assistance and Security at the Southern Border Act, 2019.” Had I been present, I would have voted “YES, NO, YES, NO” on these bills, respectively.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. RAUL M. GRIJALVA
OF ARIZONA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 27, 2019

Mr. GRIJALVA. Madam Speaker, on Tuesday, June 18, 2019 I inadvertently switched my recorded vote for Roll call No. 345. The vote was on Amendment No. 24 to H.R. 2740 offered by Reps. AMASH and LOFGREN. My intended vote should be noted as a “yea” on roll call 345.

HONORING PRIDE MONTH

HON. SYLVIA R. GARCIA
OF TEXAS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 27, 2019

Ms. GARCIA of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise to discuss an issue that is rooted in my deeply held religious belief that we are all God’s children. This June, in honor of Pride month, I rise not only to recognize the many contributions of the LGBTQ community, but also to remind my colleagues of the discrimination faced by Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Queer people.

House Democrats worked together last month to make history by passing the Equality Act and passed the Defense Appropriations bill with a provision to block this Administration’s attempts to discriminate against the transgender community and will continue the fight until there is true equality. I know this House will continue to fight and stand up for equality.

This Pride Month, I also want to pay special tribute to LGBTQ people living in fear of deportation. This Administration’s policies of fear and cruelty especially impact already vulnerable
populations. Rest assured, you have someone in Congress working to make our immigration system fair for all, including LGBTQ New Americans. Happy Pride Month.

**GUN VIOLENCE AWARENESS MONTH**

**HON. JOYCE BEATTY**

**OF OHIO**

**IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

**Thursday, June 27, 2019**

Mrs. BEATTY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize June as Gun Violence Awareness Month.

So far this year, nearly seven thousand Americans have been killed and almost twice as many injured at the hands of gun violence.

Even more shocking, there have been 190 mass shootings across the country—in Shreveport, Philadelphia, Louisville, and Des Moines just within the last two weeks.

Gun violence is a uniquely American epidemic, but unfortunately, failure to act has also been uniquely American.

Congress failed to act twenty years ago after Columbine, again twelve years ago after Virginia’s Tech, and after Sandy Hook, the Pulse Nightclub, Las Vegas, or Parkland.

Thankfully, the new Democratic majority has passed the first gun violence prevention bills in a generation.

Whether it’s those bills or my SAFER Now Act (H.R. 282), Congress must continue our work “For the People” and act to prevent one more American from falling victim to gun violence.

**HONORING AMERICA’S DAIRY FARMERS DURING NATIONAL DAIRY MONTH**

**HON. JAMES R. BAIRD**

**OF INDIANA**

**IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

**Thursday, June 27, 2019**

Mr. BAIRD. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize our nation’s dairy farmers. Since 1937, the month of June has been set aside to celebrate National Dairy Month.

The dairy industry, and the products it produces, is extremely important to the agricultural sector and hundreds of millions of Americans and consumers around the world. It generates $38 billion of direct wages for 3 million jobs on 37,000 family-owned dairy farms and related industries.

But times have been tough in recent years with narrow margins and low to non-profitability. In fact, this is the fifth consecutive year that we’ve had low prices, pushing 2,700 dairy farmers out of business in 2018.

That’s why USDA’s Dairy Margin Coverage Program is so important to the American dairy industry. The Dairy Margin Coverage program will provide farmers with better coverage for lower premiums, including a retro-active start which means our dairy farmers will be able to get help with over 5 months of tough losses.

As we honor the dairy producers in our communities this month, I encourage all of our Hoosier dairy farmers to sign up for their program in order to secure much needed protection during times of uncertainty. I thank them for their tireless work for the American people.

**COMMUNITY COLLEGE STUDENT SUCCESS ACT**

**HON. GRACE MENG**

**OF NEW YORK**

**IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

**Thursday, June 27, 2019**

Ms. MENG. Madam Speaker, community colleges play a critical role in American higher education. There are over 1,000 community colleges across the country. Nearly 40 percent of undergraduates are enrolled in community colleges. Of these students a large portion are first-generation, low-income college students, and half are students of color. Community colleges indeed play a crucial role in closing our nation’s skills gap through education and workforce training. Unfortunately, many of these institutions are often underfunded. This leaves students without the necessary support to complete their degrees.

Access to college means little without degrees completion. Studies show that only 20 percent of full-time community college students graduate after three years and just 35 percent graduate after five years. Research is also clear that students who do not complete a degree are at greater risk of defaulting on their loans.

That is why, today, I am introducing the Community College Student Success Act of 2019, a bill that will help community colleges around the country by giving under-resourced colleges with high percentages of low-income and minority students the necessary funding to develop and implement comprehensive student support services.

First, the Community College Student Success Act would provide academic advising, wherein, advisors will provide ongoing, academic, and personal advising to students including helping to clearly lay out a three-year graduation plan and creating strong transfer pathways for students interested in continuing their education.

Second, this bill would provide academic and career support, wherein, students on academic probation or who have been referred to developmental courses will be required to meet weekly with a tutor. These students will also meet with an on-campus career counselor or participate in career services events at least once a semester to promote career planning and success.

Third, this bill would provide financial support, wherein, students will receive a tuition waiver to cover the gap between the tuition and fees and financial aid. Additionally, students satisfying all the meeting requirements will receive a financial incentive, such as a transportation pass or gas card, at least once per month.

Additionally, the goal of this legislation is to replicate the remarkable and proven success of the Accelerated Study in Associate Programs (ASAP)—a program that was created and instituted by the City University of New York (CUNY) in 2007. This program has been found to consistently double the graduation rates of participating students.

I urge my colleagues to support this legislation and join me in helping community college students across the nation by providing pathways to upward economic mobility and more opportunities. If Congress truly values the importance of educating our next generation, we must increase our investment in these institutions and the students they serve. Each person deserves a quality education—no matter their background—because education is a civil right.

**PERSONAL EXPLANATION**

**HON. MAC THORNBERRY**

**OF TEXAS**

**IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

**Thursday, June 27, 2019**

Mr. THORNBERRY. Madam Speaker, on Tuesday, June 25, 2019, I was unable to be in Washington and missed roll call votes Nos. 407 “Republican Motion to Recommit on H.R. 3055,” No. 408 “Passage of H.R. 3401—Commerce, Justice, Science, Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, Interior, Environment, Military Construction, Veterans Affairs, Transportation, and Housing and Urban Development Appropriations Act, 2020,” No. 409 “Ordering the Previous Question on H. Res. 462—The rule providing for consideration of the bill H.R. 3401—Emergency Supplemental Appropriations for Humanitarian Assistance and Security at the Southern Border Act, 2019,” No. 410 “Adoption of H. Res. 462—The rule providing for consideration of the bill H.R. 3401—Emergency Supplemental Appropriations for Humanitarian Assistance and Security at the Southern Border Act, 2019.” Had I been present, I would have voted “YES, NO, NO” on these bills, respectively.

**TRIBUTE IN HONOR OF MICHAEL ERIC ENGH, S.J.**

**HON. ANNA G. ESHTOO**

**OF CALIFORNIA**

**IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

**Thursday, June 27, 2019**

Ms. ESHTOO. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor Michael Eric Engh, S.J., on the occasion of his retirement as President of Santa Clara University, after a decade of extraordinary leadership.

Father Engh was born to Marie and Donald Engh in Los Angeles on December 14, 1949. He entered the Society of Jesus in 1972, and earned his M.A. from Loyola Marymount University in 1976. He earned his Master of Divinity degree from the Jesuit School of Theology, in Berkeley, California in 1982 and his Ph.D. at the University of Wisconsin in 1987.

Father Engh taught at Loyola Marymount University from 1988 to 2008, became Santa Clara University’s 28th President on January 5, 2009, and retires from the Presidency after a most distinguished decade on June 30, 2019.

Father Engh serves on a number of boards, including the Board of Trustees of Boston College; the Board of Directors of the Silicon Valley Leadership Group; the Board of Directors of the Association of Jesuit Colleges and Universities; the Council of Presidents of the...
Since arriving at Santa Clara, Father Engh has led the University in defining its vision and setting the course for the future with a bold plan, Santa Clara 2020. Under his decade of leadership the University’s endowment grew to $926 million in 2019, from $515 million in 2009. The University also recorded significant student accomplishments and accolades including Rhodes and Fulbright Scholars. Ten new undergraduate majors were instituted, several Master’s programs were launched, and the REAL program for summer research in the College of Arts & Sciences began, among many others, and the Law School’s Intellectual Property Program was ranked fourth by US News in 2019. During Father Engh’s tenure the campus was beautified and improved, and many new buildings were opened and facilities modernized, with many more in the process of development.

The era of Father Engh bears the imprimatur of diversity and inclusion. He established the Office for Diversity and Inclusion in 2013 and created the Blue Ribbon Commission on Diversity and Inclusion in 2016, increasing significantly the number of students of color from 45 percent to 51 percent. Sustainability has been a hallmark of the Engh presidency. He signed the Climate Neutrality Action Plan and established the Office of Sustainability which grew into the Center for Sustainability with additional staff and programming. His efforts resulted in a deep-seated culture of sustainability across the entire University and ingrained in the community the importance of justice and sustainability.

Madam Speaker, I ask the entire House of Representatives to join me in honoring Father Michael Engh for his superb leadership of Santa Clara University which is not only a jewel in the crown of Jesuit universities but also one of the finest institutions of higher learning in the United States. His remarkable decade as President has strengthened our region, our state of California and he is a great blessing to our nation.
HIGHLIGHTS


Senate

Chamber Action

Routine Proceedings, pages S4587–S4667

Measures Introduced: Forty-nine bills and six resolutions were introduced, as follows: S. 1999–2047, S. Res. 267–271, and S. Con. Res. 21.

Pages S4627–29

Measures Reported:

S. 580, to amend the Act of August 25, 1958, commonly known as the “Former Presidents Act of 1958”, with respect to the monetary allowance payable to a former President, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute. (S. Rept. No. 116–53)

Page S4627

Measures Passed:

National Defense Authorization Act: By 86 yeas to 8 nays (Vote No. 188), Senate passed S. 1790, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2020 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, by the order of the Senate of Wednesday, June 26, 2019, 60 Senators having voted in the affirmative, and after taking action on the following amendments and motions proposed thereto:

Pages S4589–S4604

Adopted:

By 90 yeas to 4 nays (Vote No. 187), McConnell (for Romney) Amendment No. 861 (to Amendment No. 764), to provide that funds authorized by the Act are available for the defense of the Armed Forces and United States citizens against attack by foreign hostile forces.

Pages S4599–S4600

McConnell (for Inhofe) Modified Amendment No. 764, in the nature of a substitute.

Page S4604

Withdrawn:

McConnell Amendment No. 864 (to Amendment No. 863), of a perfecting nature.

Page S4599

McConnell Amendment No. 863 (to the language proposed to be stricken by Amendment No. 764), to change the enactment date.

Page S4599

Pending:

Udall Amendment No. 883, to prohibit unauthorized military operations in or against Iran.

Pages S4619–21

During consideration of this measure today, Senate also took the following action:

By 87 yeas to 7 nays (Vote No. 186), three-fifths of those Senators duly chosen and sworn, having voted in the affirmative, Senate agreed to the motion to close further debate on McConnell (for Inhofe) Modified Amendment No. 764 (listed above).

Page S4599

McConnell motion to recommit the bill to the Committee on Armed Services, with instructions, McConnell Amendment No. 865, to change the enactment date, fell when cloture was invoked on McConnell (for Inhofe) Modified Amendment No. 764.

Page S4600

McConnell Amendment No. 866 (to (the instructions) Amendment No. 865), of a perfecting nature, fell when McConnell motion to recommit the bill to the Committee on Armed Services, with instructions, McConnell Amendment No. 865 (listed above) fell.

Page S4600

McConnell Amendment No. 867 (to Amendment No. 866), of a perfecting nature, fell when McConnell Amendment No. 866 (to (the instructions) Amendment No. 865) fell.

Page S4600

Pursuant to the order of Wednesday, June 26, 2019, the motion to invoke cloture on the bill was withdrawn.

A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing for further consideration of Udall Amendment No. 883 (listed above), to the bill, as amended, at approximately 5:00 a.m., on Friday, June 28, 2019, under the order of Wednesday, June 26, 2019.

TANF block grants: Senate passed H.R. 2940, to extend the program of block grants to States for
temporary assistance for needy families and related programs through September 30, 2019.

Medicaid community mental health services demonstration program: Senate passed S. 2047, to provide for a 2-week extension of the Medicaid community mental health services demonstration program.

Stonewall uprising 50th Anniversary: Senate agreed to S. Res. 270, recognizing the 50th Anniversary of the Stonewall uprising.

Collector Car Appreciation Day: Senate agreed to S. Res. 271, designating July 12, 2019, as “Collector Car Appreciation Day” and recognizing that the collection and restoration of historic and classic cars is an important part of preserving the technological achievements and cultural heritage of the United States.

Columbia River In-Lieu and Treaty Fishing Access Sites Improvement Act: Senate passed S. 50, to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to assess sanitation and safety conditions at Bureau of Indian Affairs facilities that were constructed to provide affected Columbia River Treaty tribes access to traditional fishing grounds and expedite funds on construction of facilities and structures to improve those conditions, after agreeing to the following amendment proposed thereto:

McConnell (for Hoeven) Amendment No. 904, to amend the authorization amount.

Indian Community Economic Enhancement Act: Senate passed S. 212, to amend the Native American Business Development, Trade Promotion, and Tourism Act of 2000, the Buy Indian Act, and the Native American Programs Act of 1974 to provide industry and economic development opportunities to Indian communities, after agreeing to the following amendment proposed thereto:

McConnell (for Hoeven) Amendment No. 905, to improve the Indian Economic Development Feasibility Study.

Supplemental Treaty Between the United States of America and the Confederated Tribes and Bands of Indians of Middle Oregon: Senate passed S. 832, to nullify the Supplemental Treaty Between the United States of America and the Confederated Tribes and Bands of Indians of Middle Oregon, concluded on November 15, 1865.

Tanana Tribal Council and Bristol Bay Area Health Corporation: Senate passed S. 224, to provide for the conveyance of certain property to the Tanana Tribal Council located in Tanana, Alaska, and to the Bristol Bay Area Health Corporation located in Dillingham, Alaska.

PROGRESS for Indian Tribes Act: Senate passed S. 209, to amend the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act to provide further self-governance by Indian Tribes.

Esther Martinez Native American Languages Programs Reauthorization Act: Senate passed S. 256, to amend the Native American Programs Act of 1974 to provide flexibility and reauthorization to ensure the survival and continuing vitality of Native American languages.

Native American Business Incubators Program Act: Senate passed S. 294, to establish a business incubators program within the Department of the Interior to promote economic development in Indian reservation communities.

Tribal HUD–VASH Act: Senate passed S. 257, to provide for rental assistance for homeless or at-risk Indian veterans.

Spokane Tribe of Indians of the Spokane Reservation Equitable Compensation Act: Senate passed S. 216, to provide for equitable compensation to the Spokane Tribe of Indians of the Spokane Reservation for the use of tribal land for the production of hydropower by the Grand Coulee Dam.


Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe Reservation Restoration Act: Senate passed S. 199, to provide for the transfer of certain Federal land in the State of Minnesota for the benefit of the Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe.

National Post-Traumatic Stress Awareness Month and National Post-Traumatic Stress Awareness Day: Committee on the Judiciary was discharged from further consideration of S. Res. 220, designating the month of June 2019 as “National Post-Traumatic Stress Awareness Month” and June 27, 2019, as “National Post-Traumatic Stress Awareness Day”, and the resolution was then agreed to.

Signing Authority—Agreement: A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing that the Majority Leader, and Senatoors Graham, Lankford, and Tillis be authorized to sign duly enrolled bills or joint resolutions from June 27, 2019 through July 8, 2019.

Authorizing Leadership To Make Appointments—Agreement: A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing that, notwithstanding
the upcoming adjournment of the Senate, the President of the Senate, the President pro tempore, and the Majority and Minority Leaders be authorized to make appointments to commissions, committees, boards, conferences, or interparliamentary conferences authorized by law, by concurrent action of the two Houses, or by order of the Senate. Page S4648

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: Tuesday, July 2, 2019, at 4:45 p.m.; Friday, July 5, 2019, at 11:45 a.m.; and that when the Senate adjourns on Friday, July 5, 2019, it next convene at 3 p.m., on Monday, July 8, 2019. Page S4665

Bress Nomination—Cloture: Senate began consideration of the nomination of Daniel Aaron Bress, of California, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Ninth Circuit.

A motion was entered to close further debate on the nomination, and, in accordance with the provisions of Rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, and pursuant to the unanimous-consent agreement of Thursday, June 27, 2019, a vote on cloture will occur at 5:30 p.m. on Monday, July 8, 2019.

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.

Senate agreed to the motion to proceed to Legislative Session.

Senate agreed to the motion to proceed to Executive Session to consider the nomination.

Wetherell II Nomination—Cloture: Senate began consideration of the nomination of T. Kent Wetherell II, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of Florida.

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 Daniel Aaron Bress, of California, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Ninth Circuit.

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.

Senate agreed to the motion to proceed to Legislative Session.
Pallasch Nomination—Cloture: Senate began consideration of the nomination of John P. Pallasch, of Kentucky, to be an Assistant Secretary of Labor.

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 Robert L. King, of Kentucky, to be Assistant Secretary for Postsecondary Education, Department of Education.

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.

Wright Nomination—Cloture: Senate began consideration of the nomination of Peter C. Wright, of Michigan, to be Assistant Administrator, Office of Solid Waste, Environmental Protection Agency.

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 John P. Pallasch, of Kentucky, to be an Assistant Secretary of Labor.

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.

Nominations—Agreement: A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing that notwithstanding the provisions of Rule XXII, the cloture motions filed during the session of Thursday, June 27, 2019 ripen at 5:30 p.m., on Monday, July 8, 2019.

Nominations Confirmed: Senate confirmed the following nominations:

- Christopher Scolese, of New York, to be Director of the National Reconnaissance Office.
- Gary B. Burman, of Kentucky, to be United States Marshal for the Western District of Kentucky for the term of four years.
- William D. Hyslop, of Washington, to be United States Attorney for the Eastern District of Washington for the term of four years.
- Randall P. Huff, of Wyoming, to be United States Marshal for the District of Wyoming for the term of four years.
- Veronica Daigle, of Virginia, to be an Assistant Secretary of Defense.
- Robert Wallace, of Wyoming, to be Assistant Secretary for Fish and Wildlife.
- Lane Genatowski, of New York, to be Director of the Advanced Research Projects Agency—Energy, Department of Energy.
- Ronald Douglas Johnson, of Florida, to be Ambassador to the Republic of El Salvador.
- David Michael Satterfield, of Missouri, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Turkey.
- Aditya Bamzai, of Virginia, to be a Member of the Privacy and Civil Liberties Oversight Board for the remainder of the term expiring January 29, 2020.
- Travis LeBlanc, of Maryland, to be a Member of the Privacy and Civil Liberties Oversight Board for a term expiring January 29, 2022.
- Edward W. Felten, of New Jersey, to be a Member of the Privacy and Civil Liberties Oversight Board for a term expiring January 29, 2025.

- 2 Air Force nominations in the rank of general.
- 29 Army nominations in the rank of general.
- 23 Navy nominations in the rank of admiral.
- Routine lists in the Air Force, Army, Marine Corps, and Navy.

Messages from the House:

Measures Referred:

Executive Communications:

Petitions and Memorials:

Executive Reports of Committees:

Additional Cosponsors:

Statements on Introduced Bills/Resolutions:

Additional Statements:

Amendments Submitted:

Authorities for Committees to Meet:

Privileges of the Floor:

Record Votes: Three record votes were taken today. (Total—188)

Recess: Senate convened at 9:30 a.m. and recessed at 7:10 p.m., until 5 a.m. on Friday, June 28, 2019. (For Senate’s program, see the remarks of the Majority Leader in today’s Record on page S4665.)
Committee Meetings

(Committees not listed did not meet)

EXPORT-IMPORT BANK REAUTHORIZATION

Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs: Committee concluded an oversight hearing to examine reauthorization of the Export-Import Bank of the United States, after receiving testimony from Kimberly Reed, President and Chairman, Export-Import Bank of the United States.

NUCLEAR WASTE STORAGE

Committee on Energy and Natural Resources: Committee concluded a hearing to examine options for the interim and long-term storage of nuclear waste, including S. 1234, to establish a new organization to manage nuclear waste, provide a consensual process for siting nuclear waste facilities, ensure adequate funding for managing nuclear waste, after receiving testimony from John Wagner, Associate Laboratory Director, Nuclear Science and Technology Directorate, Idaho National Laboratory, Department of Energy; Geoffrey H. Fettus, Natural Resources Defense Council, Inc., and Maria Korsnick, Nuclear Energy Institute, both of Washington, D.C.; Steven P. Nesbit, American Nuclear Society Nuclear Waste Policy Task Force, Charlotte, North Carolina; and Wayne Norton, Yankee Atomic Electric Company, East Hampton, Connecticut, on behalf of the Decommissioning Plant Coalition Steering Committee.

BUSINESS MEETING

Committee on Energy and Natural Resources: Committee ordered favorably reported the nominations of Daniel Habib Jorjani, of Kentucky, to be Solicitor, and Mark Lee Greenblatt, of Maryland, to be Inspector General, both of the Department of the Interior.

INTELLIGENCE

Select Committee on Intelligence: Committee held closed hearings on intelligence matters, receiving testimony from officials of the intelligence community. Committee recessed subject to the call.

House of Representatives

Chamber Action

Public Bills and Resolutions Introduced: 69 public bills, H.R. 3524–3592; and 7 resolutions, H. Con. Res. 50; and H. Res. 467–472 were introduced.

Additional Cosponsors: Pages H5255–58

Reports Filed: Reports were filed today as follows:

H. Res. 466, providing for consideration of the Senate amendment to the bill (H.R. 3401) making emergency supplemental appropriations for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2019, and for other purposes (H. Rept. 116–130);

H.R. 3153, to direct the Director of the National Science Foundation to support research on opioid addiction, and for other purposes (H. Rept. 116–131);
H.R. 3196, to designate the Large Synoptic Survey Telescope as the “Vera Rubin Survey Telescope” (H. Rept. 116–132); Supplemental report on H.R. 2500, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2020 for military activities of the Department of Defense and for military construction, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes (H. Rept. 116–120, Part 2);

H.R. 1146, to amend Public Law 115–97 (commonly known as the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act) to repeal the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge oil and gas program, and for other purposes, with an amendment (H. Rept. 116–133);

H.R. 255, to provide for an exchange of lands with San Bernardino County, California, to enhance management of lands within the San Bernardino National Forest, and for other purposes (H. Rept. 116–134); and

H.R. 434, to designate the Emancipation National Historic Trail, and for other purposes, with amendments (H. Rept. 116–135).

Speaker: Read a letter from the Speaker wherein she appointed Representative Escobar to act as Speaker pro tempore for today.

Journal: The House agreed to the Speaker’s approval of the Journal by a yeas vote of 159 nays to 149 nays with one answering “present”, Roll No. 430.

Emergency Supplemental Appropriations for Humanitarian Assistance and Security at the Southern Border Act, 2019—Rule for Consideration: The House began consideration of H. Res. 466, providing for consideration of the Senate amendment to the bill (H.R. 3401) making emergency supplemental appropriations for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2019. Subsequently, the resolution was withdrawn.

A point of order was raised against the consideration of H. Res. 466 and it was agreed to proceed with consideration of the resolution by a yeas vote of 226 nays to 188 nays, Roll No. 425.

Recess: The House recessed at 1:22 p.m. and reconvened at 3:30 p.m.

Securing America’s Federal Elections Act: The House passed H.R. 2722, to protect elections for public office by providing financial support and enhanced security for the infrastructure used to carry out such elections, by a recorded vote of 225 ayes to 184 noes, Roll No. 428.

Rejected the motion to recommit the bill to the Committee on House Administration with instructions to report the same back to the House forthwith with an amendment, by a recorded vote of 189 ayes to 220 noes, Roll No. 427.

Pursuant to the Rule, an amendment in the nature of a substitute consisting of the text of Rules Committee Print 116–20, modified by the amendment printed in part A of H. Rept. 116–126, shall be considered as adopted, in lieu of the amendment in the nature of a substitute recommended by the Committee on House Administration now printed in the bill.

H. Res. 460, the rule providing for consideration of the bills (H.R. 2722) and (H.R. 3351) was agreed to Tuesday, June 25th.

Emergency Supplemental Appropriations for Humanitarian Assistance and Security at the Southern Border Act, 2019: The House concurred in the Senate amendment to H.R. 3401, making emergency supplemental appropriations for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2019, by a recorded vote of 305 ayes to 102 noes, Roll No. 429.

H. Res. 466, the rule providing for consideration of the Senate amendment to the bill (H.R. 3401), as amended by Representative McGovern, was agreed to by a yeas and nays vote of 322 to 85, Roll No. 426, after the previous question was ordered on the amendment and the resolution without objection.

Permission to File Report: Agreed by unanimous consent that the Committee on Armed Services be authorized to file a supplemental report on H.R. 2500, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2020 for military activities of the Department of Defense and for military construction, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year.

Meeting Hour: Agreed by unanimous consent that when the House adjourns today, it adjourn to meet at 3:30 p.m. tomorrow, June 28th.

Mexico-United States Interparliamentary Group—Appointment: The Chair announced the Speaker’s appointment of the following Members on the part of the House to the Mexico-United States Interparliamentary Group: Representatives Duffy, Hurd (TX), Cloud, and Spano.

Board of Visitors to the United States Coast Guard Academy—Appointment: The Chair announced the Speaker’s appointment of the following Member on the part of the House to the Board of Visitors to the United States Coast Guard Academy: Representative Rutherford.

Senate Referral: S. 528 was held at the desk.

Senate Message: Message received from the Senate today appears on page H5241.
Quorum Calls—Votes: Three yea-and-nay votes and three recorded votes developed during the proceedings of today and appear on pages H5225–26, H5242–43, H5244–45, H5245–46, H5249–50, and H5250. There were no quorum calls.

Adjournment: The House met at 9 a.m. and adjourned at 5:57 p.m.

Committee Meetings

DOCUMENT PRODUCTION STATUS UPDATE: OPM, FBI, AND GSA

Committee on Oversight and Reform: Subcommittee on Government Operations held a hearing entitled “Document Production Status Update: OPM, FBI, and GSA”. Testimony was heard from Robert Borden, Chief of Staff, General Services Administration; Stephen M. Billy, Deputy Chief of Staff, Office of Personnel Management; and Jill Tyson, Assistant Director, Office of Congressional Affairs, Federal Bureau of Investigation.

SENATE AMENDMENT TO THE EMERGENCY SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS FOR HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE AND SECURITY AT THE SOUTHERN BORDER ACT, 2019

Committee on Rules: Full Committee held a hearing on the Senate amendment to H.R. 3401, the “Emergency Supplemental Appropriations for Humanitarian Assistance and Security at the Southern Border Act, 2019”. The Committee granted, by record vote of 8–4, a rule providing for consideration of the Senate Amendment to H.R. 3401, the “Emergency Supplemental Appropriations for Humanitarian Assistance and Security at the Southern Border Act, 2019”. The rule makes in order a motion offered by the chair of the Committee on Appropriations or her designee that the House concur in the Senate amendment with an amendment consisting of the text of Rules Committee Print 116–21. The rule waives all points of order against consideration of the motion and the Senate amendment. The rule provides that the Senate amendment and the motion shall be considered as read. The rule provides one hour of debate on the motion equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Appropriations.

MISCELLANEOUS MEASURES

Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence: Full Committee held a markup on H.R. 3494, the “Damon Paul Nelson and Matthew Young Pollard Intelligence Authorization Act for Fiscal Years 2018, 2019, and 2020”; and to authorize all Members of the House of Representatives to review, at a time to be determined by the Committee, the Classified Annex to H.R. 3494, the “Damon Paul Nelson and Matthew Young Pollard Intelligence Authorization Act for Fiscal Years 2018, 2019, and 2020”. H.R. 3494 was ordered reported, as amended. Adoption of the Classified Annex to Accompany H.R. 3494; and Authorization for Members to Review, for a Period of Three days in Advance of Floor consideration in the House of H.R. 3494, as amended, passed. This meeting was closed.

Joint Meetings

No joint committee meetings were held.

NEW PUBLIC LAWS

For last listing of Public Laws, see DAILY DIGEST, p. D675

S. 1379, to reauthorize certain programs under the Public Health Service Act and the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act with respect to public health security and all-hazards preparedness and response. Signed on June 24, 2019. (Public Law 116–22)


H.R. 559, to amend section 6 of the Joint Resolution entitled “A Joint Resolution to approve the Covenant To Establish a Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands in Political Union with the United States of America”. Signed on June 25, 2019. (Public Law 116–24)

COMMITTEE MEETINGS FOR FRIDAY, JUNE 28, 2019

(Committee meetings are open unless otherwise indicated)

Senate

No meetings/hearings scheduled.

House

No hearings are scheduled.
Next Meeting of the SENATE
5 a.m., Friday, June 28

Senate Chamber

Program for Friday: Senate will continue consideration of Udall Amendment No. 883, and vote on adoption of the amendment, notwithstanding the passage of S. 1790, National Defense Authorization Act, as amended.

Next Meeting of the HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
3:30 p.m., Friday, June 28

House Chamber

Program for Friday: House will meet in Pro Forma session at 3:30 p.m.

Extensions of Remarks, as inserted in this issue

Gianforte, Greg, Mont., E855
Grijalva, Raúl M., Ariz., E861
Guthrie, Brett, Ky., E859, E860
Hartzler, Vicky, Mo., E860
Hern, Kevin, Okla., E866
Jordan, Jim, Ohio, E868
Keating, William R., Mass., E855
Kelly, Mike, Pa., E861
McAdams, Ben, Utah, E859
McMorris Rodgers, Cathy, Wash., E860
Meng, Grace, N.Y., E861, E863
Norton, Eleanor Holmes, The District of Columbia, E859
Palmer, Gary J., Ala., E860
Plaskett, Stacey E., Virgin Islands, E866
Reed, Tom, N.Y., E857
Rose, John W., Tenn., E857
Sherrill, Mikie, N.J., E855
Stefanik, Elise M., N.Y., E858
Thompson, Mike, Calif., E856
Thornberry, Mac, Tex., E857, E861, E862
Walorski, Jackie, Ind., E856, E858
Waltz, Michael, Fla., E855
Wexton, Jennifer, Va., E859

The Congressional Record (USPS 087-390). The Periodicals postage is paid at Washington, D.C. The public proceedings of each House of Congress, as reported by the Official Reporters thereof, are printed pursuant to directions of the Joint Committee on Printing as authorized by appropriate provisions of Title 44, United States Code, and published for each day that one or both Houses are in session, excepting very infrequent instances when two or more unusually small consecutive issues are printed one time. Public access to the Congressional Record is available online through the U.S. Government Publishing Office, at www.govinfo.gov, free of charge to the user. The information is updated online each day the Congressional Record is published. For more information, contact the GPO Customer Contact Center, U.S. Government Publishing Office, Phone 202-512-1800, or 866-512-1800 (toll-free). E-Mail, contactcenter@gpo.gov. To place an order for any of these products, visit the U.S. Government Online Bookstore at: bookstore.gpo.gov. Mail orders to: Superintendent of Documents, P.O. Box 979060, St. Louis, MO 63197-9000, or phone orders to 866-512-1800 (toll-free), 202-512-1800 (D.C. area), or fax to 202-512-2104. Remit check or money order, made payable to the Superintendent of Documents, or use VISA, MasterCard, Discover, American Express, or GPO Deposit Account. Following each session of Congress, the daily Congressional Record is revised, printed, permanently bound and sold by the Superintendent of Documents in individual parts or by sets. With the exception of copyrighted articles, there are no restrictions on the republication of material from the Congressional Record.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to the Superintendent of Documents, Congressional Record, U.S. Government Publishing Office, Washington, D.C. 20402, along with the entire mailing label from the last issue received.